

What you should know about pre-planning and why its so important.

HOLY
SEPULCHRE
CEMETERY

ASCENSION
GARDEN

Celebrate Life Everlasting

As a Family Service and Community Outreach Counselor at Holy Sepulchre and Ascension Garden Cemeteries, I can certainly recite the more popular reasons why people pre-plan, but I believe it will be more beneficial to share with you the difference it truly makes for those who are left to make decisions after someone has passed.

At our cemeteries, we offer literature that explains the many advantages for pre-planning your legacy. There are both personal and financial reasons why pre-planning is a great idea. Pre-planning ensures that you are getting exactly what YOU want and eliminates the uncertainty of your wishes. It also gives your family, friends, and loved one's peace of mind that everything is already taken care of.

There are also certain financial benefits to pre-planning. First, you are paying the current price for whatever you choose, versus higher pricing at the time of your future passing. You also are eliminating the financial burden for your loved ones, as everything is paid for ahead of time. At Holy Sepulchre and Ascension Garden, we offer interest-free payment plans for those who are pre-planning, and we accept credit cards without charging extra fees. In addition to being interest free, we are also tax free.

As a Family Service Counselor, I work with individuals and families every day. Below are examples of some of the things I have heard regarding why people don't want to, or don't need to, pre-plan:

"But what if we buy our space now and like something different or change our minds in the future?" Our Cemeteries will return or exchange your location should you change your mind, providing that the space is not occupied.

"If I pre-plan, I am afraid that something bad will happen." We understand that people have anxieties, worries, or superstitions surrounding cemeteries and planning end-of-life wishes. As someone who helps people every day, I can assure you that pre-planning does not mean that now you are "ready to die". In my experience, the effect has actually been quite the opposite. Customers feel relief that they have taken care of this responsibility and have not left it for their family to deal with emotionally or financially. They feel like a weight has been lifted off their shoulders.

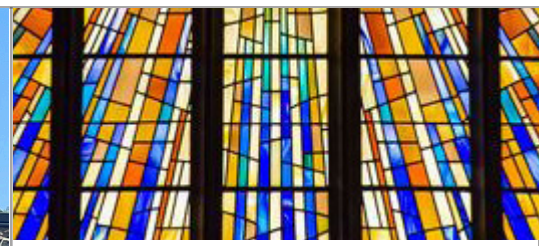
"We can't afford to purchase right now." We have interest-free payment plans (for up to 5 years based on the dollar amount spent), accept credit card payments, offer a discount for paying in full, and we make the process easy and efficient.

"Our kids/family know what we want." As someone who works with families daily, I can tell you there are many times when family members come in and explain that they truly do not know what their loved ones wanted. Family members also may not like or agree with what their loved one wanted, so they don't follow their wishes. There are often times when family members have different opinions about what they should purchase or what their loved one wanted so they delay making a decision or have family discord as a result of this.

One of the biggest reasons that I, as a Family Service Counselor, have for encouraging pre-planning is that it truly is a gift to your loved ones. What I hear from families is that the last thing that they want to do, during one of the worst times of their life, is to come to the cemetery to pick out a final resting place for their loved one who just passed away.

Many struggle with the financial burden of having to pay for that space (a lot, crypt, or niche) in the full dollar amount, which unfortunately, is what is required when purchasing at the time of a death. They will also then have to pay burial service fees in addition to what they are paying for the space. If you have also not pre-planned with a funeral home, they will then have to pay those costs as well. As you can imagine, all of these costs add up, leaving your loved one with a financial burden, which has

New Offerings



St. Gregory

FEAST DAY SEPTEMBER 3RD

St. Gregory the Great was born c. 540 in Rome, Italy. It was a time of trouble. Cities were on the decline and death; starvation and deprivation were on the rise. The plague depopulated the countryside and there were decades of war.

Gregory was well placed in society. His family held many properties in Rome and Sicily and Gregory was well educated for the time. They say he may have had legal training before entering public service and was considered an expert in law. His change to cloistral life in 574 was not sudden but grew from a lifelong conflict between his personal desire for thoughtful purity and the public duty to serve others in the “pollution” of worldly affairs.

After his father passed away, Gregory began to reject secular life. Soon thereafter, he established a monastery on his families property on Caelian Hill, which was dedicated to St. Andrew.

