

ISSUE 26 • JULY 2026

THE SEPULCHRE

Newsletter of Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries

15 Years of Ascension Garden

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, Ascension Garden Cemetery celebrated a special milestone with our 15th Anniversary Mass and Dedication. The Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend John S. Bonnici in the chapel located inside the Ascension Garden Mausoleum.

This beautiful gathering brought together families, community members, and supporters to honor the history and mission of Ascension Garden, a sacred place of remembrance, faith, and hope.

Following Mass, guests gathered for the dedication of the new center feature and had the opportunity to explore the grounds through guided cemetery tours and learn more about pre-planning options with our caring staff.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Bishop Bonnici, Fr. Aaron Kelly, Dawn Chmiel, our Board of Trustees (past and present), and dedicated staff for their commitment to make this celebration possible. A special thank you to Randy, Rick, Scott, and Eric for their hard work, care, and attention to detail in planting and beautifying our new cemetery feature.

We are grateful to everyone who attended and helped make this anniversary celebration a meaningful reflection of 15 years of service, compassion, and community.

Planning ahead allows you to make decisions about your final resting place with care and intention. To learn more about pre-planning your legacy, please call or submit the Contact Us form on our website at holysepulchre.org. We would be happy to help you.

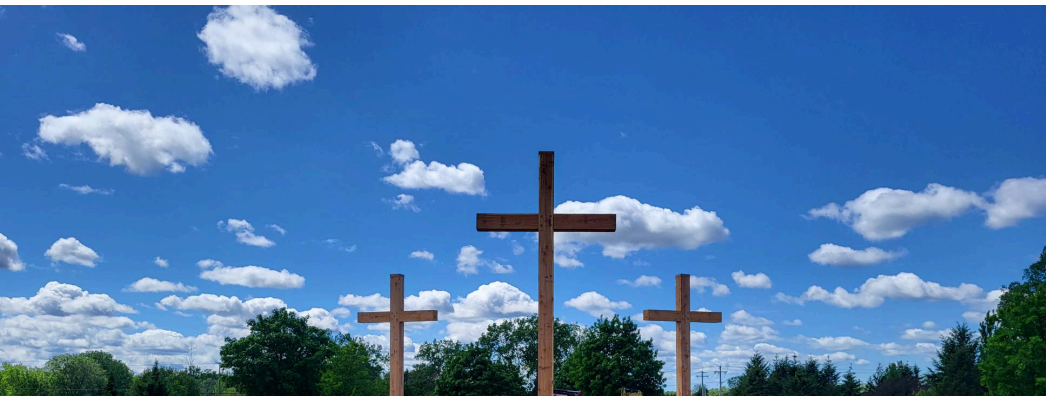
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Sign up for our email list on our website to receive the latest news and updates.



VIEW OUR EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE

Find all announcements, holidays, and special events at holysepulchre.org.





A Sacred Witness to History

As our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, we pause to reflect on the remarkable journey of the United States, a story shaped by courage, sacrifice, faith, and hope.

At 155 years old, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery has witnessed generations of Rochester families whose stories reflect the American experience. Since 1871, our grounds have been entrusted with the memories of veterans who served, immigrants who built new lives, families who endured times of hardship and prosperity, and countless individuals whose contributions strengthened our community.

The monuments and memorials throughout Holy Sepulchre tell more than individual stories and preserve a living history of our nation. Within these sacred grounds rest those who experienced defining moments in history, from the aftermath of the Civil War and the Great Depression to two World Wars and generations of change.

As a Catholic cemetery, we honor those who came before us and the values they carried forward: faith, family, service, and a commitment to future generations. The Semiquincentennial offers an opportunity to reflect not only on America's past, but on the role each generation plays in shaping its future. Every family represented at Holy Sepulchre has a place in this ongoing story. Through acts of love, sacrifice, and service, ordinary lives have created extraordinary legacies.

As we commemorate 250 years of our nation, we remember with gratitude those who came before us, celebrate the blessings of today, and look ahead with faith and hope. For 155 years, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery has been honored to preserve these stories for generations to come.



TESTIMONIAL

“Deacon Joe, the Family Service Counselor who worked with us, was wonderful throughout our pre-planning appointment. Deacon was patient, kind and thoroughly explained process. The words of comfort he offered to us will be remembered always. It was such a relief to have made decisions that weren't rushed but thoughtful and well thought out. Thank you for your support and care.”



HOLY
SEPULCHRE
CEMETERY

ASCENSION
GARDEN

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Ascension Garden Cemetery
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