

Revelations

Fall 2017 Newsletter

 **Catholic
Cemeteries**
Diocese of Buffalo
Put your faith in us.

Ronald Paszek Retires

Carmen Colao, Director of Cemeteries

Friend, co-worker, historian and keeper of the beloved at Holy Cross Cemetery, leaves quite a legacy.

The year was 1971. Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida, a gallon of gas cost 40 cents, a US postage stamp cost 8 cents, a movie ticket cost \$1.50, the voting age in the United States was lowered to 18 years old and Ron Paszek started working at Holy Cross Cemetery.

After 46 years of dedicated service, Ron Paszek is retiring as Superintendent of Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna. I have known Ron for 36 of the 46 years he has worked in Cemetery Ministry. I have always found him to be loyal and dedicated to his profession. He would do whatever it took to get the job done. He always exhibited a sincere desire to help those families who have entrusted their loved ones to "his" cemetery.



Superintendent of Holy Cross Cemetery, Ronald Paszek, standing for unveiling of Father Baker Statue with Carmen Colao, Director of Catholic Cemeteries.

“Ron amassed quite a collection of photos and documents about the people buried at Holy Cross Cemetery...”

I'm sure some of Ron's employees considered him a demanding boss. He expected a lot from his employees, but he was always willing to work right alongside them in the field. He started his cemetery career as a seasonal grass cutter and he never forgot that humble beginning. He earned the respect of his field employees

with his vast knowledge of cemetery operations and his willingness to share that knowledge so they could do a better job.

Ron earned the respect of his associates in the Funeral Industry. He was always willing to work with funeral directors, vault companies and monument dealers with the ultimate goal of serving our Catholic families. He also established a mutually respectful relationship with our local clergy.

Ron amassed quite a collection of photos and documents about the people buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, many of whom played a big part in the history of the Western New York Community. In particular, he has a wealth of information on the life of Father Baker. He conducted numerous tours for various groups including school children, where he shared the knowledge he gained over the past forty-six years.

A sincere thank you to Ron for dedicating his career to Holy Cross Cemetery and the surrounding communities that it serves. We wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life. God Bless Ron Paszek and his family.

Mount Olivet

4000 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore
716.873.6500

Holy Cross

2900 South Park Ave., Lackawanna
716.823.1197

Holy Sepulchre

3063 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga
716.892.3063

Gate of Heaven

500 Riverdale Ave., Lewiston
716.282.5084

Assumption

Whitehaven Rd., Grand Island
716.873.6500

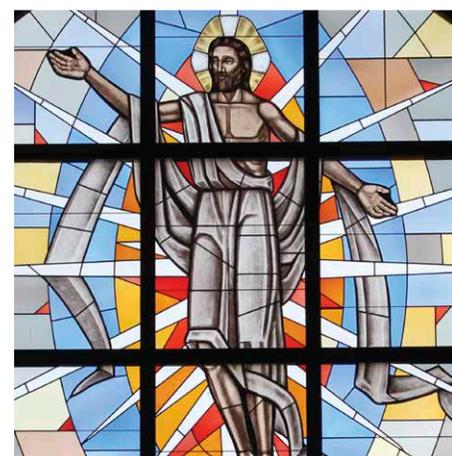
Queen of Heaven

6843 Tonawanda Creek Rd., Lockport
716.433.0941

Representing

St. Adalbert

6200 Broadway St., Lancaster
716.681.3090



Website

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cathcemsbflo@buffalodiocese.org

Facebook

facebook.com/catholiccemeteriesbuffalo

Creative Grief Healing Through the Arts

By Marianne Hubert, Director of Grief Support Services

Soothing music and expressive art creates a comforting and expressive environment for one who is grieving. Music and art have a way of touching our hearts with emotional comfort. Music therapist, Ellen Cool, explained that "Music influences our minds and bodies and can be a strong healing force. Music bonds humans together and inspires us in ways that can change us personally and deeply. Music stirs memories. Music energizes and relaxes... Music is rooted in emotion rather than meaning..."



Ellen Cool, Board-Certified Music Therapist and Licensed Creative Arts (above) presented various music therapy techniques geared towards those experience grief during the Lecture Series at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church.

“Using reflective music, scripture, prayer and meditation, grief support participants embraced their grief through art.”

At a recent grief support session, the participants utilized a variety of drums. Creating their own beat and playing in unison, the special musical session allowed each participant an opportunity to express their individual grief and give tribute to a loved one who has passed. One participant, who had not listened to music since the death of her spouse, was given a unique

drum that gave off a soft fragrance when tapped. As she continued her tapping, all were able to relax and enjoy the fragrance and sound together. At a similar grief support session, participants created their own rhythm of peace, relaxation, and treasured memories of happy times. "The unspoken need not be unexpressed," is a favorite quote of music therapist, Ellen Cool. "It is an opportunity to release the emotions and stress that weigh us down and cause illness."

