



SACRED PLACES

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Fall/Winter 2025

Annual Christmas Ornament Masses

Each December, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island welcomes all families to attend our traditional Christmas Ornament Masses. During the course of these special Masses, family members are invited to bring an ornament to be placed on one of the trees in the Chapel.

A record number of families attended this year's services on December 6th, with 700 people joining us for our Ornament Masses at one of our four sites—Holy Rood, Queen of Peace, Holy Sepulchre, and Queen of All Saints .

Families that were unable to attend one of the Masses are welcome to place an ornament on our Chapel trees when visiting our cemeteries. As our Chapels are public places, we recommend an ornament that can be easily replaced, if necessary. Ornaments will remain on the trees throughout the Christmas season. Families wishing to retrieve their ornaments should pick them up from the cemetery **by Wednesday, January 7th** as the trees will be removed from the Chapels on January 8th.



IMPORTANT DATES: UPCOMING EVENTS, HOLIDAYS, AND CLEANUPS

- ♦ **Wednesday, December 24, 2025 (Christmas Eve):** Offices Close at 12:30PM, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Thursday, December 25, 2025 (Christmas Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 31, 2025 (New Year's Eve):** Offices Close at 12:30PM, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Thursday, January 1, 2026 (New Year's Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Thursday, January 8, 2026:** Removal of Chapel Christmas Trees, **Cleanup of Mausoleum Benches/Areas**
- ♦ **Thursday, January 15, 2026:** **Full Cleanup of All Gravesites Begins** (See **Pages 5-6** for more information)
- ♦ **Monday, January 19, 2026 (Martin Luther King Jr Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation

*Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is **open for visitation 7 days a week, 365 days a year**. However, following inclement weather with snow accumulation, we will periodically need to keep the cemeteries closed until our staff has been able to ensure that the roadways and walkways are safe for visitors.*

Holiday Decoration Program for 2025-2026

Have you placed your decoration orders for the upcoming holidays? Families may place decoration orders on our website for **Christmas 2025, Easter 2026, Mother's Day 2026, and Father's Day 2026.**

Save time and money by placing your orders online. Online pricing reflects a **\$5 savings** on each item compared to mail or in-person orders. Families can also receive **additional savings** by ordering a **3 holiday** or **4 holiday package**. We have made further improvements to our online checkout process and are confident you will find the system more user friendly. To place a decoration order, visit CCLongIsland.org and click on **Holiday Decoration Program** from the top menu ([or click here](#)). Then, click the cemetery in which your loved one is interred to view decoration options and add items to your cart.

GRAVE DECORATIONS



Christmas Blanket or Pillow



Easter Palm Cross



**Mother's Day
Potted Plant**



**Father's Day
Potted Plant**

CHAPEL DECORATIONS



Christmas Poinsettia



**Easter
Lily**



**Mother's Day
Chapel Plant**



**Father's Day
Chapel Plant**

Please note: Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island reserves the **right to substitute decorations of a similar quality and nature, based on vendor availability.** For Mother's Day and Father's Day plants, the floral color and exact mix of flowers and containers may vary.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is no longer offering the live grave plant option at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** for Mother's Day & Father's Day due to the cemetery's large population of deer and other wildlife. Families may order an artificial potted plant for Mother's Day and Father's Day for grave placement at Holy Sepulchre only.

St. Michael the Archangel Columbaria—New Niches Available at Holy Rood!

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is pleased to announce that we have completed Phase 2 development within **St. Michael the Archangel Cremation Garden** at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood**. Two new columbaria have been installed, adding 200 niches to our popular outdoor cremation area which are **NOW AVAILABLE** for families to consider. These niches can accommodate either one or two urns (depending on urn size), with memorialization options including sandblasted inscription, bronze emblems, and stainless steel portraits.



Statues Installed at Queen of Peace Cemetery



Last month, two bronze statues were installed at **Queen of Peace Cemetery**. Located in front of the mausoleums next to the Chapel, the statues of **St. Pope John Paul II** and **St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta** now greet visitors as they drive into the cemetery.

The base of each statue features a limited number of cremation niches, which will be available for purchase in **early 2026**. Please reach out to the cemetery office for additional details.



New Graves at Holy Rood and Holy Sepulchre

New graves were recently made available at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood** in Westbury. A limited number of **Single Graves** are available in **Sections 12, 14 and 15**, with a limited number of Double Graves available in **Section 7**.