Due to Pope Pelagius II dying, Gregory was proclaimed Pope by acclamation. He served from 590 to 604. He faced many challenges, especially from the Lombards, who were members of the Germanic people who from 568 to 774 ruled a kingdom in Italy. He was forced to orchestrate an independent policy, Gregory saw himself as the “treasurer” who paid the daily expenses of Rome and the “paymaster” of the Lombards, whose swords were held back only by daily ransom from the church. In guiding war, he planned policies, funded soldiers, and directed diplomacy, twice avoiding Rome from being taken over by the Lombards. He also exchanged hostages, supported refugees, protected the grain supply, and repaired culverts.

His appellation “the Great” reflects his prominence as a writer and ruler. He is the patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers. He is also the patron saint of Ecumenism. Above all, he is known for his outstanding contributions to the Liturgy of the Mass and Office.

Gregory died March 12, 604, in Rome. His feast day is celebrated each year on September 3rd. We have a special wing devoted to St. Gregory in All Souls Mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

One of the most common question we receive at the cemetery from families is “are you out of room or when do you think the cemetery will fill up?” These are very important questions which are never taken lightly. Although we know this is inevitably unavoidable, we work very hard to maximize our existing space by working on proper land management when considering new offerings.

Section development, or determining what should be the next offering in property type, is something that is looked at from many different perspectives. We offer several varieties of property types and continuously monitor if a certain property offering is running low. We look out several years in advance to ensure that we allow enough time to properly prepare for all the factors. This includes working with 3rd party vendors, materials needed to complete the project and time management for our staff to complete the work. Depending on what type of property is being developed, the team will often design and re-design over and over to ensure we are offering what we believe the families are looking for, while considering the feedback from the Family Service Team.

With all that being said, we are pleased to announce the upcoming opening of our **Priest and Sisters Section** at **Ascension Garden Cemetery** and our **Resurrection Garden Columbaria** at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery**. The Priests and Sisters, who have provided lifelong dedication in serving the Diocese of Rochester’s community, will have a prayerful area with a statue of Mother Mary as the central focus. Resurrection Garden Columbaria, located off the west end of the Resurrection Garden Mausoleum, will offer above ground cremation options for families and is conveniently located at the Dewey Avenue entrance.

Our mission is to assist the Church in fulfilling its ministry to bury the deceased of the faith community in consecrated ground. It is our hope to continue to provide the families we serve with a variety of options where they can gather in prayer and remembrance. For questions regarding these new offerings and additional upcoming projects please contact the Family Services Center.





Pre-Planning Your Legacy

(continued from cover) to be paid in order to lay someone to rest.

Many families also struggle with knowing what their loved one's wishes were. Plenty of people come in very confused and doubtful about what their loved one wanted for their final resting place. They are already emotional over the loss of their loved one, but the anguish they feel having to make hard decisions is oftentimes painful to witness. We do our best to console them and give them plenty of time for a decision, but the process often feels rushed due to the many decisions they must make (planned calling hours, church services, out-of-town guests and so on).

The difference between an at-need appointment and

a pre-need appointment vary in a variety of ways but I can tell you that the pre-need is always a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere than at-need. Either way, our Family Service Counselors do our very best to make the process as easy and efficient as possible.

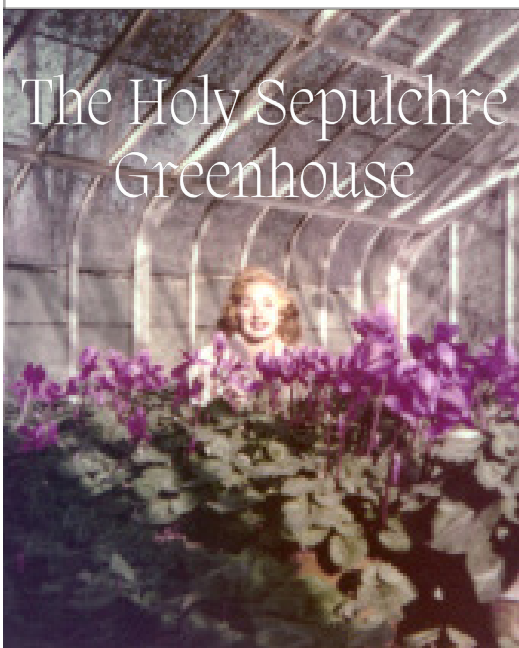
We also have a team of Outreach Counselors who speak in the community about the importance of pre-planning. The next event scheduled is a **Pre-Planning and Open House** event at **Ascension Garden Cemetery** on **September 17, 2024**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! For more information, please call our offices.

As a closing thought, pre-planning with Holy

Sepulchre and Ascension Garden also ensures that your faith is continued in your legacy on our vast acres of sacred and consecrated grounds.

