

ETERNAL LIFE

 **CLARION
HERALD**
Official Newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

THE DOME OF
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH
STANDS SENTINEL OVER
ST. LOUIS CEMETERY No. 3

DRONE PHOTO BY MARCO RASI | TWITTER: @MARCORASI1960

CLARION HERALD | OCT. 24 - NOV. 6, 2020 | ETERNAL LIFE | SECTION TWO

Cemetery photo contest yields riveting images

By Beth Donze
Clarion Herald

Framed in a way that shows the pained face of the Blessed Mother juxtaposed against the feet of her crucified son, Michelle Chiappetta's photo zeroes in on Mary's grief in a new and poignant way.

Chiappetta's artful composition caught the attention of judges of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' 2020 photo contest, which invited shutterbugs of all ages to submit original shots taken inside the city's 13 historic Catholic cemeteries. Winners and runners-up received cash awards and will have their work published in the agency's 2021 calendar.

"It is just so profound, and I think it just really captures what our Catholic cemeteries are all about: Death and resurrection," said New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries director Sherri Peppo, referring to Chiappetta's image, taken inside St. Patrick Cemetery No. 3 and the first-place winner of the contest's adult division.

Mary's pain is palpable

Chiappetta said she was "humbled and excited" by the honor.

"I was struck by the quiet emotion of the statue of Mary sitting at the foot of her son," she said of the captured scene. "I think of her pain often and what an amazing source of strength she is for us."

Ashley Biehl, a St. Angela Merici sixth grader, earned first-place honors in the youth division, open to ages 9-17. The 11-year-old snapped her winning image inside St. Patrick Mausoleum on City Park Avenue after spotting a red rose tucked into the arm of a Carrara marble statue of Christ the Good Shepherd.

"We see (this statue) all the time in the mausoleum, but through a child's eyes it's just very striking," Peppo said of Biehl's arresting image. "The rose is not part of the statue – somebody put that in there. The coloring of it is very nice."



Photos | COURTESY NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Michelle Chiappetta's photo of Mary grieving at the feet of her crucified son – a statue grouping located in St. Patrick Cemetery No. 3 on City Park Avenue – took first place in the adult division of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' annual photo contest. In the youth division, Ashley Biehl, 11, earned top honors for her photo of Christ the Good Shepherd inside St. Patrick Mausoleum, also at St. Patrick Cemetery No. 3. The contrasting rose, placed on the statue by a cemetery visitor, caught the judges' attention. These and other winning photos will appear in New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' 2021 calendar.



Cemeteries inspire creativity

Nearly 90 photos were submitted in this year's contest, the second annual one to be organized by New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries. Eleven other photographers received runner-up recognition for their work and will soon see their images featured in the 2021 calendar.

Although Peppo would like to see even more participation in future contests, she said she was excited about the high quality of this year's submissions.

"I think because people were looking for something to do over the summer during COVID-19, it was an opportunity for them to maybe

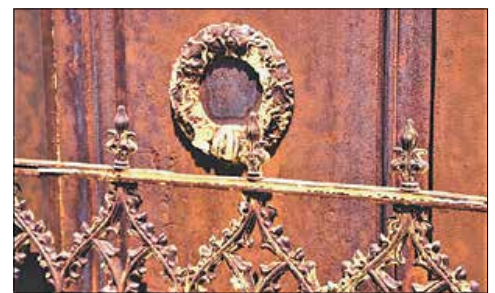


go into the cemeteries and walk around peacefully," she said.

Here is the complete list of winners: Michelle Chiappetta, first place (adults); Ashley Biehl, first place (youth); runners-up: Courtney Carroll, Clay Drewes, Ashley Horton, Carol Koleman,

Marion LaNasa, Ava Lowe, Norwood Richard, James Sample, Jessica Schexayder, Joann Seaver and Erin Walcykowski. Another photo by Michelle Chiappetta received runner-up distinction and will appear on the cover of the calendar.

Copies of the 2021 calen-



Photos earning runner-up accolades included those taken by (clockwise, from top left) Norwood Richard, Joann Seaver, Clay Drewes and two-time winner Michelle Chiappetta.

dar will be available in New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' administrative offices at 1000 Howard Ave. Pick-up times must be arranged in advance by calling (504) 596-3050.

