

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4: JANUARY 2021 EDITION

Celebrating **150** *years*

(1871-2021)

Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid was appointed as the first Bishop of Rochester in 1868. At that time, there was no one Catholic cemetery, but rather, a number of small parish cemeteries. He recognized that in the future, these small cemeteries would not sustain the need of the Catholic community. Bishop McQuaid envisioned a peaceful, prayerful and reflective cemetery in an environment that provided natural beauty and the assurance of a Christian celebration of life-everlasting. His vision was to provide a cemetery where generations of Catholics would be laid to rest. The Bishop pursued education from other Catholic cemeteries and settled on a “garden cemetery” concept that would be well landscaped and environmentally friendly. In 1871, the legacy of Holy Sepulchre began.

In 1876, All Souls Chapel was built on the historic eastside of the cemetery. The chapel was designed by Andrew Jackson Warner, who also worked on St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Powers Building, buildings at St. Bernard’s Seminary, along with a number of other notable buildings in the region. Warner designed All Souls Chapel in an Early English Gothic style, with a steep slate

“

... providing generations of families a place to celebrate life-everlasting.

”

roof and Medina stone. Through Holy Sepulchre Cemetery’s history, the chapel became one of the most recognizable features of our grounds.

Over the next 150 years, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery continued the rich tradition, careful planning and high standards that Bishop McQuaid began in 1871. The cemetery constructed new sections, mausoleums and specialty areas for the community to honor their loved ones, including First Responders and a number of Veteran sections. In



STATUE OF BISHOP MCQUAID AT HOLY SEPULCHRE

2010, a second location was consecrated, Ascension Garden, located just moments from Mendon Ponds Park.

Now, as we move into our one hundred and fiftieth year, our mission continues, “to assist the Church in fulfilling its ministry to bury the deceased of the faith community in consecrated ground and ...to serve as a sacred and peaceful site of beauty where family and friends can gather in prayer and remembrance. We are dedicated to the Christian burial of all members of the Catholic Faith Community, and to comfort all those who mourn them.”

Whether you are continuing family tradition or starting a new one, we are here to provide you with ease, options and natural beauty. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery is proud to have become a pillar in the Rochester community by providing generations of families a place to celebrate life-everlasting.



ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATING FEAST DAYS IN MARCH

ST. JOSEPH & CHILD AT ASCENSION GARDEN

In the July 2020 newsletter, we introduced the Ascension Garden Mausoleum options, including single and double sized crypts, as well as beautiful glass front niches. Many are located within the sacred wings of the mausoleum and each wing is dedicated to a particular Saint. In this edition of our newsletter, we will highlight St. Patrick and St. Joseph, both featured at Ascension Garden Mausoleum, as their Feast Days both fall within the timeframe of this newsletter edition.

St. Patrick, whose Feast Day is celebrated on March 17th, is featured on the right side of the



ST. PATRICK AT ASCENSION GARDEN

Ascension Garden Mausoleum. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. As a boy, he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. It was during this time that he turned to God in prayer. After escaping, he began his studies for the priesthood. He later was ordained a Bishop and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. St. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions.

“...celebrate the lives of many Saints at our two locations, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Ascension Garden.”

St. Joseph, whose Feast Day is celebrated just days after St. Patrick, on March 19th, is located on the far left side of Ascension Mausoleum. Joseph was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him, without knowing the outcome. When the Angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question, or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife. Joseph loved Jesus and treated him as his own son; for over and over the people of Nazareth said of Jesus, “is this not the son of Joseph?” St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, patron of the dying, fathers, carpenters and social justice.

In Vatican News, released on 12/18/2020, Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 (December 8) and extending to the same feast in 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde, or “With a Father’s Heart”*, Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a “beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.” In celebration, this special letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St. Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



ST. JOSEPH AT ASCENSION GARDEN

We are fortunate to celebrate the lives of many Saints at our two locations. If you are interested in learning more about our Ascension Garden Mausoleum or any of our locations, please contact one of knowledgeable Family Services Counselors. We are here to make your legacy planning easy.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

STAY IN THE KNOW

Did you know that we host a large number of special events, Masses, promotions and special services? These are some of the many ways we offer support and care through life's journey.

Find us anytime online: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and on our website, holysepulchre.org. We also offer communications via our email database. These are the best ways to stay in the know of special events, promotions, programs.



@holysepulchrecemetery



@HSC_AG_Cemetery

If you would like to receive occasional emails, communicating our upcoming events, special hours, promotions and to access this quarterly newsletter, please email events@holysepulchre.org. We would be happy to add you to our list!



