

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR OBSERVANCE A TRULY CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

# Earth Day

APRIL 22



Earth Day is an annual celebration to raise awareness and support for environmental protection while honoring the achievements of the environmental movement. Today, and everyday, we must recognize the importance of long-term ecological sustainability and care for our Earth.

Here are a few ways to make your observance of Earth Day a truly Catholic experience.

- Create a garden, plant a vegetable, and share your harvest with those less fortunate.
- Give praise to our creator. We believe in one God, the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- Pray for all those who are at risk from exposure to environmental hazards. Pray for the future generations that they may live and benefit from a healthy environment.

Recognizing Earth Day is important to us as we learn about various ways to give back to our sacred grounds. Did you know we offer Green Burial (the eco-friendly option) at both of our cemeteries?

In 2013, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery & Ascension Garden became the first Catholic cemeteries in New York State to earn Green Burial Council Certification as approved providers of green burial grounds. Only after extensive ecological assessments and a formal application was this honor bestowed. The certification furthers the commitment of Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden to the environment and provides beautiful, natural surroundings while meeting the highest standards of the cemetery industry.

What is Green Burial? Green Burial goes back in time to the way burial practices once were and has

been gaining in popularity. Humans are returning to the earth, ensuring the burial site remains natural in all respects. One's remains must be in a biodegradable casket or shroud. The body is not embalmed so there is no interruption in the natural ecosystem. The special sections for Green Burial at both our cemetery locations have been specially chosen to enhance the natural beauty and environment that already exists within the cemeteries.

We offer two beautiful and peaceful Green Burial locations: Trinity section at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and St. Francis Meadow section located at Ascension Garden Cemetery.

To learn more about all of our offerings, including Green Burial, please visit our website or call our offices to speak to a Family Service Counselor.



# Praying the Rosary



May is the month of Mary, praying the Rosary allows us to encounter Mary and to enter the mysteries of Jesus Christ. From his Incarnation to the Cross, to the Resurrection, we come to understand that God has revealed Himself and saved us. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, may inspire us to live a life of discipleship in the days to come.

### Three Reasons for Praying the Rosary

- Mary can help us to better know her son, Jesus Christ.
- It is an opportunity to reflect on the Gospel mysteries.
- It is the perfect way to make time for God.

The Rosary Beads are used to help us; they count our prayers and tell us which prayer to say.

There are four sets of “mysteries” or events from four periods of Jesus’s life.

The “Joyful Mysteries”. These are the events around the birth of Jesus. The five Joyful Mysteries are: the Annunciation; the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth; the birth of Jesus; the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple; the Finding of the boy Jesus.

The “Mysteries of Light”. These are events from the public ministry of Jesus. They are: the Baptism of Jesus; the Wedding Feast at Cana; the Proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven; the Transfiguration; the Last Supper.

The “Sorrowful Mysteries”. There are the events surround the death of Jesus. They are: the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane; the Scourging; the Crowning with Thorns; Jesus carries the Cross; the Crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Lastly the “Glorious Mysteries”. These are the events following the Resurrection of Jesus. They

are: the Resurrection of Jesus; the Ascension of Jesus into heaven; the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; the Assumption of Mary into heaven; Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

You begin the Rosary Prayer with the Crucifix. You make the Sign of the Cross as you say: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. While still holding the Crucifix you say the Apostles’ Creed. Then there is a large bead. At each large bead you say the Lord’s Prayer. Next there are three small beads. At each small bead you say the Hail Mary prayer.

After these three Hail Mary prayers, you say the Glory be to the Father. Then there is a large bead. This indicates the First Mystery and one Our Father prayer. Next on the Rosary beads there is a clasp; most people move to the left and there are ten small beads for ten Hail Mary prayers and a Glory Be. You move around the 5 decades of the Rosary in this way until you arrive at the clasp. At the clasp, it is customary to say the prayer Hail, Holy Queen.

This powerful prayer allows you to meditate on Scripture and the key moments during Jesus’ life. Praying the Rosary only takes about 20 minutes. Some people prefer to pray the Rosary first thing in the morning, after they wake up. Other people prefer to pray the Rosary at night, right before they go to sleep. It is also possible to pray the Rosary during your lunch break or on your commute to work or school.

At Holy Sepulchre you have availability for in-ground cremation in our Holy Rosary Garden section. In the walkway surrounding the garden, there is an actual Rosary path. A quiet, peaceful place to walk or sit and meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary.

## *May, Mary & Mother’s Day*

May is a time to celebrate Our Blessed Mother. Mary is both the Mother of God, and the Mother of the Church. Her devotion to the Lord, led to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Mary, we can be led to learn more about Jesus and become closer to Him.

There are several ways to honor Mary in the month of May. One is by bringing her flowers, or dedicating a space in your yard where you can enclose a statue of Mary and select florals to plant that are associated with her, such as roses and lilies.

If you are unable to create a garden, you could create a painting, drawing, or something else hand-made by you that symbolizes Mary and your devotion to her.

You can also pray the Rosary (see the previous article to learn how to). You can also always pray directly to Mary and talk to her as you would your own mother. You can also ask for her intercession with Jesus.

You could read more about Mary through her presence in the Bible and/or other religious publications. You can choose to remember Mary on her various Feast Days throughout the year. There are even a few Feast Days that occur during the month of May including Our Lady of Fatima (5/13), Mary Help of Christians (5/24) and The Feast of the Visitation (5/31). You can also create a special Marian themed meal to honor Mary.