The calendars are free, but good will donations will be accepted.

bdonze@clarionherald.org

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Initiative restores abandoned tombs, one by one

By Beth Donze
Clarion Herald

Over the last few years, the staff of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries has made significant strides in restoring tombs in historic cemeteries that were in a state of disrepair and have no known owner.

"Our 'Abandoned Tomb Initiative' exists for those tombs that no longer have families to care for them," explained Sherri Peppo, director of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries. "However, the majority of our tombs do have caretakers, and they do a fantastic job ensuring that their family tomb is properly looked after."

Since launching in early 2017, the initiative has completed the restoration of 13 tombs, all but two located in St. Louis No. 1 and No. 2 cemeteries. The two other restored tombs are inside St. Joseph Cemetery on Washington Avenue, Peppo said.

"St. Louis No. 1 and 2 are our two oldest cemeteries, so they have the most abandoned tombs in them," Peppo said, referring to the burial sites established in 1789 and 1823, respectively.

The initiative is made possible through contributions from private and corporate donors, and from tourism monies once generated from entrance fees to St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 (which have dried up since the COVID-19 pandemic was recognized in mid-March).

All tombs identified for overhauls are restored in accordance with the National Park Service guidelines for historic restoration projects, which includes the use of lime-based plaster and lime-wash.

Depending on the size and condition of the tomb, each restoration takes a few weeks," said Heather Veneziano, New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' director of public engagement and development.

"With lime-based products there's a drying time involved," Veneziano ex-



Photo | COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, ITEM NO. 2016798495

This late 19th century image of the Clay (foreground) and Maritche family tombs in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 reveals their once pristine condition.

plained. "The first step is to clean the tomb and take off any Portland cement – or any other hard-surface materials that are detrimental to the condition of the tomb."

Multiple coats of lime plaster, while they take longer to apply, "allow the tomb to breathe, and that way it will last a lot longer than if you just go in and use Portland cement and paint it," Veneziano added. Cast-iron elements, such as railings, are sanded and painted with a durable paint, while tablets are cleaned but left in their original condition, Veneziano said.

French Quarter businessmen

The initiative's most recent project, nearing completion, involves a pair of side-by-side tombs in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

"These are exciting because we were able to find a historic photograph of the tombs from the late 1800s," said Veneziano, who subsequently learned the following about the tombs' respective occupants:

► The family tomb of New Orleans-born Jean Baptiste Francois "John" Clay (1805-1864) marks the final resting place of a prosperous free man of color who worked as a stockbroker in the French Quarter at 300 Royal St. Clay married Marie Antoinette Euphemie Moore (1808-1905) on Nov. 17, 1825, in St. Louis Cathedral.

► Directly adjacent to the Clay tomb is the tomb of the Maritche family. The family's patriarch, Nelson Maritche (c. 1808-1874), lived on Bourbon Street with his wife Emilie and their children. Veneziano's research revealed that the family operated a grocery store in the French Quarter at 1039 Burgundy St.

Mapping of St. Louis No. 2

All donations to the Abandoned Tomb Initiative go directly to the restoration work. The tomb repairs are managed by Joseph Connor, assistant director of operations at New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries.

"We do not resell any of the (restored) tombs," said Veneziano, who is about to begin a tomb-by-tomb survey of the more than 1,100 tombs in St. Louis No. 2, complete with individual photographs and condition reports.

"With that information, we'll be able to better prioritize repairs, apply for grants and move forward with more extensive work in that cemetery," Veneziano said. "The need (to restore abandoned tombs) is so great that it's going to outlast our grandchildren's generation, but we have to start somewhere!"

To learn more about the Abandoned Tomb Initiative, visit www.nolacatholiccemeteries.org. Heather Veneziano can be reached at hveneziano@arch-no.org.

bdonze@clarionherald.org



Photos | COURTESY NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

The Clay and Maritche family tombs are pictured above, earlier this year, before their restoration by New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries. The tombs are pictured below, on the home stretch of their historically sensitive restorations.



N.O. CATHOLIC CEMETERIES: AT A GLANCE

New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries operates and maintains 13 historic cemeteries, all but one located in Orleans Parish.

