



## DISPOSITION OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

Written by Deacon Joseph Placious  
Family Services Counselor at Holy Sepulchre &  
Ascension Garden Cemeteries

One day, the church Secretary approached me and said, "Deacon Joe, there is another box of religious goods in your office." In my 19 years of ministry I have been inundated with religious books and articles that families of deceased people have left to family members. These families end up not knowing what to do with them but they feel bad just throwing them out! So often, they drop them off at the nearest church. Most of the materials are old bibles, torn missals, broken rosaries and statues. I can go on and on telling you what I have found in these family boxes; one of the boxes even had a missing will! The families are right, religious goods should not just be thrown out. Many of the items have been blessed and should be properly disposed of.

Some of these religious items may be in good condition, but for one reason or another, the families cannot keep them (they have moved, downsized or just do not have room for all the stuff they have collected over the years). Throughout the years, I have tried to find nice homes for the statues and for each of the individuals becoming Catholic at Easter, I have made what I call "Catholic Starter kits". They consist of prayer books, prayer cards, rosaries, a crucifix and small statues. Most of the material

has been repurposed from items that people just did not know what to do with!

I learned, from my childhood, that the way to get rid of blessed articles was to burn or bury them, but sometimes this is impractical to do for some people. I called our diocese to see if we have a policy or program on how to discard religious articles and confirmed that the proper way was to either bury or burn the articles. He said "if you burn them, then the ashes should be buried", but there was no official policy or program.

What finally sent me on this path, to officially find the best way to get rid of blessed religious articles, was a question from my boss. One day, she said "I have a rather odd question for you. We have gotten a call from a woman who works at a library and has been given many old missal's from various churches. They have no use for them. How do they dispose of them? The lady from the library said that in her diocese the local catholic cemetery buries them. I had heard this before but not officially!"

I decided to call a cemetery (that is located out of town) to see if they had a policy or a program. I spoked to the director of Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Columbus Ohio and he told me there was no specific policy, but people drop things off and they bury them. I asked if they had a ceremony for this and he said no. I started to think "could this be something we can do here at our cemetery?"

This made me think: is this something we offer here? It might be a way to bring people into the cemetery without having to bury a relative. It would offer way to get rid of the blessed articles without the guilt of throwing them away. Something for them to feel good about coming to the cemetery without the overwhelming feeling of grief. A way to bring people into our cemetery who may never have been here to see what our beautiful cemetery offers. Other Catholic cemeteries should consider having a day a year when people can drop religious articles off to be buried.

I am proud to announce that Holy Sepulchre and Ascension Gardens will now be offering a way to properly dispose of blessed articles. From May 1st to May 6th, you may drop off your unwanted religious articles to the office during normal business hours (Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:30pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 12 noon). We will take the care to properly dispose of these items. Please keep in mind the following stipulations: each item cannot exceed 2 feet for length, width and heights; please bring in blessed items only; do not bring in cremated remains of a loved one or pet; once the items have been brought in for proper disposal, they cannot be retrieved.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES  
Drop-Off

May 1-6, 2023 during normal  
office hours.

# PALM SUNDAY

April 2, 2023

*What is Palm Sunday and why do we celebrate it?*

Palm Sunday is one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar, but it's also often not understood. From the changing date to the actual traditions of Palm Sunday (including the use of palms entirely), it can be confusing for those who didn't grow up honoring the holiday.

Palm Sunday is considered a "movable feast," in which the date changes from year to year. This is because Lent, Easter and all of the holy days in between are determined by the spring equinox, which can vary slightly every year.

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, in the Christian tradition, commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches were placed on his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

The liturgy begins with a blessing and procession of palms. However, the focus is on a reading of the Passion, with parts taken by the priest, lectors, and congregation. Where do you put the palms from Palm Sunday? Palms can be placed anywhere. The palms are often taken home by members of the congregation to serve as sacramentals (sacred signs of the sacraments), and many use them for decoration. Some Christians fold the palm fronds into crosses.

Because palms from Palm Sunday are blessed, worshippers are advised to only dispose of them by burning. It is possible that some churches will burn the returned palms and use them for Ash Wednesday the following year.

*What is the main message of Palm Sunday?*

For Christians, it is a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him.



