

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Memorial Day Field Mass

MAY 30, 2016



Considered by many simply as the “unofficial” kickoff to summer, we know that Memorial Day is a day of much greater significance. While there will be no shortage of barbecues and family get-togethers today, there will also be more profound events such as today’s commemorative Field Masses, Memorial Day parades and tributes to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could enjoy the freedoms in this country that we do.

Memorial Day has its origins dating back to the Civil War which claimed over 600,000 lives on both sides of the conflict. As a result, burial and memorialization took on a much greater significance than at any time in our history. Many locations lay claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day, among which was an event held on May 1, 1865 in Charleston, South Carolina to honor Union soldiers who had been buried in unmarked graves.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Grand Army of the Republic (the organization for Union veterans) established Decoration Day on May 5, 1868 to decorate the graves of the fallen with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan later declared that Decoration

Day should be observed on May 30th, believed to have been chosen because flowers would be in bloom throughout the country.

Officially, in 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, New York to be the “birthplace” of Memorial Day, reflecting a ceremony held there on May 5, 1866, and Congress declared it a national holiday in 1971, when the date was moved to the last Monday in May. Memorial Day now has expanded to honor those who died in all American wars, and we especially remember those at rest in our cemeteries that made the ultimate sacrifice, serving God and Country to help ensure our freedoms.

Our U.S. Flag is flown today at half-mast until noon to recognize all those who died in battle, then it is raised to full mast for the rest of the day as a symbol for the living and our nation’s resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain.

We come together as a Catholic family today in faith, to pray together and give thanks for their service, and to ensure that their memory and spirit continue to live on in our hearts.



Prayer for Peace

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE, WE TURN TO YOU, OUR MOTHER.
INTO YOUR HANDS WE PLACE OUR PRAYERS.
FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN THE MILITARY, PROTECT THEM.
FOR INNOCENT VICTIMS OF WAR AND VIOLENCE, SPARE THEM.
FOR THOSE WHO MOURN OR ARE INJURED, COMFORT THEM.
FOR PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS, UNITE THEM
IN THE LOVE AND PEACE OF YOUR SON, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.
MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PRAY FOR US!

Mother's Day



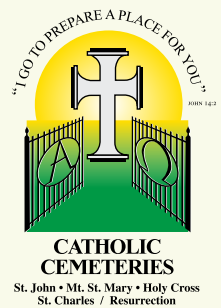
This past month, we celebrated Mother's Day, a day when we reflect upon how great a mother's love has been for us. We reflect on a mother's warmth, on her understanding when nobody else does. We recall her confidence and faith when we thought the sky was falling. Remember the gentle hand brushing our hair back, drying our tears, caressing our face. Even now mother, you mean so much, and are ALWAYS with us. You are a light when all is dark. You are a bright smile, a serious moment, a burst of laughter – you are MOM – and today we thank you as our own way of saying we love you.

Also, how fitting and right it is mom, that we celebrate your day in May, the month of Mary. Mary, who is the Mother of God, Mother of all. We say thank you to her because she said "yes" to God and changed the face of the earth. She gave the gift of herself as a mother, as a believer, as part of God's plan, and so, we tell her we love her by saying thank you.

Thank you, two words to people who have touched our hearts and changed our lives. Two words of love - thank you - to you mother, and to Mary, Mother of God, Mother of all.



We are taught that death
is not the end
but a rite of passage
to eternal life



St. John Cemetery
80-01 Metropolitan Ave.
Middle Village, NY 11379
(718) 894-4888

Mt. St. Mary Cemetery
172-00 Booth Memorial Ave.
Flushing, NY 11365
(718) 353-1560



**St. Charles/
Resurrection Cemeteries**
2015 Wellwood Ave.
Farmingdale, NY 11735
(631) 249-8700

Holy Cross Cemetery
3620 Tilden Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11203
(718) 284-4520

Catholic Cemeteries, by its work and example, proclaims the sacredness of human life, belief in the Resurrection and is a Christian symbol of faith, hope and comfort.

Catholic traditions have guided you throughout your life.

Be at rest with the family of your faith.

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