- St. Joseph Nos. 1 and 2, Washington Avenue
- St. Louis No. 1, Basin Street
- St. Louis No. 2, North Claiborne Avenue
- St. Louis No. 3, Esplanade Avenue
- St. Patrick No. 1, Canal Street
- St. Patrick Nos. 2 and 3, City Park Avenue
- St. Roch Nos. 1 and 2, St. Roch Avenue
- St. Vincent de Paul Nos. 1 and 2, Soniat Street
- St. Charles Cemetery, Paul Maillard Road, Luling

There are additional Catholic cemeteries located on or near the grounds of Catholic churches, but these cemeteries are not under the management of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries. For more information on cemetery and burial options, please call the main office at (504) 596-3050 or visit www.nolacatholiccemeteries.org.

Local attorney offers the lowdown on wills

By James Maguire

Contributing writer

Do I need a will?

I get this question frequently from people who are concerned about what would happen to their assets if they died without a will. In response, I tell them about the Louisiana laws of intestacy (who gets your assets if you die without a will) and see if they are OK with that. Some are, and some are not.

People usually want to protect their spouse following their death as much as possible and eventually pass their assets along to their children. Parents may want to leave things to certain children. Daughters often end up with mom's jewelry and sons with dad's gun collection.

Some parents have to deal with a child with disabilities.

What if one of the kids is a substance abuser or a compulsive gambler or someone who can't manage money?

Or what if you want one of your children to receive nothing from your estate?

What happens if one of your children dies before you do, and how do you deal with children from a prior marriage?

What if you have minor children to protect or if you want to set up a trust for the education of your grandchildren?

Will inheritance taxes be a problem?

Will all of my assets pass under the terms of my will? (The answer to that is "no.") What about the Louisiana laws on forced heirship and community property? Will inheritance or federal estate taxes be an issue?

You will need to name someone (called an "executor") who, following your death, makes sure that the wishes expressed in your will are followed. You can also name someone as the guardian of your minor children.

These are just some of the issues that can be dealt with in a properly drafted will.

The other, often-asked question is: "Can't I just do

my own will?"

You can. Under Louisiana law, a handwritten will (called an "olographic" will) just needs to be written, dated and signed in your own handwriting. No witnesses or notary are necessary.

The problem with handwritten wills is that they

often do not deal with issues that should and would be addressed in a properly drafted will. For example, just adding the word "independent" when an executor is named can save a great deal of time and expense when dealing with the probate process following death.

A will prepared by an attorney is called a notarial will and is signed in the presence of a notary and two witnesses. It will address matters not usually dealt with in a handwritten will.

The next question, of course, is: "How much is this going to cost me?"

It depends, as lawyers like to say. For a husband and wife with no special issues to deal with, the cost should be around \$300. That number can go up if a more complex document is needed, such as one that includes a trust for minor children or grandchild-

See **WILLS** page 6 ►



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Monthly flowers reduce stress

By Beth Donze
Clarion Herald

A program offered by New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries alleviates worries about keeping a loved one's grave brightened with a steady stream of fresh, seasonal flowers.

The "Fresh Flower Program" offers families three different options for having flowers delivered directly to the tombs and crypts of anyone buried inside the 13 cemeteries operated by New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries:

- The family can arrange to have flowers delivered monthly.

- The family can arrange to have flowers delivered on either four or six holidays throughout the year.

- Or the family can sign up to have a single-potted plant delivered to the tomb twice a year: a pot of chrysanthemums on All Saints' Day; and a pot of poinsettias, in anticipation of Christmas.

"The families will let us know if they want our staff to put the flowers on the graves for them – that's usually what they'll ask of us," said Sherri Peppo, executive director of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries.

To enroll in the program, families must have their own vase on site at the cemetery. For those who have mausoleum crypts, a flower holder attached to the front of the



New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' Fresh Flower Program gives the bereaved one less thing to worry about by delivering monthly bouquets of fresh, seasonal flowers directly to the tombs and crypts of their loved ones. Three different options are available to families. To enroll, families must have their own vase or flower holder on site at the cemetery or mausoleum. For more information, call (504) 596-3050 or visit www.nolacatholiccemeteries.org.



Photos | COURTESY NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

crypt qualifies as a vase. Vases placed at tombs must have a granite, marble or cement base, Peppo said. Although glass vases are prohibited inside the cemeteries, suitable ones can be purchased through New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries.

