

# THE SEPULCHRE

Newsletter of Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries



## Honoring Andrew

Interview offered by Michelle LiButti

I had the pleasure of meeting with one of our newest full-time employees, Andrew Mastin, to learn more about him and his work at Holy Sepulchre. Below you will find the interview questions and his responses.

How did your journey start with Holy Sepulchre Cemetery?

Many of my family members are buried at Holy Sepulchre, so I already was familiar with the cemetery itself. I also take care of graves of various priests and nuns. When I thought about my future, I always knew that I wanted to do something in my life that related to the Catholic Church and/or being a Funeral Director. When I saw the job opening for Holy Sepulchre on the Diocese website, I knew that this is what I wanted to do.

How long have you been working here?

I started working here as a seasonal employee in May 2023, and then I was promoted to full-time in July 2025. I was so excited because I knew from day one that this is what I wanted to do.

*What is your favorite thing about working at the cemeteries?*

*Everything! I truly enjoy working here and have learned so much. I am excited to be training to do different jobs as the opportunity arises. I feel that it is such a blessing to be able to work here and do what I love to do. I must mention four people that have really taught me the most about my job: Allen, Alex, Steve and Craig. They have really taken the time to train me and share their knowledge with me, and I am grateful for each of them. With that said, I do consider everyone who works here my family and I truly appreciate each and every one of them.*

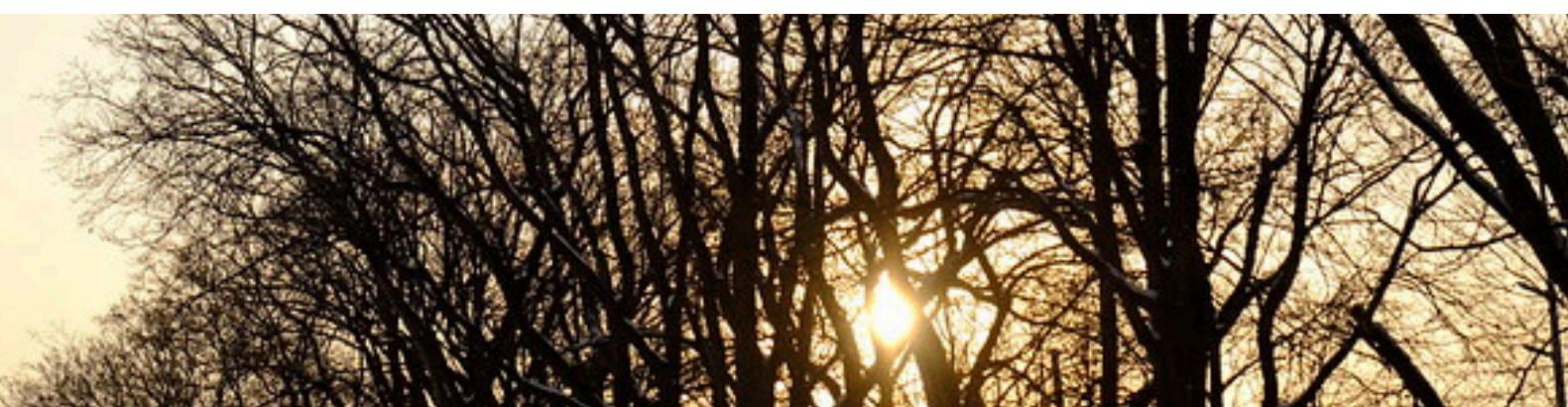
*What would you like to share with us about you personally?*

*I am a devout Catholic and a parishioner at Sacred Heart Cathedral, where I am also an usher. I have a close relationship with Bishop Matano, Father White and Father Van Lieshout. I have even been entrusted with the keys to both the Cathedral and Holy Sepulchre gates. I take pride in making sure that the graves of the priests and nuns look pristine, so I have been granted permission to volunteer after work to be able to take care of those sections.*

*Is there anything else you would like to add?*

*I believe that attention to detail is everything. You only get one chance to do a funeral correctly. I am very particular about the funeral flowers also, making sure to honor the deceased, while still maintaining the rules of the cemetery. I truly love my job, and even when I no longer work here, I will still be here for eternity, as I have already chosen my final resting place here at Holy Sepulchre cemetery.*

Thank you Andrew for this interview and for allowing us to learn more about you. Your dedication to Holy Sepulchre is much appreciated. Your enthusiasm stands out in the work that you do and how you treat others. Your faith is very apparent, and your contribution to Holy Sepulchre and the Catholic community as a whole, is very remarkable. We are so grateful to have you as part of our Holy Sepulchre family.





## Celebrating Douglas Kuszlyk

After 41 years of dedicated service, Douglas Kuszlyk has entered a well-deserved retirement, marking the close of an impactful career at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Doug began in 1984 as a seasonal employee, drawn by the opportunity to work in a park-like setting after growing up on a dairy farm. Within six months, he moved into a full-time role, beginning a steady rise built on hard work and commitment. In 1993, he was encouraged to pursue leadership and was promoted to Foreman, followed by Maintenance Supervisor in 1994, Interment Supervisor in 1995, and eventually Superintendent in the early 2000s, a position he has held ever since.

A key influence throughout Doug's career was his mentor, former Executive Director Bob Vogt, who instilled in him the importance of attention to detail, quality over quantity, and continual process improvement. Doug carried these principles forward, helping to shape the high standards and efficiency that define Holy Sepulchre today.

Over four decades, Doug guided the cemetery through major industry changes, including the rise in cremation, evolving family preferences, and significant advances in technology. He led improvements in procedures and equipment use while empowering staff through pride in their work.

Above all, Doug is proud of the teams he helped build and support. As he enters retirement, he looks forward to spending more time with his children, cheering on University of Tampa hockey where his son is head coach, supporting his beloved Buffalo Bills, and enjoying time with friends.

Doug's legacy of leadership and service will long be felt at Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries. We thank him sincerely and wish him every happiness in the next chapter.

### TESTIMONIAL

"Deacon Joe met with my father and I. He listened to all our concerns and answered all our questions. He was professional and made us feel comfortable. We thank him for his kindness."