At Holy Sepulchre, we have a beautiful statue of Mary outdoors, which overlooks our office and  
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Family Service Center. Last year we decided to do our own May Crowning and this year we plan to do the same. May Crowning is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual held during the month of May. A statue of the Blessed Mother is crowned with a garland or crown of flowers, which honors Mary as the "Queen of May".



In addition, we know that while Mother's Day can be a very celebratory day for many, there are those who have lost their mother, those who wish to but are unable to have children, those who

have lost children, and those who have never had a relationship with their mother. We invite you to pray with us to Mary for her intercession to Jesus to heal those who are struggling and hurting so they may be able to find comfort on Mother's Day, knowing that the Blessed Mother is always someone that they can turn to and who understands their sorrow.

We wish all of you a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day and we would love to hear from you the ways that you have or will choose to honor Mary in the month of May.



# Father's Day

JUNE 19, 2024

Father's Day was founded in Spokane, Washington, at the YMCA in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd. Originally, Father's Day had been celebrated on March 19, as the feast day of Saint Joseph, who is referred to as the fatherly Nutritor Domini ("Nourisher of the Lord") in Catholicism and "the putative father of Jesus" in southern European tradition.

The June observance of Father's Day marks the birth month of the father of the founder of the holiday. While the official first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson made the first presidential proclamation that honored fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. In 1972 Father's Day was made a national holiday by President Richard M. Nixon.

Father's Day is a day to celebrate and give to the father or father figure in your life. It is important to honor your father as he plays an instrumental role as the protector in a family's life, and a vital role in our upbringing. The day which honors and is bestowed to the fathers and relevant father figures is dedicated to those that stand as a pillar for their family members. On this day, we show our love, appreciation and gratitude to our fathers and make them feel special.

A Father can be the first person you turn to when you need advice or have a question and even though it took quite some time for Father's Day to be recognized as an official holiday, it is now a treasured celebration for millions of families around the world. Often, fathers are spoiled with gifts that are given, picnics and cookouts are held, and much love and adoration is shown.

# Pentecost

May 19, 2024

Pentecost is a Catholic Holy Day which takes place on the 50th day after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus Christ while they were still in Jerusalem after the Ascension of the Lord 40 days after Easter. Pentecost ends the Easter celebrations that began on Holy Week. Holy Week begins with the commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, marks the betrayal of Jesus on Holy Wednesday, climaxing with mystical Last Supper on Holy Thursday and the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Holy Week concludes with Christ's rest in death and descent into hell on Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday celebrations go on for 50 days until Pentecost. The church is what it is because of Holy Week and Pentecost. We celebrate our own personal Pentecost's at our baptisms when we receive the Holy Spirit!

**BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL! LORD,  
MY GOD, YOU ARE GREAT INDEED!  
YOU ARE CLOTHED WITH MAJESTY  
AND SPLENDOR, ROBED IN LIGHT  
AS WITH A CLOAK.**

**Psalms 104: 1-2**



# EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

Douglas Kuszlyk

Superintendent- 1984 - Present

Celebrating 40 years at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

**What made you apply for the position at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and what was your original job title?**

*I wanted to work in a park like environment after working on a dairy farm growing up. My starting position was a seasonal however I moved to full time position after roughly 6 months.*

**Tell us how you transitioned into a management position and what titles you have held over the years?**

*In 1993 I was approached by the management at the time about advancing to a supervisory position. In 1993 I was promoted to Foreman, 1994 to Maintenance Supervisor and in 1995 to Interment Supervisor. In the early 2000's I advanced to my current position as Superintendent.*

**What are the most important lessons you have learned over your career?**

*Bob Vogt, former Executive Director and my mentor had a huge role in my career and instilled in me many lessons. I believe in the importance of attention to detail and the concept of quality of work versus quantity of work. It is also important to examine what processes are in place and exploring ways to make things more efficient. I owe a lot to Bob and I feel honored to carry on his legacy.*

**What are some of the biggest changes in the industry you have experienced over the past 40 years?**

*One of the biggest is related to the increase in cremation rates. This has led to a change in the way we do many things including how burials are completed, changes in options in offerings for families, and how funerals are completed including timing of burial or in some cases burials*



*not taking place at all (the families choosing to scatter or keep their loved one at home). Another large change is related to technology, including records being all hand written to now electronic and even the equipment capabilities and how equipment is serviced.*

**What are your greatest career accomplishments?**

*Over the years there have been many changes in procedures to make things more efficient and to reduce errors. How we complete marker foundations, procedures utilizing specialty equipment (enabling us to have the right tool for the right job) and making changes to funeral orders to capture more detailed information. Additionally empowering the field staff to take on additional responsibilities and ownership of their work including laying out the graves, engaging them in day to day activities and job assignments and allowing cross training.*

**What is most important to you in your personal life?**

*I am a proud father of two adult children, Dianna and Nick. They both reside in Florida so enjoy spending my free time down there with them. I am passionate about University of Tampa hockey because my son is a former player and now the head coach. I am an avid Bills fan and enjoy spending time with my friends.*

## EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

**MONDAY, APRIL 8:** Cemeteries closed from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm for the Solar Eclipse.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20:** April Mass (8:30 am)

**SUNDAY, MAY 12:** Mother's Day

**SATURDAY, MAY 18:** May Mass (8:30 am)

**MONDAY, MAY 27:** Offices closed for Memorial Day. Our offices will reopen on Tuesday, May 28th at 9:00 am.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14:** Flag Day

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15:** June Mass (8:30 am)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16:** 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 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.

### HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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HOLY  
SEPULCHRE  
CEMETERY

ASCENSION  
GARDEN

### ASCENSION GARDEN

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