Please note: Because the Fresh Flower Program delivers potted plants on All Saints' Day and Christmas, mausoleum crypts that are

enrolled in the "monthly" or "holiday" delivery schedule will have a seasonal bouquet delivered on those two holidays, Peppo said.

For more information, call New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries at (504) 596-3050 or visit www.nolacatholiccemeteries.org. Click on the "Planning" bar and choose "Family Services." The "Memorialization" page has a link explaining the Fresh Flower Program.



St. Louis Cemetery No. 1

New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries

Photos | COURTESY NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

This view of St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 on Basin Street, top, is the subject of a new puzzle being offered by New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries, just in time for holiday gift-giving. The side of the puzzle's blue box is also pictured above.

New puzzle captures beauty of St. Louis No. 1

By Beth Donze
Clarion Herald

When Heather Veneziano noticed the positive response she was receiving from the "virtual" jigsaw puzzles she had posted on New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' Facebook page, an idea popped into her head: Why not create a tangible puzzle to offer as a gift idea – something to keep brains occupied during the COVID-19 pandemic, something to help people rediscover the joys of simple, at-home activities?

The result of her epiphany is a new puzzle now available on the online gift store of

New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries: a 285-piece puzzle picturing a cluster of tombs inside St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 on Basin Street.

"Everyone's doing puzzles now, so we figured, why not?" said Veneziano, who manages New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries' Facebook page in her role as the agency's director of public engagement and development.

The finished puzzle, which comes packaged in a box with the puzzle photo on it, measures 16 ½ by 12 inches.

For information, call (504) 596-3050 or visit www.nolacatholiccemeteries.org.

bdonze@clarionherald.org

WILLS

► From PAGE 5

dren. Many lawyers (myself included) offer a free consultation in which your family and financial matters can be discussed and recommendations offered.

An attorney can also discuss other matters with you, such as the need for a Power of Attorney or a Living Will.

A Power of Attorney gives

someone authority to act on your behalf in financial and other matters if you become disabled.

A Living Will expresses your wishes on what medical care you want or don't want to receive if you are near death. Do you wish to be cremated following your death? That, too, can be addressed.

James Maguire is an attorney in New Orleans. He can be reached at jgmpuma@aol.com.



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Cory J. Howat, MA
Executive Director
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Community foundations can help you achieve your philanthropic goals

Gratitude and generosity are divinely interwoven in the souls of Catholics. Giving connects us, and we are called to gratefully receive God's gifts and lovingly share them in service to one another. Your Catholic legacy is the mark you leave on the world and an example of God's grace in your life.

If you are searching for ways to be philanthropic, you might find the options overwhelming. Not to mention that, in a year where so many different types of charities and causes need help, wanting to give back can feel more stressful than ever.

A foundation can help. Foundations are different than typical nonprofits in that they make your philanthropic wishes a reality by offering you opportunities to create funds and distribute grants to the organizations you care about. In turn, your generosity makes a significant difference to those organizations you choose to receive your gifts. Foundations allow you to share your generosity with either many different types of organizations at one time or to focus your giving on a specific charity or cause.

A community foundation makes it even easier to achieve your charitable giving goals while positively impacting the greater community. With a community foundation, there is no need to create a private foundation for your individual, familial or corporate charitable purposes. The most donor-friendly of public charities, community foundations work with donors to identify the causes important to them. This means that you can immediately begin giving to the organizations that mean the most to you.

By listening to their donors' charitable goals, community foundation staff members are also able to help pinpoint the best giving vehicles through which to achieve these philanthropic



Cory J.
HOWAT
GUEST COLUMNIST

desires. Community foundations typically maintain different funds, including donor-advised funds and endowment funds. Depending upon the donor's goal, staff members can help donors set up charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities or can even provide language to help donors give through their wills.

This variety of philanthropic vehicles benefits both the donor and the community. Because giving back is easier, donors can make a bigger impact than if they tried to give on their own. And without having to start their own foundation, donors open a fund and start giving with the knowledge that their gifts are professionally managed. Finally, donations made through these types of funds are tax deductible.