TESTIMONIALS

Our focus on customer service and caring for the Rochester community is part of what makes the Holy Sepulchre Difference.

"Debra was outstanding in her patience, kindness and helpfulness to my family at such a difficult time for us."
- Charlene F.

"Purchased three niches in Mausoleum. Margie was amazing to my family. Thank you!"
- Roseli P.

"Service was above and beyond expected. Michelle took wonderful care of us."
- Charles A.

"Cristyn was very professional and a great help in making my purchase. She knew exactly what to say and where to take us. Thank you."
- Anna M.

If you would like to submit a story, please email events@holysepulchre.org.

DRIVE-THRU LUMINARY EVENTS

LUMINARY DRIVE AT ASCENSION GARDEN

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how we do just about everything. With gathering restrictions, we were no longer able to safely host large Masses and events, so our team had to think creatively on how to care for the community in new ways.

This holiday season, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery hosted a drive-thru luminary event on Saturday, December 5 and the following weekend, we hosted the same event at Ascension Garden. The mission was to light the night in memory of those that have gone before us. We offered a way for families to visit, enjoy the illuminated grounds from the safety of their vehicles and continue this Christmas tradition.

Our team was so happy to provide this re-

envisioned event to the Rochester community, during such an uncertain year. Thank you to all who attended, for your dedication to us and to honoring your loved ones. We wish you comfort during the holiday season.



LUMINARY DRIVE AT HOLY SEPULCHRE

When a death occurs, life, for those who live on, changes forever. Our cemeteries serve as sacred spaces for celebrating and remembering the lives of your loved ones. We are dedicated to providing comfort and care for those who mourn. These special events are just one way we offer ongoing care and support. It is part of the Holy Sepulchre difference. We welcome you to learn more about what makes us different by visiting our website or calling our office. We are here to support you.



Eloise Burns - Wilkins

March is Women's History Month, commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. In honor of this month, we are focusing our attention on Eloise Burns-Wilkins, an American artist and illustrator who is buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Eloise Burns-Wilkins was born on March 30, 1904 in Rochester, NY. Eloise and her family moved to New York City when she was only 2 years old, but spent every summer with her siblings at a relative's home in western New York State. These family trips would mold Eloise's future art style when depicting nature, children and her family life. At a very young age, Wilkin's talent was noticed when she won a drawing contest for New York schoolchildren at the age of age 11. In 1923, Eloise graduated from the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, now known as the Rochester Institute of Technology. Eloise's sister, Esther,



was a children's book author, whom she would collaborate with after moving back to NYC, and in 1944, Wilkin signed an exclusive contract with original Little Golden Books publisher, Simon & Schuster, requiring her to illustrate three books each year.

During the course of her career, Wilkins illustrated over 47 books and many of the originals are highly valuable today. As a devout Christian, Eloise used her artistic talent to spread the Word of God, by illustrating religious picture books, including several prayer compilations for children.

She returned home to Rochester, where she lived in Brighton for the remainder of her life.



THE YEAR AHEAD

A Poem

MAY GOD MAKE YOUR YEAR A HAPPY ONE!

NOT BY SHIELDING US FROM

ALL SORROWS AND PAIN,

BUT BY STRENGTHENING US TO BEAR IT,

AS IT COMES;

NOT BY MAKING OUR PATH EASY,

BUT BY MAKING US STURDY TO

TRAVEL ANY PATH;

NOT BY TAKING HARDSHIPS FROM US,

BUT BY TAKING FEAR FROM OUR HEART;

NOT BY GRANTING US

UNBROKEN SUNSHINE,

BUT BY KEEPING OUR FACE BRIGHT,

EVEN IN THE SHADOWS;

NOT BY MAKING OUR LIFE

ALWAYS PLEASANT,

BUT BY SHOWING US WHEN PEOPLE AND

THEIR CAUSES NEED US MOST,

AND BY MAKING US ANXIOUS

TO BE THERE TO HELP.

GOD'S LOVE, PEACE, HOPE AND

JOY TO US FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN;
ADAPTED BY DEBRA MOONEY**

Annual Wreath Program

Though this year has been especially difficult for our community, we're constantly reminded of how thankful we are for our devoted team. This season, the grounds team worked incredibly hard to place all Christmas wreaths several weeks early, so that you can honor your loved ones for this holiday season. They located and placed well over 600 wreaths throughout our 450 acres.

Thank you to the entire team for helping the community continue their Christmas traditions in 2020. We couldn't have done it without the hard work of so many team members. Thank you!



HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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HOLYSEPULCHRE.ORG