



SACRED PLACES

Vol. 37 No. 1
Spring 2026

Stations of the Cross During Lent

On Friday, February 20th, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island welcomed families to Queen of Peace Cemetery for a Stations of the Cross prayer service to mark the start of the Lenten season. Deacon Christopher Quinn led the congregation in prayer as volunteers alternated carrying a cross to each of the fourteen Stations of the Cross plaques throughout the Chapel.

On Friday, April 3rd, several hundred members of the Catholic community participated in Stations of the

Cross at Cemetery of the Holy Rood, continuing our decades-long tradition of hosting the prayer service each Good Friday. Deacon Christopher Quinn and Deacon Chris Daniello led the faithful on a 1.5 mile walking route through Holy Rood to commemorate Christ's redemptive sacrifice. During the journey through the cemetery, the group stopped at fourteen crosses depicting each of the Stations to pray and reflect. The service concluded with Veneration of the Cross in Holy Rood Chapel.



IMPORTANT DATES: UPCOMING EVENTS, HOLIDAYS, AND CLEANUPS

- ◆ **Monday, May 18, 2026:** Decoration Cleanup Begins – Removal of Mother's Day decorations
- ◆ **Monday, May 25, 2026 (Memorial Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
 - ◇ **Memorial Day Masses at Holy Rood, Queen of Peace, Holy Sepulchre & Queen of All Saints** (See Page 3)
- ◆ **Monday, June 1, 2026:** Decoration Cleanup Begins – Removal of Memorial Day decorations
- ◆ **Monday, June 29, 2026:** Decoration Cleanup Begins – Removal of Father's Day decorations
- ◆ **Saturday, July 4, 2026 (Independence Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ◆ **Monday, July 13, 2026:** Decoration Cleanup Begins – Removal of Independence Day decorations
- ◆ **Monday, September 7, 2026 (Labor Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ◆ **Friday, September 11, 2026:** **September 11th 25th Year Remembrance Mass at Holy Rood**

Holiday Decorations for Mother's Day & Father's Day

Have you placed your decoration orders for Mother's Day and Father's Day? **Save time and receive a discount** by placing your orders online. Online pricing reflects a **\$5 savings** on each item compared to mail or in-person orders. To place a decoration order, visit CCLongIsland.org and click on **Decorations** 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



**Mother's Day
Potted Plant**

**Father's Day
Potted Plant**

CHAPEL DECORATIONS



**Mother's Day
Chapel Plant**

**Father's Day
Chapel Plant**

- Above pictures reflect last year's arrangements for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island reserves the right to substitute decorations of a similar quality and nature, based on vendor availability. The floral color and exact mix of flowers and containers may vary.
- Families who order Mother's or Father's Day plants for graves or chapels are **welcome to take these plants home** after the holiday. Plants should be picked up **before** the decoration cleanup dates for each holiday (May 18 for Mother's Day, June 29 for Father's Day).
- Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is only offering an **artificial** grave plant option at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** for Mother's Day & Father's Day due to the cemetery's large deer population. This option is available at Holy Sepulchre only.

Grave Services Offered

MONUMENT CLEANING SERVICES

A clean monument enhances the natural qualities of the granite and adds to the overall beauty of a well-kept cemetery. Our staff is knowledgeable on the cleaning products necessary to remove different types of stains.



Pricing for this service is determined by monument size. Please note that monument cleaning services are only available during the months of **May through October**. To request cleaning service on your monument, please contact the cemetery office or complete the [Maintenance Request Form](#) on our website.

SHRUB AND BUSH MAINTENANCE

A well-maintained, balanced shrub or bush enhances the natural qualities of the plant, adds to the overall beauty of the family plot and compliments the monument. With regular maintenance throughout the growing season, early detection of growth-related problems is possible. A treated bush can be saved when early detection occurs.



Bushes that are not cared for often obstruct monuments and neighboring plots.