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Vatican reaffirms, clarifies church teachings on end-of-life care

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – With the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia in many countries, and questions concerning what is morally permissible regarding end-of-life care, the Vatican's doctrinal office released a 25-page letter offering "a moral and practical

clarification" on the care of vulnerable patients.

"The church is convinced of the necessity to reaffirm as definitive teaching that euthanasia is a crime against human life because, in this act, one chooses directly to cause the death of another innocent human being," the document said.

Titled, "'Samaritanus bonus,'

on the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life," the letter by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was approved by Pope Francis and released Sept. 22.

A new, "systematic pronouncement by the Holy See" was deemed necessary given a growing, global trend in legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide, and changing attitudes

and rules that harm the dignity of vulnerable patients, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, congregation prefect, said Sept. 22.

It was also necessary to reaffirm church teaching regarding the administration of the sacraments to and pastoral care of patients who expressly request a medical end to their life, he said.

"In order to receive abso-

lution in the sacrament of penance, as well as with the anointing of the sick and the viaticum," he said, the patients must demonstrate their intention to reverse their decision to end their life and to cancel their registration with any group appointed to grant their desire for euthanasia or assisted suicide.

In a section on "Pastoral discernment toward those who request euthanasia or assisted suicide," it said a "priest could administer the sacraments to an unconscious person 'sub condicione' if, on the basis of some signal given by the patient beforehand, he can presume his or her repentance."

The church's ministers can still accompany patients who have made these end-of-life directives, it added, by showing "a willingness to listen and to help, together with a deeper explanation of the nature of the sacrament, in order to provide the opportunity to desire and choose the sacrament up to the last moment."

It is important to carefully look for "adequate signs of conversion, so that the faithful can reasonably ask for the reception of the sacraments. To delay absolution is a medicinal act of the church, intended not to condemn, but to lead the sinner to conversion," it said.

However, it added, "those who spiritually assist these persons should avoid any gesture, such as remaining until the euthanasia is performed, that could be interpreted as approval of this action."

Chaplains, too, must show care "in the health care systems where euthanasia is practiced, for they must not give scandal by behaving in a manner that makes them complicit in the termination of human life," the letter said.

Another warning regarded medical end-of-life protocols, such as "do not resuscitate orders" or "physician orders for life-sustaining treatment" and any of their variations.

These protocols "were initially thought of as instruments to avoid aggressive medical treatment in the terminal phases of life. Today, these protocols cause serious problems regarding the duty to protect the life of patients in the most critical stages of sickness," it said.

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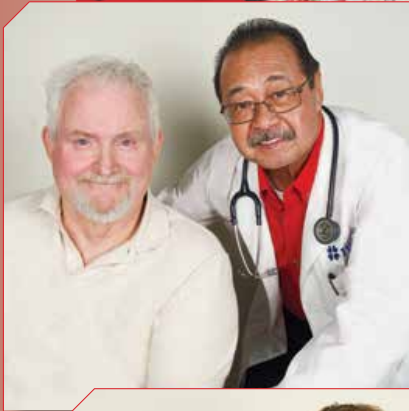


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All Saints'/All Souls' Day Masses, blessings set

Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be the principal celebrant of the All Saints' Day Mass Nov. 1 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3368 Esplanade Ave., New Orleans, followed by blessing of the graves at St. Louis Cemetery No. 3, New Orleans.

Blessing of the graves in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 will be at 2 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., respectively.

The following is a complete list of scheduled services:

ST. PATRICK CEMETERY, 143 City Park Ave., New Orleans: All Saints' Day, blessing of the graves begins at 11 a.m.

ST. ROCH CEMETERIES, 1725 St. Roch Ave., New Orleans: All Saints' Day, 10 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church followed by blessing of the graves at St. Roch Cemeteries.

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERIES, 2220 Washington Ave., New Orleans: All Saints' Day, blessing of the graves at 12:30 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SONIAT CEMETERY, 1950 Soniat St., New Orleans: All Saints' Day, blessing of graves begins at noon.

ST. MARY AND ST. BARTHOLOMEW CEMETERIES, 500 Eliza St., New Orleans: All Saints' Day, 11 a.m. Mass at Holy Name of Mary Church, Algiers, followed by blessing of the graves to begin around 12:30 p.m.