*Good Friday*, which lies on April 7th this year, is the most somber day of the Christian year and is observed during Holy Week. Good Friday is the day our Savior died for us. It is the day we were released from our sins by His voluntary death at the hands of man.

The date of Good Friday varies from one year to the next, but it is always the Friday before Easter Sunday. Good Friday is a widely recognized legal holiday around the world. Good Friday is observed with fasting and abstaining from eating meat.

*Why is it called "Good Friday"?*

It's not for the reason you might think. It is said that the term Good meant Holy, therefore, Good Friday comes from Holy Friday.

*What happened on the first Good Friday?*

Several things happened:

- During the night, Jesus had been arrested and taken before the high priests.
- Peter denied him.
- Jesus was mocked and beaten.
- Darkness fell over the entire land.
- Jesus agonized on the cross for six hours; he was condemned to death.
- Jesus forgave those who crucified him.

*How do we celebrate Good Friday today?*

On this day, when "Christ our passover was sacrificed," the Church:

- Reflects on the passion of her Lord and Spouse.
- Adores the cross.
- Honors her origin from the side of Christ asleep on the cross.
- Intercedes for the salvation of the whole world.
- A day of contrition where fasting and abstinence is observed.

*Are the sacraments celebrated on Good Friday?*

Good Friday is the only day of the year on which the merriment of Mass is forbidden. The Church does not celebrate the Eucharist. Holy Communion is distributed to the faithful during the Celebration of the Lord's Passion; it may be taken to the sick at any time of the day who cannot partake in the celebration. Funerals are to be celebrated without singing, music, or the ringing of bells. Baptism in danger of death is also permissible.

*What liturgical celebrations occur on this day?*

The main celebration is known as the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Included is a liturgy of the word, the adoration of the cross and a communion service using hosts already consecrated.

*How is the cross venerated?*

In the veneration of the cross, tradition is to kneel, bow and kiss the cross. A cross that is of proper size and beauty can be used. Only one cross should be used for the worship, as this contributes to the full symbolism of the rite. This rite should be carried out with glory worthy of the mystery of our salvation.

*What happens after the Celebration of the Lord's Passion?*

After the celebration, the altar is stripped, but the cross remains on display with four candles. Are other devotions appropriate to Good Friday? Dedications such as the "Way of the Cross," processions of the passion, and commemorations of the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary are not to be ignored. Songs used should be modified to the essence of the Liturgy of this day.

On this Good Friday, we encourage you to reflect on the great sacrifice Jesus made for us as we look forward to his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Know that all of us at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery are keeping you in our prayers during this important time of the year.



# St. Bernadette

FEAST DAY APRIL 16, 2023



Patronage: Body illness, Lourdes, France, shepherds and shepherdesses, against poverty, people ridiculed for their faith.

St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844. Her parents were very poor and she was the first of nine children. As a toddler, Bernadette contracted cholera and suffered extreme asthma. Unfortunately, she lived the rest of her life in poor health.

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, when a very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle.

The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray. Though her sister and friend claimed they were unable to see her, Bernadette knew what she saw was real.

Bernadette visited daily after being asked to do so by "the vision". On February 25, Bernadette claimed to have a life-changing vision. The vision told her "to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there". The next day, the grotto's muddy waters had been cleared and fresh water flowed.

On March 2, Bernadette told her family the lady said "a chapel should be built and a procession formed."

The sixteenth vision was on March 25th. Bernadette claimed she had asked the woman her name, but her question was only met with a smile. Bernadette asked again, three more times, and finally the woman said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Church authorities and the French government interviewed the girl, and by 1862 they confirmed she spoke truth. Since Bernadette first caused the spring to produce clean water, 69 cures have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau, and after

what the Church claimed were "extremely rigorous scientific and medical examinations," no one was able to explain what caused the cures.

Bernadette asked the local priest to build a chapel at the site of her visions and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is now one of the major Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world.

Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone in her right knee and died at the age of 35 on April 16, 1879, while praying the holy rosary. Bernadette's last words were, "Blessed Mary, Mother of God, pray for me. A poor sinner, a poor sinner."

Saint Bernadette is often depicted in prayer with a rosary or appealing to the Holy Virgin. She was beatified in 1925 and canonized by Pope Pius XI in December 1933.

We have a wing dedicated to St. Bernadette in our Ascension Garden Mausoleum. When visiting, you will see a bronze plaque detailing her life.

## ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

Mark was the Evangelist, just one of the four men who wrote the Gospels found in the New Testament. His feast day is on April 25th.

Even though Mark was not a direct disciple of Jesus, Saint Mark is the author of just one of the four Gospel accounts. He played an important role in spreading the Gospel as a missionary in the early church.

Mark's Gospel was written first and is known to be the shortest description of Jesus' life, death, Resurrection and Ascension. Mark helped write both Matthew and Luke's Gospel.

Mark once was visited in a dream by an angel in the form of a winged lion while taking a refuge

from a storm in the city of Venice. This is why we see the Lion as a symbol associated to Mark.

In the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery location you will find the statue of St. Mark in the Holy Rosary Cremation Garden right outside of All Saints Mausoleum. Mark is located on the top of the Columbaria facing the north west portion of Holy Rosary.

You will also find a statue of St. Mark inside the Ascension Garden Mausoleum where we offer marble and glass front niches.

For many, the choice to spend eternity close to St. Mark is a result of the lion's symbolism (the resurrection of the Christ the King). The

lion is looked upon as the king of beasts and courage. As Christians we are called upon to be courageous and to spread the good news of Christ.





## JAMES RYAN FARRELL RYAN FUNERAL HOME

Holy Sepulchre and Ascension Garden Cemeteries are honored to work so closely with our local funeral directors in the Greater Rochester New York region. In this newsletter we are pleased to feature James Ryan from Farrell Ryan Funeral Home. James took the time out of his busy schedule to give an overview of his education and his career. Thank you James.

- James is a 3rd generation funeral director.
- He graduated from Greece Athena 2011 and Suny Canton 2015.
- James is a Board member of Rochester Genesee Valley Funeral Directors Association, the Greece Rotary and is on the Advisory Board for the funeral program at Suny Canton.

*What do you most enjoy about being a funeral director?*

Being the person a family can count on to guide them through a difficult and sometimes confusing journey. I enjoy taking the time to

answer people's questions in a transparent and honest way. Getting to meet and work with so many families over the years has been very rewarding. I love meeting new people and hearing their stories. It's cool because I get to know entire families, their history, funny stories from their childhood, see old family photos, hear grandpas old war stories. You really build a bond with each family.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work alongside my father. Not only is he absolutely amazing at what he does and a great mentor, but everyday I get to come into work and hang out with my dad. Not many sons get that chance.

Thank to you James Ryan for sharing his experiences with us and for serving our local community day in and day out. We sincerely appreciate your work in honoring our loved ones. *Thank you for all you do!*

## EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2:** Spring/Summer Hours Begin. Gates will be open from 8:00 am - 7:00 pm for visitation during the spring and summer months.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 4:** Spring Clean-up & Wreath Removal Begins

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7:** Offices closed for Good Friday. Our offices will reopen on Saturday, April 8th at 9:00 am.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15:** April Mass (8:30 am)

**SUNDAY, MAY 14:** Mother's Day

**SATURDAY, MAY 20:** May Mass (8:30 am)

**MONDAY, MAY 29:** Offices closed for Memorial Day. Our offices will reopen on Tuesday, May 30th at 9:00 am.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14:** Flag Day

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17:** June Mass (8:30 am)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18:** Father's Day

**MONDAY, JUNE 19:** Juneteenth

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

## FEAST & HOLY DAYS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2:** Palm Sunday, Holy Week Begins

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9:** Easter Sunday

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16:** St. Bernadette, patron saint of bodily illness, Lourdes, against poverty.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23:** St. George, patron of England and protector of husbands, soldiers, Boy Scouts.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25:** St. Mark, patron saint of Venice and protector of pharmacists.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29:** St. Catherine of Siena, patron saint of Italy and protector of nurses.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13:** St. Anthony of Padua, protector of orphans and sick children.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24:** St. John the Baptist

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29:** St. Peter the Apostle, protector of fishermen, and St. Paul the Apostle, protector of theologians and the Catholic press.

We offer locations dedicated to the Saints at both our locations. For more information, please email [events@holysepulchre.org](mailto:events@holysepulchre.org). We would be happy to help you locate a specific area dedicated to a Saint.

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HOLY  
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CEMETERY

ASCENSION  
GARDEN

### ASCENSION GARDEN

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