Pricing starts at **\$60** per shrub/bush trimmed or removed. To request service, please contact the cemetery office or complete the [Maintenance Request Form](#) on our website.

Memorial Day Masses

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island welcomes all families to join us on Memorial Day as we pray and remember the faithful departed, honoring those who gave their lives for our freedoms. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is honored to welcome Bishops and clergy from the Diocese of Rockville Centre to celebrate Masses at each of our four cemeteries.

Mass Date & Time:

Monday, May 25th at 9:30 AM

Mass Locations

Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury

Holy Rood Chapel

Celebrant: **Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski**

Queen of Peace Cemetery, Old Westbury

Queen of Peace Chapel

Celebrant: **Bishop Luis Romero**

Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Central Islip

Queen of All Saints Chapel

Celebrant: **Bishop Robert J. Coyle**

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Coram

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

Celebrant: **To Be Announced**



Memorial Day Remembrance List

We are preparing this year's remembrance list to display at our Memorial Day Masses. If you have a loved one who served in the military and is buried in our cemeteries and you would like to include them on the remembrance list, please [click here](#) and submit the requested information to Veterans@CCLongIsland.org by **Thursday, May 21st**.

9/11 25th Year Remembrance Mass

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island will be celebrating a special Mass as part of the 25th year remembrance of the September 11th terrorist attacks. The Mass will be celebrated outdoors at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood** on **Friday, September 11, 2026** by the cemetery's **September 11th Memorial**, which serves as a place of solace, reflection and tribute to the lives that were tragically lost.

Additional details, including start time and Mass celebrant, will be announced shortly. This information will be posted at CCLongIsland.org once available.



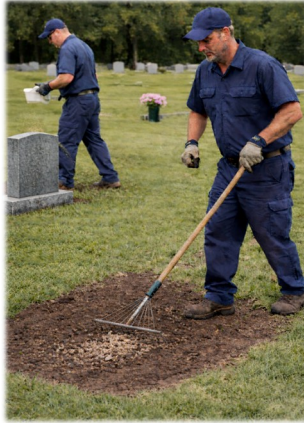
Adding Names to 9/11 Memorial

The September 11th Memorial at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood** features the names of almost 600 men and women who lost their lives due to the events of September 11, 2001. If you have a loved one who passed away on 9/11/2001 or due to a 9/11-related illness, **their name may be added to the memorial at no cost to the family**. Your loved one does not need to be buried in one of our cemeteries in order to have their name added to the memorial.

To have a name added to the memorial, the legal heir of the deceased should complete the memorialization application ([click here for application form](#)) and submit it back to Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island with documentation verifying the connection to 9/11. While we regularly add names to the memorial, requests must be submitted by **July 31, 2026** in order to have the names added before September 11th of this year.

Spring Landscaping Updates

With Spring weather finally upon us, our cemetery field staff is currently focused on fertilizing and seeding the grounds at each cemetery. This landscaping work includes filling in all low spots and tamping graves that could not be addressed during the winter months. We ask for your patience as we go through each section and range of the cemetery to care for the grounds as needed.



We also ask for patience as we get our irrigation systems up and running at our cemeteries. Due to the harsh winter, we expect to encounter a number of broken pipes as we test the sprinklers in each section. For more information on cemetery irrigation, please review the column to the right.

If you notice any sinkages or potential safety concerns while visiting our cemeteries, please contact the cemetery office or complete the [Maintenance Request Form](#) on our website so we can address the situation as soon as possible.

Aluminum Bouquet Holders

Aluminum bouquet holders are the perfect place for floral arrangements and are a lasting and beautiful memorial tribute. Available for use at most in-ground burial sites, these bouquet holders are installed flush to the ground and come in two parts: the holder and the insert. The insert should be inverted when not in use to prevent filling with water, which attracts breeding mosquitoes. Bouquet holders purchased through the cemetery will be installed flush to the ground in front of the monument.