ST. PIUS X CEMETERY, 8151 Barataria Blvd., Crown Point: Oct. 31, St. Anthony Church, 5 p.m. Mass in remembrance of all who have died. All



Photo | COURTESY MARCO RASI

Freelance photographer Marco Rasi captured this incredible drone photograph of St. John the Baptist Church and Cemetery in Edgard. See more of Rasi's eye-in-the-sky work on Twitter @marcorasi1960.

Saints' Day Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony Church, followed by blessing of the graves starting at lower Lafitte and ending at St. Pius X Mausoleum.

ST. GERTRUDE CEMETERY, Des Allemands: All Saints' Day, 11 a.m. blessing of the graves.

MENNONITE CEMETERY, Des Allemands: All Saints' Day, blessing of the graves at 11:30 a.m.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CEMETERY, 13396 River Road, Destrehan: All Saints' Day, blessing of the graves in St. Charles Borromeo Cemetery

at 1 p.m.

ST. CHARLES CEMETERY, Paul Maillard Road, Luling: All Saints' Day, blessing of graves at 1:30 p.m. in Holy Savior Mausoleum.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CEMETERY, 2361 Hwy. 18, Edgard: All Saints' Day, Mass at 10 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, followed by blessing of the graves in St. John the Baptist Cemetery.

ST. JOAN OF ARC AND ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, LaPlace: Blessing of the graves, 2 p.m., at St. John Memorial Gardens,

LaPlace.

ST. THOMAS AND ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CEMETERIES, Pointe à la Hache: Blessing of graves Oct. 31 at 4 p.m. at St. Martin de Porres Cemetery. Then, blessing of graves at St. Thomas Cemetery, concluding with 5 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

ST. PATRICK CEMETERY, 28698 Hwy. 23, Port Sulphur: All Saints' Day, blessing of the graves will begin at noon. Blessing of graves at Our Lady of Good Harbor Cemetery at 3 p.m.

ST. PETER, RESERVE: All Saints' Day, 11 a.m. Mass followed by blessing of the graves. No gumbo will be served afterwards due to COVID-19.

OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY CEMETERY, Taft: All Saints' Day, blessing of graves at noon.

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCESS CEMETERY, 146 Fourth St., Westwego: All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m. Mass, followed by blessing of the graves at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Cemetery.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CEMETERY, 8968 Hwy. 23, Belle Chasse: All Saints' Day, 8 a.m. Mass followed by 9 a.m. blessing of the graves.

ST. BERNARD CEMETERY (Toca),

2805 Bayou Road, St. Bernard: All Saints' Day, Mass in St. Bernard Church at 10:30 a.m., followed by blessing of the graves.

For more information, contact the archdiocesan Cemeteries Office at (504) 596-3050.

Masses/Events

Oct. 31-Nov. 2

MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY AND MAUSOLEUM, 4000 Norman Mayer Ave., New Orleans: Nov. 1, All Saints' Day will be open to families to visit their loved ones. Visitation hours 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Please practice social distancing and wear face masks. For more information, call (504) 335-2200.

DUPLOIN W. RHODES FUNERAL HOME, 3933 Washington Ave., New Orleans: Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the annual All Saints' Day Celebration on Nov. 1. Other clergy members have been invited to participate. Prayer and a musical tribute featuring vocal and instrumental artists begins at 9 a.m., followed by Mass at 10 a.m. in the Rhodes Pavilion Chapel. Due to restrictions of COVID-19, the music and Mass will be livestreamed. Those participating by viewing the outdoor screen will receive a traditional gift. Drive-thru will be available to facilitate the distribution of the gifts and light refreshments. Call (504) 822-7162.

RESTLAWN PARK MAUSOLEUM, 3450 Hwy. 90, Avondale: Annual blessing of the graves, Nov. 1 at 3 p.m., with priests from various churches joining for the prayer service. Individual gravesites will be blessed. Information, (504) 368-6723.

ST. BERNARD MEMORIAL GARDENS AND FUNERAL HOME, 701 West Virtue St., Chalmette: Father Marlon Mangubat, pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Chalmette, will celebrate Mass on Nov. 1 at noon in the chapel, followed by a blessing of graves and refreshments. Father Nghiem Van Nguyen, pastor of Mary Queen of Vietnam Church, New Orleans, will celebrate Mass in Vietnamese on Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. in the cemetery.

