



ESSENTIAL WORKFORCE: OUR FAMILY SERVICE COUNSELOR TEAM

The COVID-19 pandemic has put an enormous strain on our community and it is hard to describe how difficult being an essential worker has been during these times. Our world changed quickly and drastically; schools closed, businesses shut down and many people began working from home. At Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries, our team has come together in great ways during this crisis. We want to express our profound appreciation for all essential workers in our community, but specifically we'd like to mention our very own Family Service Counselor team.

Every day, throughout the pandemic, the Family Service Counselor team has been on the front lines to serve and assist families in our community. These are the individuals who help families through the planning of their loved one's burial. Our dedicated personnel serves as a position of care and support during someone's most challenging days and their job did not stop during all the closures and shutdowns. In fact, like so many essential workers, their positions required so much more of them to maintain a safe place for our community and our team.

In March and April of 2020, the team worked quickly to develop a virtual sales approach, including operating with a variety of digital platforms. These modifications increased accessibility to families and provided an additional tool to assist them with making difficult decisions in an uncertain time. The goal was to preserve the human connection element while providing care to every person assisted and maintain a safe atmosphere for all. The Family Services team would help each family over the phone to obtain their individual wants and needs, researched the best options for each unique situation and brought back options for the family to discuss. Tours were given outside on our grounds, while wearing masks and paperwork was completed by car-side service, email or through mail. The Family Service Counselors faced a number of limitations, but did their very best to provide compassion and a personal approach to each family. Of course, we always wish we could do more and look forward to the time where we can comfort those who are mourning in-person.

As an essential workforce, our jobs did not stop or slow, in fact they became busier and we required more from our team. While the world navigated

an extremely stressful and scary time, our team continued to help families select a special place for their loved ones and provided comfort all those who mourn. We could not be more appreciative and thankful for all they do, and for all they continue to do, as they support our mission, showing "dedication to the Christian burial of all members of the Catholic Faith Community, and to comfort all those who mourn them." Thank you for your commitment, hard work and sacrifice. We cannot thank you enough.





THE SEASON OF LENT & GARDEN OF THE SEPULCHRE

If you have ever visited Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, you have witnessed the beautiful main entrance welcoming you in from Lake Avenue. There, you see the life size replica of Michelangelo's Pieta (cast in bronze from the original which lies in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome). Next, you will come to the Garden of the Sepulchre, three large wooden crosses, each towering at 12, 18 and 16 feet respectively, and a granite representation of Christ's Tomb that reads "He Has Risen." The entire garden is designed to enjoy on foot along the fourteen Stations of the Cross. The sculpture garden is not only beautiful but was created to represent our deep Catholic beliefs and the holy season of Lent. Now, as we conclude this season of Lent, and welcome in Easter Sunday, on April 4, it is the perfect time to remember what we are truly celebrating during this holy season.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is a 40-day season of prayer and fasting. This holy season is a time leading up to the celebration of Easter, a day we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. This year, on April 2, we will celebrate Good Friday, the day we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and wait for the celebration of Easter, when Christ rose again. Easter Sunday marks the end of Holy Week,

the end of Lent and the beginning of the Easter season on the liturgical year. The season of Lent is a particularly important time for those of faith as it encompasses so much of our beliefs in God and Christ's sacrifice. The Garden of the Sepulchre and Three Crosses, welcoming you into our cemetery, serve as a reminder of this season's importance to our Catholic faith. The celebration of Easter represents God's promise to humankind, his unfailing love for us and serves as the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

We are reminded of the sacrifice of Christ, the great compassion God has on the world and our goal as believers, "to live our faith". So, the next time you visit a loved one at Holy Sepulchre, take a moment to reflect near the Pieta or the Garden of the Sepulchre. Walk the path and pray the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Take a moment to enjoy the beauty and thank God for his many blessings. As written in Colossians 3:15, let us be reminded to "...let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."





HONOR THE LEGACY OF A PARENT

This time of year, with Mother's Day and Father's Day just around the corner, can be especially difficult for those who have lost their parents. We continue to mourn, especially during holidays and special days but there are ways to find comfort by holding onto the memories that connected you to your mother and father.

