

OUR RESPONSE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for our entire community. In response to the rapidly changing public health landscape, our cemeteries have taken action to maintain a safe place for the community to visit. We are operating normal hours for our grounds and mausoleums: 8 AM- 7 PM. We welcome you to visit, while maintaining a safe distance from others. All shared surfaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day; including restrooms, vehicles, offices, kiosks, mausoleums and all other common areas.

If you would like to visit a mausoleum, all persons will be required to wear a mask or face covering prior to entering the building. As the standard, we encourage the public to maintain a minimum of 6 feet apart from others and to stay home if you, or someone in your home, doesn't feel well.

If you are in need of assistance or require an immediate service, please call in advance to schedule an appointment. We are providing families a variety of appointment styles based on their comfort level. If a family prefers a completely remote sales experience, we can assist via phone, email, Zoom and Facetime video meetings. Car side service is also available. Our goal is to provide safe service during this challenging time.

Due to current gathering restrictions, all monthly Masses of Remembrance will be postponed until further notice. We will communicate all changes and updates via our website's calendar of events,

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We invite you to join us on social media: this is the fastest and easiest way to receive updates on our business. Have a question? Send us a message!

Please keep in mind, these regulations are changing rapidly due to NYS governance. We are committed to providing a safe place to celebrate life everlasting and we thank you for your patience and ongoing support during this challenging time. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our social media accounts or call our office at (585) 458-4110.

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HOLY
SEPULCHRE
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ASCENSION
GARDEN

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CREMATION & THE TRADITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

“For even dead, we are not at all separated from one another... We shall never be separated, for we live for Christ, and now we are united with Christ as we go toward him... we shall all be together in Christ.” - Catechism of the Catholic Church (St. Simeon of Thessalonica, De ordine sepulturae, 336: PG 155, 684)

Since 1963, cremation has been an acceptable option for those of the Catholic faith and has since been growing in popularity. There are many reasons why a family may choose this option. Some opt for cremation since it is more economical than a casket burial, while others may choose cremation due to its portability. It can be far more convenient and cost effective to transfer cremated remains than transporting a casket a long distance.

When cremation is chosen, it is preferred for the Funeral Mass to precede the cremation process. We know this is not always possible and cremation gives families an alternative option. Whether you are able to celebrate immediately following the passing or if you must wait, the

church expects families to seek an appropriate final resting place for the cremated remains of the body.

The scattering of the cremated remains, keeping the remains in a home or preserving cremated remains in mementos, pieces of jewelry or in any other objects is not permitted by the Catholic Church.

The ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place such as a cemetery. Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries provide cherished Catholic spaces that offer the following options for cremated remains:

Niches: an above ground burial space, sized for an urn containing the cremated remains of the body and allowing for identification and remembrance. We offer niches inside our mausoleums and others that are outside in garden sections.

Graves: smaller sized graves that allow for a grave marker to be placed identifying and remembering the deceased. We also offer Green burial options for those who prefer a simpler approach.

These are the basic options for cremated remains. We encourage you to speak to a knowledgeable Family Service Counselor to find the location that best meets your needs.



GREEN RIBBON MOVEMENT FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE BUT CANNOT GATHER

The COVID-19 pandemic has been especially difficult for those who have lost a loved one during this time. In order to maintain social distancing measures, traditional funerals have been reduced to immediate family only, churches are closed, large gatherings are discouraged, and many other traditional parts of the grieving process are negatively impacted. Families are left to find creative ways to remember and honor their loved ones lives.

As a way to support the families we serve, Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries is promoting the Green Ribbon Movement campaign. Loved ones may request a complimentary green ribbon pin to wear showing their solidarity with others who are suffering a loss. We are offering these pins free of charge, as a service to the community we

serve. To participate, please visit the After Care Support tab on our website, www.holysepulchre.org. There you will submit your name, address, email address and phone number. Once we receive your information, a Green Ribbon pin will be sent directly to you.

Then, we ask that you share the Green Ribbon Movement hashtag, [#greenribbonmovement](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/greenribbonmovement/), when remembering those who have passed away. Be sure to tag us in your post on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: this is one of the best ways we can all connect while still being apart.



FOLLOW US:



ASCENSION GARDEN MAUSOLEUM

RESTING ON A RICH LANDSCAPE NEAR MENDON PONDS PARK



Consecrated in the Catholic tradition, Ascension Garden Cemetery fits seamlessly into the pastoral beauty of rolling hills, abundant wooded areas and tranquility that naturally exists near Mendon Ponds Park. There, you will find the natural, lush landscape surrounding the peaceful Mausoleum.

Inside, natural light dances throughout the sainted wings. The mausoleum, offering spaces for both full body and cremation, is also climate-controlled to allow for comfortable visitation all year long. We feature a wide range of crypt options in rooms devoted to various Saints, as well as crypts located in the Chapel. Within the mausoleum, there are a number of crypt options: single, combination, double and companion crypts. A combination crypt is a single crypt that is upgraded to allow one urn. Our companion crypts provide the option for side by side entombment, versus the traditional tandem entombment. In addition to the previous options, our Chapel also offers couch crypts. The couch crypts provide the option for horizontal entombment with one casket in front of the other.

The mausoleum offers four beautiful niche rooms full of light, each offering glass and marble front options. Each room is dedicated to Saint Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and display a large statue of each. There are options for both single and double niches in a wide range of sizes to meet your needs. The Chapel gives families the option to hold a committal service and also serves as a quiet space for personal meditation. There you may sit, reflect

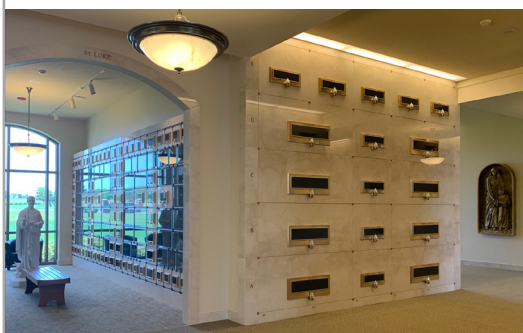
and enjoy the hymns played softly throughout the calming space.