Additionally, development of new section (**Section 2**) at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** is almost complete. Offering families Single Graves and Double Graves, Section 2 will open up for sale in **January 2026**.

For more information or to schedule a sales appointment, please contact the cemetery office:

Cemetery of the Holy Rood: (516) 334-7990

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery: (631) 732-3460

Queen of Peace Cemetery: (516) 434-2439

Queen of All Saints Cemetery: (631) 234-8297

Cremation Options at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island

Are you considering cremation? Do you have the cremated remains of your loved one in your home? Consider a final resting place that reflects the Catholic beliefs and values from life's personal journey.

The Catholic Church teaches that cremated remains must be given the same respect as the body, including the manner in which they are carried, and the attention given to their appropriate transport and placement. The following are not considered to be reverent dispositions that the Church requires: scattering cremated remains, dividing cremated remains and keeping cremated remains in the home. The cremated remains of a body are to be **buried or entombed, preferably in a Catholic cemetery**, using the rites provided by the Order of Christian Funerals.

In addition to the Church's teaching, there are many benefits to choosing a permanent burial site:

- Provides a special and appropriate place for families and friends to visit and remember their loved one.
- Memorialization at the cemetery provides a permanent record of your loved one's life.
- Our Catholic Cemeteries will always be there, open to visitations by all for generations to come.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island offers families a variety of burial options to best meet your family's needs:

Cremation Niches in Community Mausoleums

- Niches can accommodate up to two urns, with availability in indoor and garden settings.
- **Glass front niches** available at **Holy Rood** and **Holy Sepulchre**; stone front niches available at **all sites**.

Cremation Niches in Outdoor Columbaria

- Niches in our outdoor "Garden of Angels" areas at **Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre & Queen of All Saints**.
- Granite front niches accommodate up to two urns.

Traditional Burial Plots

- Single graves can accommodate three urns and up to three caskets in the same plot.
- This option allows families to be buried together when not all family members wish to be cremated.

Cremation Graves

- Accommodate six urns in a plot, with upright monuments for memorialization.
- Graves available at **Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre & Queen of All Saints**.

Please visit CCLongIsland.org or contact the cemetery office for more information on cremation and available options for your family.

Click the image below to see a video about available cremation options at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island.



January Cemetery Cleanups

On **Thursday, January 8, 2026**, cemetery staff will remove the Christmas trees from our cemetery chapels. At that time, cemetery staff will also **remove and discard all decorations from chapels and mausoleum buildings**, including any items (Christmas trees, rocks, statues, etc) that have been placed on floral tables or affixed to crypt or niche fronts. Families are requested to remove any items from these areas **by Wednesday, January 7**.

Cemetery staff will be completing a **full cleanup** of our cemeteries beginning **Thursday, January 15, 2026**. In addition to removing all Christmas decorations, cemetery staff will **remove and discard all items** from gravesites that are not permitted per the cemetery's rules and regulations. **As a reminder, the only items permitted year-round on graves are flowers and flags; all other items will be removed.**

Due to the volume of items being removed during the cleanup, **it is not possible to make arrangements to have families claim items once they have been removed**. Families are requested to remove any items that they wish to save **by Wednesday, January 14**. We ask that families refrain from placing any prohibited items back on graves after the cleanup is completed.



The cemetery's rules and regulations play an important part in the beautification and preservation of the sacred resting place of the faithful departed. They are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care, and permanent maintenance. Please click the links below and review the FAQ in this newsletter for full details on Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island's decoration guidelines, rules and regulations. Families may place holiday decorations on graves at certain times throughout the year. Please refer to the holiday decoration placement schedule linked below.

[Cemetery Planting & Decoration Guidelines](#)

[2026 Holiday Decoration Placement Schedule](#)

[Overview of Cemetery Rules & Regulations](#)

Decoration Guidelines FAQ

Generally, what items are permitted on graves?

The following items are typically permitted on graves:

- Annual flowers planted in a semi-circle of 18" in front of monument (not permitted for flat marker sections)
- Fresh flowers in a permitted vase or bouquet holder.
- Artificial flowers placed in an approved container in winter months (November 1 until one week after Easter).