If you would like to learn more about pre-planning, attend one of our upcoming pre-planning events, or would like to make an appointment to pre-plan, please contact one of our Family Service Counselors at 585-458-4110. Thank you and God Bless.

Michelle LiButti
Family Services and Community Outreach Counselor
Holy Sepulchre & Ascension Garden Cemeteries



The Holy Sepulchre Greenhouse

In Strengthening the Faith and Cherishing the Dead, written by Father Peter T. Bayer, we learn of the significant 150 year history at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. One of the many interesting facts relates to the old Greenhouse, that used to stand on the west side of the cemetery. The Greenhouse was built next to Pierre Meisch's home, the gentleman who oversaw the sale of flowers and plants, on Dewey Avenue.

Established in 1876, the original Greenhouse offered a variety of plants and flowers to be used by the cemetery. By 1923, it had become a significant asset to the cemetery, providing families with the convenience of purchasing flowers on-site. For over 70 years, families and friends could purchase flowers to leave by their loved one's burial site.

Due to increasing labor and maintenance costs, as well as the deteriorating condition of the greenhouse, it was closed and demolished in 1971. The cemetery did not build a new one.

Memories of the Holy Sepulchre Greenhouse remain a cherished and unique part of our rich history.





Saint Bernard

Patron saint of Cistercians, Burgundy, beekeepers, candlemakers, Gibraltar, and more.
Feast Day August 20.

Saint Bernard was born in a castle in Burgandy, France. At an early age Bernard was sent to the best schools. He studied theology and the Holy Scripture. After his mother's death, fearing the temptations of the world, he made up his mind to become a monk of the Cistercian Order. His superior sent him, along with twelve monks, to create a new monastery called the Abbey of Clairvaux. Bernard was at once appointed Abbot. Every day Bernard asked himself this question: "Why have I come here?" He never allowed himself to forget that his main duty in this world was to lead a holy life and to save his soul.

The poor and the weak sought Bernard's protection: bishops, kings, and popes asked his advice. Pope Eugenius directed him to preach a crusade through France and Germany.

Bernard founded many monasteries. He is

known for his writings which earned him the title of "the Last of the Fathers and Doctor of the Church." He was devoted to the Blessed Virgin and composed the beautiful prayer called "The Memorare." Bernard died in 1153. It is to Jesus Crucified that he dedicated his most passionate devotion.

There is a section dedicated to St. Bernard at Holy Sepulchre on the East side of the Cemetery.

MEMORARE

REMEMBER, O MOST GRACIOUS VIRGIN MARY,
THAT NEVER WAS IT KNOWN THAT ANYONE WHO
FLED TO THY PROTECTION,
IMPLORED THY HELP, OR SOUGHT THINE
INTERCESSION WAS LEFT UNAIDED.
INSPIRED BY THIS CONFIDENCE, I FLY UNTO THEE,
O VIRGIN OF VIRGINS,
MY MOTHER; TO THEE DO I COME, BEFORE THEE I
STAND, SINFUL AND SORROWFUL.

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

THURSDAY, JULY 4: Offices closed for Independence Day. *Our offices will reopen on Friday, July 5th at 9:00 am.*

SATURDAY, JULY 20: July Mass (8:30 am)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17: August Mass (8:30 am)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2: Offices closed for Labor Day. *Our offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 3rd at 9:00 am.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: Annual Butterfly Releases, 10:00 am Ascension Garden Cemetery, 2:00 pm Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: September Mass (8:30 am)

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our calendar of events on our website, join our email list for all announcements and follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

FEAST & HOLY DAYS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3: St. Thomas, patron saint of judges and architects.

MONDAY, JULY 22: St. Mary Magdalene, patron saint of perfumers and represents the power of repentance.

THURSDAY JULY 25: St. James, patron saint of hatmakers, rheumatoid sufferers, and laborers.

FRIDAY, JULY 26: St. Anne, patron saint of women in labor.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20: St. Bernard, patron saint of Cistercians, Burgundy, beekeepers, candlemakers, Gibraltar, and many more.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21: St. Pius X, patron saint of First Communicants and pilgrims.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31: St. Joseph of Arimathea, patron saint of undertakers.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3: St. Gregory, patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: St. Matthew, patron saint of bankers and tax officials.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: St. Padre Pio, patron saint of civil defense worker, adolescents and his birthplace of Pietrelcina, Italy.

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

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

2461 Lake Avenue, Rochester NY 14612

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HOLY
SEPULCHRE
CEMETERY

ASCENSION
GARDEN

ASCENSION GARDEN

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Celebrate Life Everlasting
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