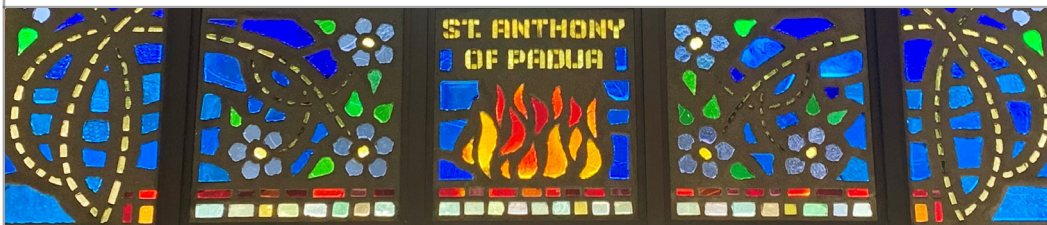
1. Get together with loved ones, family and friends who knew your parent. Connection with others, especially those who knew your mother or father, can encourage the sharing of stories and memories. Talking about your parents is a positive way to keep their memory alive and allows you to navigate the emotions.
2. Look through a book of photos. Images are a great way to spark a fond memory that you most likely haven't thought of in awhile.

3. Visit your parent's gravesite. Bring a blanket so you can sit in prayer, memory and meditation.

4. Plan to do an activity your mother or father enjoyed. This can be as simple as cooking a meal, playing a beloved song, or even, traveling somewhere where you made lasting memories.

5. Keep their memory alive by telling stories to the next generation. This will remind you of the good times while sharing with those who may not have known your parent as well.

We are reminded that the grief is a journey and is a lifelong process. Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries offers after-care supports to the community year-round. For more information, visit our website or call our offices. We are here to help.



History of Saint Anthony of Padua

FEAST DAY JUNE 13: Honored in All Saints Mausoleum and Ascension Garden Mausoleum

St. Anthony of Padua was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195, under the name of Ferdinand de Bulhoes. He was the son of a knight at the court of King Alfonso II of Portugal. St. Anthony entered the order of Austin Canons but became a Franciscan in 1220. He was greatly gifted at oratory and taught at several European universities. St. Anthony settled in Padua, where he dedicated himself exclusively to preaching and was sensationally successful. His sermons, noted for their eloquence, fire, and persuasiveness, attracted huge crowds everywhere he preached. He worked to abolish debtors' prisons, helped the poor, and worked ceaselessly and untiringly with heretics. St. Anthony died in 1231 at the age of 36 and only eleven months after his death he was canonized. In 1946 he was declared a Doctor

of the Church. He is depicted with a Franciscan cowl, a book, bread, flame, heart, lily, and the Christ Child. Stories of the miracles he worked and of his preaching prowess are legendary. He is perhaps, the most loved and admired saint in the Catholic Church and he is widely invoked in finding all lost things and also by women seeking husbands. He is the protector of orphans, prisoners, shipwrecked persons, pregnant women, sterile women, sick children, glaziers and conscripts.

Prayer to Saint Anthony

St. Anthony of Padua, you endured much discouragement in your life before finding your calling, help us to find patience in our own lives, and to trust God to lead us where we need to go.
Amen

TESTIMONIALS

"Margie, I just want to thank you for your kindness and patience. It's a hard thing, to acknowledge that my parents have little time left. You made the process easier, and I am grateful."

– Susan M.

"My family has always chosen Holy Sepulchre for its beauty and the way you take care of the grounds. Thank you, Aurora!"

– Rose Z.

"It has been a blessing having Kari help me with my final resting place. I have a very delicate situation that needs discretion and understanding in handling it. Kari listened with compassion to my story and ultimately, with her encouraging words, made a huge weight that was on my shoulders disappear.

I will be forever grateful that Kari was the person I connected to the day I called the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery office. I found it surprising that she has only been working there a short time for she definitely has the skills of a seasoned employee!"

– Mrs. C.

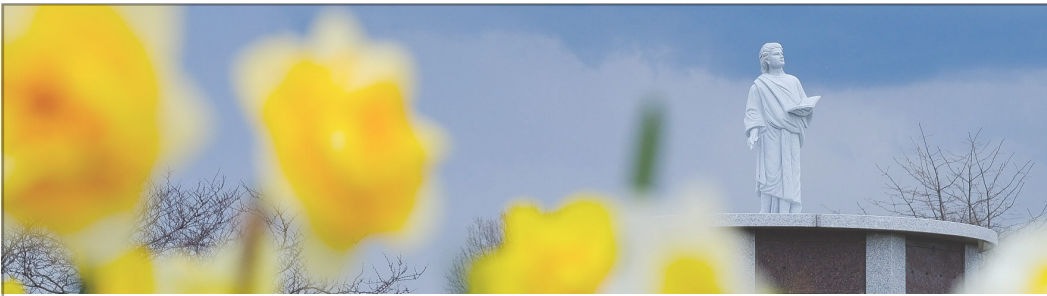
"Cristyn was wonderful!"