Note: Artificial flowers are **permitted year-round at Holy Sepulchre** due to the cemetery's deer population.

- Flags which must not exceed **12" x 16"**. Up to 2 flags are permitted, but **one must be an American flag**.
- Potted plants and seasonal decorations per the holiday schedule published by cemetery

What items are never permitted on graves?

Any item not listed in the previous section is not permitted for placement, including but not limited to:

Statues	Stones/Rocks/Pebbles
Shells/Marble Chips	Borders/edging
Mulch	Perennials
Glass jars/vases	Balloons
Plaques/markers	Vigil lights (flame or solar)
Wooden crosses	Rosary beads
Pinwheels	Banners
Bottles	Toys
Pictures	Bric-a-brac

Why can't I place rocks on top of monuments/markers?

Rocks, stones, coins, statues, or other placed items can become dangerous projectiles that get caught up in lawn mowers and line trimmers; they can seriously injure visitors or cemetery workers and damage monuments or car windows. Placed items can also cause permanent damage and discoloration to the monument, releasing elements that penetrate below the surface of the granite and become bleached by the sun. For these reasons, **no items are permitted on top of monuments at any time.**

Can I plant a bush/shrub on my plot either in front of or next to my monument?

Bushes or shrubs are only permitted on plots having **three graves or more**. They must be planted on the **side** of the monument, cannot extend more than 14" in front of or behind the monument, must not encroach on other plots, and must adhere to height restrictions listed in our rules. Bushes and shrubs are **never permitted** on single graves, double graves, or in any flat marker section.

Decoration FAQ Continued on Next Page

Planting & Decoration Guidelines FAQ (Continued)

Decorations were removed during a recent cleanup. Can I retrieve them?

Cemetery staff removes and discards any items that are not permitted per the cemetery's rules and regulations. Due to the volume of items being removed during cleanups, it is not possible to make arrangements to have families claim items once they have been removed. Because of this, we kindly ask that families refrain from placing any prohibited items, particularly items of value or importance, on gravesites.

Decorations were removed from my grave, but I see the same types of items on another grave. Why did you only remove my items?

While our cemetery staff makes every effort to enforce our rules and regulations uniformly, it is possible that certain violations were missed during a cleanup. In other instances, items may have been placed by families after our staff completed the cleanup of that section.

When are violations removed from graves?

The cemetery completes scheduled cleanups after holidays throughout the year ([Seasonal Planting & Decoration Schedule](#)). During cleanups, the staff removes holiday-specific decorations, and if time permits, they will also remove any violations. However, it is important to note the following:

- If an item is not removed during a cleanup, this does **not** mean that item is acceptable. The staff may have been focused solely on holiday decorations during the cleanup due to other field priorities at the time.
- **Separate from the cleanup schedule, violations may be removed at any time without notice**, especially if items are a safety hazard or they interfere with cemetery work.

I placed flowers and flags which are permitted, yet they were removed. Why?

Because the cemeteries are open to the public, with thousands of visitors each year, we cannot guarantee plants and decorations from damage, theft, or disappearance. In addition to potential theft, items are often displaced due to the weather or wildlife. The cemetery reserves the right to remove and dispose of any decoration or planting when deemed as unsightly, in poor condition, or out of season.

No placed item, whether floral or otherwise, is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery may remove items at any time **without notice or compensation**. The cemetery is not responsible for any damaged or missing items.

MAUSOLEUM DECORATION GUIDELINES

Community mausoleums require acts of sharing of common areas. With this in mind, the cemetery must restrict decorations to **designated floral tables only**. Below are important guidelines on what is permitted for crypt and niche locations.



Floral Tables

- Fresh flowers may be placed in the bouquet holders within the floral tables.
- Artificial bouquets may be placed from November 1 until one week after Easter (artificial flowers are permitted year-round at Holy Sepulchre).
- Tables are designated for placement of **flowers only**. **No other items** should be placed on these tables, **including but not limited to** cards, balloons, statues, pictures, Christmas trees, nativities, or other holiday decorations.
- The cemetery will **remove and discard** any objects that violate these regulations. Additionally, arrangements will be removed when they become unsightly or out of season.