Cemetery hours Oct. 31-Nov. 1 are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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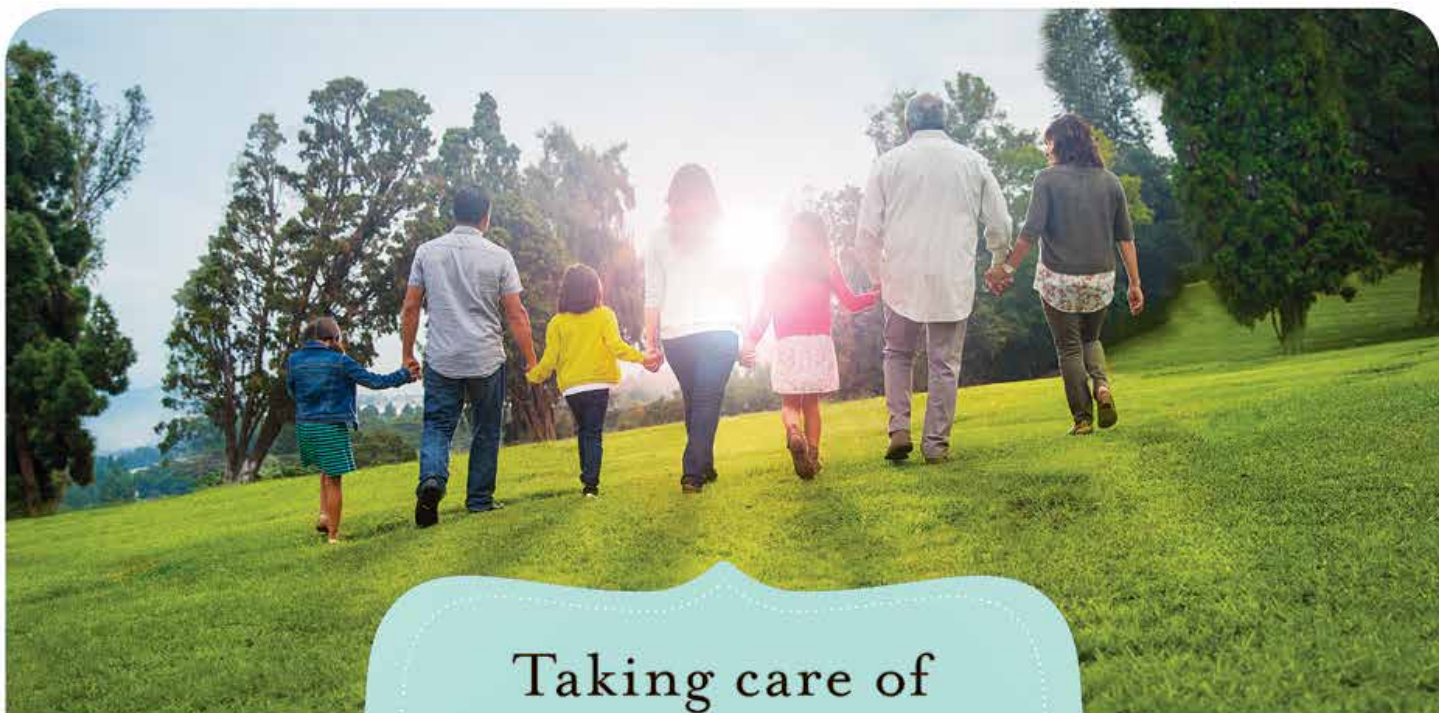
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Bereavement groups, grief support available

Many parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans offer bereavement groups or grief support ministries after the death of a loved one:

and their guests in the parish hall after the funeral. Contact the parish office at (985) 839-4040.

► MARY QUEEN OF PEACE, MANDEVILLE

The parish bereavement group meets in a confidential setting. It supports families in the loss of a loved one and meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. during the fall and spring, facilitated by Teresian Sister Marina Aranzabal. Contact her at smarina@maryqueenofpeace.org or (985) 630-7130. Sister Marina also offers one-on-one grief counseling. The annual Memorial Mass for parish families who have lost a loved one during the last year will be held Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

► MOST HOLY TRINITY, COVINGTON

The ministry assists families with preparation of funeral services and is present to offer comfort, greet attendees and assist the celebrant and church ministers with the Mass or service. Members can provide food for the family or help with visitation at the church. Families of the deceased are invited to attend a Memorial Mass on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. Contact Terri Derbes at (985) 892-0642.