Bouquet holders are **\$65** and can be [purchased online](#) or at the cemetery office. After processing your order, our cemetery field staff will install the bouquet holder on the requested grave.

Cemetery Irrigation

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island maintains irrigation systems for our burial lawn grounds at our cemeteries which ensure a healthy lawn throughout most seasons of the year. Our irrigation systems utilize on-site wells that account for 99% of the water used. This promotes growth and beautiful lawns at our cemeteries, since no chlorine or chemicals are added to the well water. Backflow devices at each cemetery prevent fertilizer and chemicals from seeping into the main pipe and water supply. These devices undergo yearly tests by licensed inspectors.

Below are answers to some questions frequently asked by cemetery visitors, particularly during the summer months. It is important to note that irrigation is **not** part of Permanent Maintenance, but rather an added benefit at the discretion of management to enhance the appearance of our cemeteries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are my plants dry in front of the monument?

Sprinkler heads are designed to place the maximum water in the lawn areas of the cemetery. They are not intended to water the area in front of the family monument at the gravesite. Any planting done within the allowable space in front of the monument needs to be maintained (watered and cared for) by the family.

Why is the grass brown in some areas?

Brown grass is not dead, merely dormant. Excessive sun, shade, fertilization, heat, and rain all contribute to lawn appearance. Brown grass is often due to summer heat followed by periods of deficit natural rain fall. The sprinkler systems are designed to establish new grass growth and maintain lawn appearance during normal weather, not to replace nature's watering.



Why was the lawn sprinkler on during the day at my last gravesite visit?

Lawn sprinklers are tested weekly during irrigation season. The staff isolates a particular zone or zones and tests system components. Frequent inspections are necessary for many reasons.



For more information, click the link below:
[Cemetery Irrigation Overview](#)

Statue Niches Now Available at Queen of Peace Cemetery



Cremation niches are **NOW AVAILABLE** at **Queen of Peace Cemetery** under the bronze the statues of **St. Pope John Paul II** and **St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta**. Located next to the Chapel, each statue base features niches which can accommodate up to **two urns**, with a limited number of **“family niches”** which can accommodate up to **four urns**.

Please reach out to the cemetery office for additional details or to schedule an appointment to review pricing and available options.



Niche & Grave Availability at Holy Rood

This past November, two new columbaria were installed within **St. Michael the Archangel Cremation Garden** at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood**, adding 200 niches to our popular outdoor cremation area. These niches can accommodate either one or two urns, depending on urn size.

In addition, a **limited number of graves are currently available** at Holy Rood, with **Single Graves** in **Sections 12, 14 and 15**, and **Double Graves** in **Section 7**. Contact the cemetery office to schedule your sales appointment today!



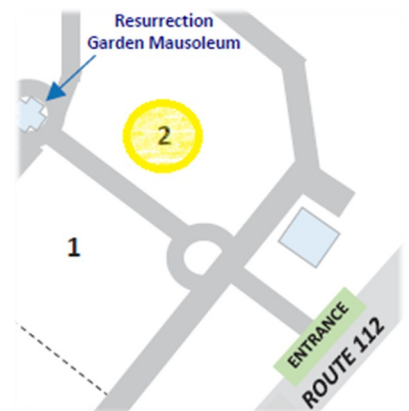
Section 2 Now Open at Holy Sepulchre

Our newest section at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** is now open! **Section 2**, conveniently located by the Route 112 entrance across from Section 1, offers families **Single Graves** and **Double Graves** with upright memorialization.

Please note: Section 2 currently has limited irrigation. However, the cemetery is in the process of expanding the sprinkler system to cover all ranges within this section.

For more information on available spaces at our cemeteries, or to **schedule a sales appointment**, please **call or email** the cemetery office:

Phone: **(516) 393-8777** | Email: **info@cclongisland.org**



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.

HELPFUL CREMATION RESOURCES

Click the links below to review helpful resources regarding cremation at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, including a video showcasing cremation options and a planning guide for scheduling the inurnment of cremated remains.