General Guidelines

- The cemetery offers memorialization programs for our mausoleums, including bronze emblems, floral vase, memorial photos, and holiday decorations. Visit CCLongIsland.org for details.
- **No other decorations are permitted** in mausoleum buildings **at any time**:
 - ◆ Items are **not permitted** to be placed in front of crypts or niches.
 - ◆ Items are **not permitted** to be affixed to crypt or niche covers, as damage could occur.
- Any violations will be **removed and discarded without notice**. Crypt holder will be responsible for cleaning and repair charges for any damage due to affixing items to crypt or niche covers.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following the cemetery's rules and regulations.

Cemetery Employee Milestones

This October, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island hosted celebratory lunches at Queen of Peace Cemetery and Cemetery of the Holy Rood to recognize several employees for their dedicated years of service:

Russell Webb, Payroll Manager: **45** Years of Service

Jose Buruca, Field Worker at Holy Rood: **25** Years of Service

Michael Toscano, Field Worker at Holy Rood: **25** Years of Service

During the lunches, President/CEO Richard Bie and CFO John Kennedy thanked Russell, Jose and Michael for their numerous contributions and presented each employee with a certificate to mark their milestone anniversaries.



CFO John Kennedy, Russell Webb, & President/CEO Richard Bie

Congratulations and Thank You to Russell, Jose, and Michael for your dedicated service to our cemeteries!

Christopher Comando, Superintendent of Holy Sepulchre/Queen of All Saints and Marketing Manager for Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, earned the designation of Certified Catholic Cemetery Executive (CCCE) after completing the certification program of the national Catholic Cemetery Conference. Chris received a plaque this September at the annual Catholic Cemetery Conference Convention in recognition of this achievement.



Richard Bie, CCC President Mary Jo Frick, Chris Comando, and John Kennedy

Congratulations Chris on earning this certification!

Cemetery New Hires

Welcome to our New Hires! Please welcome the following employees who have joined Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island since April 2025:

Cemetery of the Holy Rood

- **Jeffrey Schroeder**, Customer Service Clerk (June 2025)
- **Jaqueline DeLeon**, Customer Sales & Service (Aug 2025)

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

- **Lakeram Singh**, Customer Sales & Service (April 2025)
- **John Riccobono**, Field Worker (May 2025)
- **Janelle Hradek**, Part Time Customer Sales & Service (Aug 2025)
- **Abraham Cruz**, Field Worker (December 2025)

Career Opportunities at CCLI

Looking for a stable, rewarding work environment and a generous employee benefits package? We are seeking detail oriented and caring individuals to contribute to our mission serving the Catholic faithful on Long Island. We provide a career path where you can use your talents and skills to benefit others in their time of need and thereafter. Benefits include but are not limited to health/medical, dental, paid time off, life insurance, and 403(b) retirement plan with employer matching contribution.

With four locations across Long Island, opportunity exists in several areas at any given time, including: **Cemetery Field Staff, Customer Sales & Service, Finance, and Management.** Visit CCLongIsland.org/career-opportunities or scan the QR code on the right to review current openings.



Helping Families in Need

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island partnered with **St. Vincent de Paul Long Island** for their warm clothing drive. Donation boxes were placed in the lobbies of our offices at Holy Rood, Queen of Peace, Queen of All Saints and Holy Sepulchre. Families were invited to drop off new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and other warm clothing for men, women and children.

Thanks to the generosity of our families and cemetery employees, each of the four donation bins was filled to the brim! Thank you to everyone who donated for helping keep our community warm this winter.



God's Creatures at Queen of Peace Cemetery



Please meet two of our avian residents at Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury.

To the left is **Carol**, a cormorant who frequents the pond to the north of our Administration building. On the right, say hello to **Sir Cesar**, a red-bellied woodpecker who has taken a liking to the cemetery's trees.

Thank you to **Barbara Zareba** of our accounting department for the nature photos!



Helpful Cemetery Resources

Not sure how to plan a family inurnment? Looking for more information on cemetery rules and regulations? Below are links to several helpful brochures and documents for families. Additional resources are available at CCLongIsland.org.

[Cemetery Directory – Locate a Loved One](#)

[Planning Guide – Inurnment of Cremated Remains](#)

[Cemetery Visitors Guide](#)

[Grave Decorations – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Cemetery Office 2026 Holiday Schedule](#)

For more information or to schedule a sales appointment, please call or email the cemetery office:

Phone: (516) 393-8777

Email: info@cclongisland.org