Some people take the opportunity to do hands on and learn to play an instrument. Others write new songs about their feelings or about their loved one as a form of therapy. In a recent article, popular singer, Celine Dion, expressed her grief in songwriting "Fly" or "Vole" in French. She said she expressed her grief over losing her niece to Cystic Fibrosis, writing it as if she were singing directly to her.

Using reflective music, scripture, prayer and meditation, grief support participants embraced their grief through art.

Experiencing some works of art assists them in building up to a new beginning. Utilizing various colors and personal designs that

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Through the Lens

Clockwise from left: Scouts greet visitors as they arrive at Saint Adalbert Cemetery for Memorial Day Mass; Fr. Robert Yetter blesses the Veteran's wreath at Memorial Day Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery; Deacon Timothy Maloney leads a reflection at the "Music and Memories" Service at Mount Olivet Cemetery; parents share life's healing experiences at a "Loss of a Child" bereavement lecture; grief support participants attend a men's cooking class at Russell's Steaks, Chops and More.

Creative Grief Healing Through the Arts *Continued*

reflected their feelings, emotions, and memories of their loved ones who have passed, grief participants take a meditative walk to a special place. Recently, they were able to reflect and remember special times and incorporate those events into designing their own birdhouses. The session yielded interesting designs and patterns, as the emerging colors reminded them of the loved ones they have lost.

Remembering that there is no timeline for grief, art instructor, Gina Cutrona, emphasized to the participants, as they assembled their bird houses, that the actual construction of it was reflectively important. Although their life was torn apart and disassembled, they have the ability to grasp onto memories and new ways of life that would allow them to put things back together in a new way. Gina also noted that "even though life may be different, one may achieve a new wholeness of peaceful healing."

To learn more about our grief support programs or to request an informational packet, call 873-6500.



Catholic Cemeteries Mass Schedule

| Date | Mass | Time | Location |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| Saturday, October 28, 2017 | Monthly Mass All Soul's Day | 10:00 AM | Mount Olivet Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum Holy Cross Holy Trinity Chapel Mausoleum Gate of Heaven All Saints Chapel Mausoleum Holy Sepulchre St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Mausoleum |
| Saturday, November 25, 2017 | Monthly Mass | 9:00 AM | Mount Olivet Ascension Chapel Mausoleum Holy Cross Holy Trinity Chapel Mausoleum |
| Wednesday, December 27, 2017 | Christmas Mass | 5:30 PM | Mount Olivet Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum Gate of Heaven Holy Angels Chapel Mausoleum |
| Thursday, December 28, 2017 | Christmas Mass | 5:30 PM | Holy Cross Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum Holy Sepulchre St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Mausoleum |
| Saturday, January 27, 2018 | Monthly Mass | 9:00 AM | Mount Olivet Ascension Chapel Mausoleum Holy Cross Holy Trinity Chapel Mausoleum |
| Saturday, February 24, 2018 | Monthly Mass | 9:00 AM | Mount Olivet Ascension Chapel Mausoleum Holy Cross Holy Trinity Chapel Mausoleum |

Cemetery Sunday Can Be Any Day By Chip Mussen

Driving through Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kenmore recently, I came across a family tending to a grave. I stopped and watched for a while as they talked, sharing memories and pulling weeds. There were three generations together taking care of the grave of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. This beautiful act of family love and honor reminds me of what I had read about Cemetery Sunday.

“...in Ireland, Cemetery Sunday is a tradition that is usually observed in the summertime.”

“What is Cemetery Sunday?” you might ask. Over in Europe, especially in Ireland, Cemetery Sunday is a tradition that is usually observed in

the summertime. There is no specific date set to celebrate this special day, so each parish is free to set their own. The whole parish will get together to celebrate an outdoor Mass in the parish cemetery, with many visitors who come especially for that day. In the weeks leading up to Cemetery Sunday, families spend a lot of time and energy to clean and beautify the graves. They might polish the gravestones or plant new flowers and bring extra vases. By the time they are ready to celebrate Cemetery Sunday, the grounds are something to behold. Usually, the whole family turns out for the occasion—even those who rarely darken the doors of a church. After the Mass, they may stay and chat among the flowers, have a picnic, visit the graves of those who have gone before them or just admire the beauty.



Three generations spend time together and taking care of a grave at Mount Olivet recently.