[VIDEO - Cremation Options at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island](#)

[Flyer - Options for Cremated Remains](#)

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

[Online Form - Schedule a Committal Service](#)

[Vatican Instruction on Cremation](#)

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.



Cemetery Cleanups

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.



Thank you for entrusting Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island with the care of your loved ones. Please click the links below to review additional details on the cemetery's rules and regulations. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following these guidelines. Should you have any questions, please contact the cemetery office.

[Cemetery Planting & Decoration Guidelines](#)

[Overview of Cemetery Rules & Regulations](#)

[Mausoleum Decoration Guidelines](#)

[2026 Holiday Decoration Placement Schedule](#)

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

DECORATION PLACEMENT & CLEANUP DATES

Holiday	Placement Date Place ON or AFTER	Cleanup Date Take away BEFORE
Mother's Day	4/27/2026	5/18/2026
Memorial Day	5/11/2026	6/1/2026
Father's Day	6/8/2026	6/29/2026
Independence Day	6/22/2026	7/13/2026

Note: Cemetery cleanups include removal of holiday-specific decorations, **and** if time permits, any violations.

Oh Deer! Wildlife at Our Cemeteries

Many of God's creatures love to visit our cemeteries, including deer, turkeys, geese, and groundhogs. For many, the presence of wildlife enhances the serene and peaceful atmosphere of the cemetery, providing moments of mindfulness and connection to nature.



*Deer grazing near the statue by the pond at Queen of Peace.
Photo courtesy of Michelle Byrne*

Unfortunately, deer are known to target flowers and other plantings for their nourishment. With the large deer population at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, flower arrangements left by funeral homes do not last a day before the deer have discovered (and eaten) them. We are continuing to see an increase in the presence of deer at Queen of Peace Cemetery, with funeral flowers and grave plantings their common targets.

As the cemetery is not responsible for plant or flower damage caused by wildlife, we want to ensure families are aware of their presence in our cemeteries. Some families have planted "deer-resistant" plants with varying degrees of success, but no plant is 100% deer proof – when they are hungry, they will eat anything!



*Pictures on the left show potted plants placed at the cemetery.
Pictures on the right show those same plants two days later
after deer located them!*

Grave Decoration Guideline 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	
Plaques/markers	Vigil lights (flame or solar)	
Shells/Marble Chips	Borders/edging	Mulch
Perennials	Glass jars/vases	Balloons
Wooden crosses	Rosary beads	Pinwheels
Banners	Bottles	Toys
Pictures/Photos	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 to the monument. For these reasons, **no items are permitted on top of monuments at any time.**

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/damaged 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.

The cemetery may remove items at any time **without notice or compensation**. The cemetery is not responsible for any damaged or missing items.

[Click Here for the Complete Grave Decorations FAQ](#)

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 Cemetery only.
- 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.

[Mausoleum Decoration Guidelines - Flyer](#)

Cemetery New Hires

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

Cemetery of the Holy Rood

- **Alyssa Kennis**, Part-Time Receptionist (Feb 2026)
- **Juan Medina**, Mechanic (March 2026)
- **William Baierlein**, Field Worker (March 2026)

Queen of Peace Cemetery

- **Napoleon Hernandez**, Field Worker (April 2026)

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

- **Michael McGarr**, Field Worker (January 2026)
- **Brendan Clarke**, Field Worker (February 2026)

Cemetery Milestones



Please join us in congratulating the following employees who recently celebrated significant milestones with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island:

25 Years

Daniel Martinez

Field Worker at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

20 Years

Jose F. Polanco

Field Worker at Queen of Peace Cemetery

15 Years

Antonio Benenati

Field Worker at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

Thank you to Daniel, Jose and Antonio for your many years of dedicated service!

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.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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 on our cemeteries or to schedule a sales appointment, please call or email the cemetery office:

Phone: **(516) 393-8777**

Email: info@cclongisland.org