We offer zero percent financing for both crypt and niche options. Many families opt for a space within a mausoleum because these options



conveniently include the memorialization. Crypt prices include cost of bronze plaque, inscription and "perpetual light" (everlasting light on the crypt's facade). Niche prices include the cost of the memorial associated with either the marble or glass front. Photo ceramics, emblems and flowers may be purchased separately.

Ascension Garden Cemetery provides family and friends a peaceful and prayerful environment to remember loved ones. The sacred space serves as a reminder of the new life following death, promised by Christ, and place to celebrate life everlasting. We welcome you to visit, walk and experience all that we offer.



ANGELS OF GOD

CREMATION GARDEN

LOCATED NEAR TRINITY LAKE



Offering a new location to celebrate life everlasting: Angels of God Cremation Garden. This cremation section provides families a peaceful place overlooking the natural beauty of Trinity Lake on the historical East side of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Angels of God Cremation Garden offers an assortment of options, including in ground and columbaria, each laying near the three Archangels: Gabriel, Michael & Raphael. There, walkways line the lush landscape fitting seamlessly into the wooded areas.



A special dedication will be celebrated by The Most Reverend Bishop Salvatore R. Matano on Saturday, September 19 immediately following the Monthly Mass of Remembrance.

We welcome you to experience the tranquility and to celebrate life everlasting. Surround yourself with nature. Surround yourself with history. For more information, please contact a knowledgeable Family Service Counselor today.

ANGELS OF GOD

SAVE UP TO

\$500 OFF

RECEIVE A TIERED DISCOUNT FOR PURCHASES AT ANGELS OF GOD CREMATION GARDEN FROM JULY 31, 2020 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 25, 2020. ALL PRIOR SALES EXCLUDED. LIMIT ONE DISCOUNT PER PURCHASE.

REMEMBERING TOGETHER

ONE FAMILY'S WAY OF FINDING COMFORT DURING COVID-19

As stated throughout this newsletter, many families are finding it difficult to grieve during the pandemic due to social distancing, closed facilities, and limitations on gatherings. Families are left to find creative ways to remember and honor the lives of their loved ones.

This story is how Scott and Kara Hochreiter, along with their two children, Lauren (age 7) and Patrick (age 3), are finding comfort during this difficult time. Scott and Kara's son, Owen, rests at Ascension Garden Cemetery. The Hochreiter family is involved with a local support group for miscarriage, stillbirth and infant loss. Typically, they attend in-person meetings once per month. Once stay-at-home orders were put in place, these meetings were moved to Zoom. Kara states, *"one of the most challenging parts of this lockdown has been ensuring parents who have lost children are being supported, and their children are celebrated and remembered. Grieving the loss of a child, without physical support and comfort, is unspeakably heartbreaking."*



Each spring the support group hosts a remembrance ceremony and butterfly release where all of the members meet up. This year the remembrance ceremony was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. Kara knew how important this was for her, and for her family, and found another way to honor Owen. *"I thought, I will just bring the remembrance ceremony to Ascension Garden"*. The Hochreiter family created a make shift ceremony in the special children's section to remember

and celebrate all of the little ones gone too soon, including Owen. Kara bought a butterfly kit and they raised the butterflies at home, which hatched on Good Friday—*"it just felt right in so many ways"*. Other members of her support group saw what she did and they too began holding special ceremonies of their own.



This story shows that even during difficult times, there are ways to find comfort and honor the lives of your loved ones.

A HEARTFELT *Thank you*

In each quarterly newsletter, we planned to feature one of our team members. In this issue, we thought it would be best to give thanks to our entire staff at Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed our community rapidly and, as a result, required us to adjust our normal business practices. For the safety of our team and the community we serve, we reduced the total number of individuals in our workplace during the pandemic. With this reduction in workforce, our staff had to adjust to a much different schedule, as well as fewer team members to assist with the total workload. We were required to get creative in how to best serve our families, while still adhering to social distancing protocols. Despite all the challenges the pandemic has brought forth, the team, both office and grounds teams, pulled together and tackled these obstacles with dedication.

We would also like to thank the community, for your understanding during this time. Thank you for your flexibility and patience with us. We look forward to the day when we can return to serving you the same way we did prior, but in the meantime, we have implemented some great new options for you: phone, email, video meetings and car side assistance.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our community partners for their patience and understanding. Changes were necessary to maintain the utmost safety for all and we appreciate your willingness to support us during this time. Thank you. We truly value our relationships with you.

We are grateful for the community that we serve and look forward to assisting you in any way we can. Until then, stay healthy, happy and well.

UPCOMING DATES:

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Friday, July 3: Holy Sepulchre office open 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, July 4: Offices are closed

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 7: Offices are closed

ANNUAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE CEREMONY

Join us on Saturday, September 12, 2020 to honor the lives of First Responders. There will be two special events at each location, Ascension Garden at 11 AM and Holy Sepulchre at 3 PM. To attend, please RSVP by calling (585) 458-4110.

ANGELS OF GOD DEDICATION

On Saturday, September 19, The Most Reverend Bishop Salvatore R. Matano will dedicate our newest section, Angels of God Cremation Garden. This service will immediately follow the 8:30 AM Monthly Mass of Remembrance. We invite you to take part in this beautiful ceremony.

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

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