In 1978 the Catholic Cemetery Conference designated the First Sunday in November as “our” Cemetery Sunday. Although I understand they did this so Cemetery Sunday would occur around All Souls Day, there is a part of me that wishes that they had chosen a day in the spring or summer. That way people could really enjoy the beauty and splendor of our Catholic Cemeteries.

This year, Cemetery Sunday falls on November 5th, a day that provides a tangible reminder to all of us of the importance of Catholic cemeteries and the value of prayer. You are invited to take time out of your busy days during the month of November, or any time during the year for that matter, to stop by and visit one of our Catholic Cemeteries. Like they did for me, maybe this family can remind you that any day can be Cemetery Sunday.

“Fur”ever in My Heart

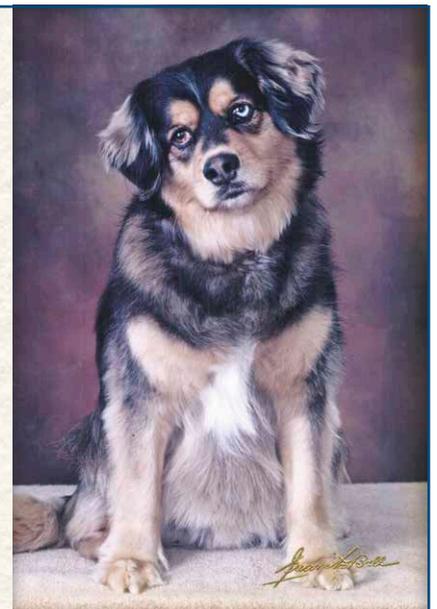
Pet remembrance Service

As part of our grief support programs, we recognize the pain that accompanies the loss of a beloved pet, and the need to have this heartache recognized. Through music, poems and stories we will celebrate the unconditional love they gave us.

**Mount Olivet Cemetery, Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum
Sunday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m.**

Reservations received by October 4 will have your pet’s name included in our program and read at the Service (Limit of 3 names).

All people are welcome to join us, but please leave current pets home. For more information or to make a reservation, call 873-6500.



Check Out Our Digs By Chip Mussen

It's been a busy year at our Catholic Cemeteries and we're not slowing down any time soon.



Niches added to Morning Star Mausoleum at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Lancaster.

What's new at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Lancaster?

Morning Star Garden Mausoleum has received eighty-eight new granite front niches that will be memorialized with a bronze plaque. This new outdoor addition can house up to 176 cremated remains. Additionally, St. Adalbert Cemetery is breathing new life into their lovely Chapel near the office. The St. Adalbert Chapel has hosted numerous funeral ceremonies, as well as being a place of quiet contemplation. The chapel has undergone renovations including the addition of 72 single and double niches with both marble and glass fronts for the placement of cremated remains. Each glass niche has special LED lighting creating a heavenly glow. New carpeting and improved lighting throughout the Chapel complete the renovations.

Plans are being finalized for the new St. Mother Teresa Garden Mausoleum. There will be 348 casket spaces and 240 niches for the burial of cremated remains. Construction will begin later this fall.

What's new at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Lewiston?

In Matthew 24–31, we read "...And He will send out His angels with a trumpet blast, and they will gather His elect from the four winds." A beautiful Trumpeting Angel sits atop the new Guardian Angel Columbarium installed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. This granite columbarium will be able to house up to 168 cremated remains in 84 niches.



Butterflies were released at the blessing of the new burial garden for babies born under 20 weeks. This project is a joint effort with Mount St. Mary Hospital in Lewiston and Catholic Health. Stone Art Memorial Company donated a beautiful butterfly monument for this special garden.

What's new at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lockport?

The lovely Chapel at Queen of Heaven Cemetery will be enhanced with a niche wall containing 63 single and double niches with both marble and glass fronts for the placement of cremated remains. Each glass niche will have special LED lighting to illuminate the interior.



The St. Francis of Assisi Natural Burial Garden at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lockport.

The St. Francis of Assisi Natural Burial Garden, located in one of the area's most scenic and pastoral cemeteries, is the perfect setting to remind us of the teachings of St. Francis. Many Catholics are opting for the simple beauty and grace of a natural burial. The Garden, bordered by woods, is situated near Tonawanda Creek. Featuring 136 graves and 46 cremation plots, each burial will take place in an area that is maintained to promote an undisturbed natural setting, including wild flowers and local natural grasses that will differ from other sections of the cemetery. Only a natural biodegradable casket, a simple shroud or the interment of cremated remains are permitted. A simple granite stone marker will memorialize each grave. Situated on Tonawanda Creek Road just 2 miles east of Transit Road, Queen of Heaven Cemetery faithfully serves Catholics in Niagara and Erie counties.