– Jessica D.

"Michelle was wonderful! I felt like I knew her forever. The BEST!"

– Annette L.

If you would like to submit a story, please email events@holysepulchre.org. We would love to hear from you and appreciate your feedback.



LOSS DURING THE TIME OF COVID-19

Coping with the loss of a loved one is one of the most difficult parts of life. Experiencing this grief during a pandemic only intensifies the feelings of shock, anxiety, sadness and disbelief. To lose a loved one in combination with other COVID-19 related losses (changes in lifestyle, job or not being able to visit with family or friends) changes the way you cope with or even mourn those losses.

Kim came to us in October of 2020 after she experienced the miscarriage of her son, Ruben. Unfortunately, Kim was not unfamiliar with the process, as she miscarried twice in 2019, losing her sons Caleb and Quinn, both of whom are laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. She wanted to share her story in the hopes to show others that they are not alone.

Losing two sons in 2019 was profoundly difficult for her and her husband, but they found comfort in attending the after-care events held at the cemetery to honor and celebrate the memory of both of her sons, including the Butterfly Release, the Luminary Event and the Children's Mass. These events gave her the opportunity to connect with others who were experiencing the same feelings as she was and helped her to grieve.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, the Butterfly Release and the Children's Mass were both canceled due to gathering restrictions. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery was able to offer a drive-thru Luminary Event and staff tried their best to make it as special as they could, but as Kim stated, it just felt very different without the indoor events, the choir singing and the personal connection to others. Kim said "the pandemic has certainly changed the way that she has grieved the loss of her son Ruben, in comparison with her grieving for Caleb and

Quinn." Due to restrictions, Kim came to the office by herself, which "felt much different than when she had been here in the past with her husband." She admits missing the office being open, as each time she would come to visit her sons she would stop in and say hello. Having the front office dark and closed for her feels like it personifies the loss and reflects how "everything seems darker because of COVID". Kim also stated that she and her husband were only able to do a graveside service for Ruben, which just added to her recurring thoughts that "something is missing". She uses this same phrase when talking about the support groups that she was previously attending in person, but moved to virtual events during the pandemic. While Kim was grateful there was an alternative, she didn't feel that same connection as when she could attend in person.

One positive difference that came from experiencing loss in the time of a pandemic was the isolation. She explained "it is difficult to navigate relationships with those who don't understand the loss." The restrictions, at times, gave her comfort because she was able to gain space that she needed to grieve and process her feelings without having to face others.

Kim and her husband, Jim, live in Ogden with their four living children and they stressed that choosing a cemetery with a Catholic foundation was extremely important to the family. Kim expressed that she and her husband have not grieved separate from their faith and this reinforced that a spiritual connection is very meaningful to them and their family. Kim would like to thank Holy Sepulchre for their flexibility during COVID-19 and for thinking outside the box to help try to bring comfort for those experiencing loss during such a difficult time.

UPCOMING DATES:

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN

Sunday, March 28: Gates open from 8 am to 7 pm daily.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 2: Offices closed. We will reopen on Saturday, April 3 from 9 am to 12 pm.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 4: Wishing you a blessed Easter Sunday!

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 9: Wishing all of our Mothers, those past and present, a very Happy Mother's Day!

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 31: Offices closed. We will reopen on Tuesday, June 1 from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 20: Wishing all our Fathers a very Happy Father's Day full of blessings!

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our calendar of events on our website, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

FEAST DAYS:

APRIL 16: St. Bernadette of Lourdes, Ascension Garden Mausoleum

APRIL 23: St. George, Holy Sepulchre in All Saints Mausoleum

APRIL 25: St. Mark, Holy Sepulchre in Resurrection Garden Mausoleum, Holy Rosary and at Ascension Garden Mausoleum

APRIL 29: St. Catherine of Siena, Ascension Garden Mausoleum

MAY 30: St. Joan of Arc, Holy Sepulchre in All Saints Mausoleum

JUNE 13: St. Anthony of Padua, Holy Sepulchre in All Saints Mausoleum and at Ascension Garden Mausoleum

JUNE 24: St. John the Baptist, Holy Sepulchre in All Saints Mausoleum and Holy Rosary

JUNE 29: St. Peter & St. Paul the Apostles, Holy Sepulchre in Resurrection Garden Mausoleum

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

2461 Lake Avenue, Rochester NY 14612

P 585-458-4110 F 585-458-3059



HOLYSEPULCHRE.ORG

ASCENSION GARDEN

1900 Pinnacle Road, Henrietta NY 14467

P 585-697-1122 F 585-444-5841