Call 873-6500 for details on these exciting new projects.



Let's Go Paperless

Paperless Newsletters are a great way to stay organized while helping the environment. Instead of receiving a copy of Revelations in the mail, we will email your copy, along with updates and events, starting with the next issue. You can also read it on our website.

Send an email to Revelations@buffalodiocese.org with your street address and we'll take you off our mailing list and put you on our email list.

Fall Cleanup

As the cold weather approaches, we need to prepare the grounds for winter. We ask that any decorations you wish to keep be removed from all graves by October 15, 2017. The two-week period between October 16th and 31st will be used to prepare for the winter season.

If you wish to place a winter decoration, you may do so on or after November 1st. If you are interested in purchasing one of our wreaths for winter placement, please call the Diocesan Cemeteries office after November 1st at 873-6500.



Friends of the Cemetery

The Catholic Cemeteries is continuing its successful, "Friends of the Cemetery" donation program. With several options to choose from, the donation program is designed to allow families and friends to honor a loved one as well as contribute to the continued beautification of the cemetery. For more information, call 873-6500.

Visit our newly designed website at: www.buffalocatholiccemeteries.org

Referral Program

For those who have made arrangements in our Catholic Cemeteries, a referral program has been adopted whereby you can receive a thank you gift for each family member who makes a selection in any of our Cemeteries. It is important to discuss your purchase with family members who may also be interested in selecting burial space near yours. Call 873-6500 for more information.



Inquire about the advantages of pre-planning.

Call 873-6500 today.
We welcome your comments.

Email us at:
cathcems@buffalodiocese.org

Visit our website at:
www.buffalocatholiccemeteries.org

Comfort for Those Who Mourn

Bereavement Lecture Series

Open to the Community, No Charge

Therapeutic Benefits of Volunteering

Monday, September 18, 4:00 p.m.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church

Sister M. Johnice Rzakiewicz

CSSF Director of the Response to Love Center

The loss of a loved one leaves a void in ones heart. Searching out purpose and fulfillment in life will be discussed as we explore the benefits of reaching out with understanding and compassion. By helping those in need and making a difference in the lives of others, one can achieve a sense of purpose and wholeness again.

Scrapbooking Memories of Your Loved One

Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Sharon Voigt is a member of the Polish Genealogy Society of New York State, elementary teacher, and Director of Religious Education.

Sharon will share her talent of memory Scrapbooking which can be very healing and a helpful way to keep memories of your loved ones. It is in remembering that they remain alive in our hearts! Sharon will include some stories of why her search for her ancestors has become one of her special interests.

Participants are asked to bring approximately six to ten pictures to the program. All other materials will be provided for one scrapbook page that can be used as a beginning of a book or taken home and framed.



Handling the Holidays

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00p.m. Mount Olivet Cemetery

Presenter, Danielle Eadie is the Manager of Bereavement Service and a Grief Counselor for Hospice Palliative Care.

Monday, November 20, 4:00p.m. St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church
Presenter, Eileen Warner is the Director of Mission and Pastoral Outreach at Christ the King Seminary.

The holiday season is not always greeted with happy anticipation. Grief may make it difficult to carry on as usual. Practical tips and strategies for handling the holidays that can help you find your way through the season will be discussed.

Candlelight Remembrance Service

Sunday, December 3, at 2:00 pm

Your choice of two locations:

Mount Olivet Cemetery Resurrection Chapel

Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel Mausoleum

The holiday season is filled with memories of times spent with those we love. When they are no longer with us, those memories become a precious gift. This spiritually uplifting service is filled with music, scripture, prayers and the healing words from the chaplains at the Pastoral Care Department at Hospice Buffalo. Join us as we bring light to the Christmas season. Bring an ornament in memory of your loved one or take one that is provided to hang on the tree.

Reserve your spot by calling Mount Olivet at 873-6500 or Holy Cross at 823-1197.





**Catholic
Cemeteries**

Diocese of Buffalo

4000 Elmwood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14217

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Return Service Requested



Family is forever.

Planning your burial arrangements with Catholic Cemeteries ensures your family will remain together—forever.

Open House

Saturdays, 9am–2pm

Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, Sept. 16

St. Adalbert Cemetery, Lancaster, Sept. 30

Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, Oct. 14

A Visit To The "Heavens"

Sept. 27, 3:30–7:30pm

Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lewiston

Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Lockport

0% interest financing through 2022.

Special discounts only available at the open house.

Prior sales excluded.

Receive a \$50 VISA gift card when you pre-plan your burial arrangements now through October 31.