► OUR LADY OF LOURDES, SLIDELL

Grief Ministry meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. Discusses reading material and plans for needs that arise. Meetings have not resumed during COVID-19 pandemic, so contact Deacon Warren Berault at warrenberault@yahoo.com or Diane St. Germain at (504) 701-5789 or dstgermain@me.com.

► SACRED HEART, LACOMBE

"Sharing the Journey," a grief support group for widows and widowers, offers support and comfort to those experiencing the loss of a spouse in a confidential and prayerful setting. The various stages of grief are shared with others on the same journey of loss. The layers of the new role of experiencing widowhood/widowerhood are also discussed and shared with spiritual support. The facilitator is Beverly Domingue, a certified faith companion. Meetings are on the second Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. in the church narthex. Contact the church office at

► ALL SAINTS, NEW ORLEANS

The Bereavement Ministry assists the family upon hearing of its loss, helps prepare readings, program and music for the Funeral Mass and provides hospitality throughout the service. Followup calls are made to families after the funeral. Contact Barbara Lombard at (504) 361-8835

► ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, LA PLACE

The Bereavement Ministry Team coordinates support for parishioners experiencing grief following a death or important loss. Members offer assistance in planning readings and music, are present during the wake and Funeral Mass, prepare the church for Mass and request food donations for family receptions. They also meet with family members to identify areas of support needed after the funeral, send cards, care notes and monthly messages of comfort and healing. Members meet monthly. Contact Susie Lanza at (504) 650-0496 or the parish office at (985) 652-2615.

► CENTER OF JESUS THE LORD AT OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, NEW ORLEANS

Stewards of Mercy ministry provides a mercy meal for family and friends after the Funeral Mass. Also, in an emergency such as illness in the family, members will provide meals or personal care for family members. Call (504) 529-1636.

► CORPUS CHRISTI-EPIPHANY, NEW ORLEANS

The Bereavement Ministry assists priests and the family in preparing the Funeral Mass and gives comfort and support for the bereaved family. A Mass and remembrance exhibit of all parishioners who have died during the year is offered each year. Contact Patricia Lee at ttippa1@aol.com or (504) 284-7754.

► HOLY FAMILY, FRANKLINTON

The pastor meets with the family to assist in planning the Funeral Mass. If visitation is held in the church, coffee and light refreshments are provided. Ministry members also can provide a full meal for the family

See **BEREAVEMENT** page 16 ►

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BEREAVEMENT

► From PAGE 14

(985) 882-5229.

► SACRED HEART OF JESUS, NORCO

Angels of Mercy Bereavement Group consists of 22 parishioners who reach out to family members of the deceased. Along with spiritual support, the group provides food and drinks. Contact Dianne Mayeux at (504) 416-7073 or dianne@mayeuxac.com.

► ST. ANGELA MERICI, METAIRIE

Bridge to Naim is a support group for the recently widowed. Meetings are led by a professional at 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the conference room. There is no charge or obligation. For more information, contact Jo at (504) 833-9470.

Coping with Life Alone is a ministry to help men and women who have lost their spouse either through death, divorce or separation. The 10-week program is offered twice a year, typically beginning in June and December, with meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the conference room. Contact Mike Caruso at mcaruso11@cox.net.

The Funeral Ministry consists of parishioners who assist families plan their loved one's funeral by helping them select readings and songs for the Funeral Mass. One training session is required to serve in this ministry. Contact Donna McNamara at dnmcnamara38@gmail.com.

► ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, NEW ORLEANS

Open Arms Caring Ministry

offers support for anyone coping with grief of any kind. Support is offered through faith and prayer. All matters discussed are kept strictly confidential. To schedule an appointment, call the parish office at (504) 488-2651 and leave a message for Sandy Sanchez.

► ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, NEW ORLEANS

The Bereavement Committee is overseen by Oblate Father Emmanuel Mulenga, pastor. Members include Audrey Amos, June Dumas and Linda Harris. Call the rectory at (504) 525-5934.

► ST. BENILDE, METAIRIE

The Bereavement Committee assists parishioners upon the death of their loved ones by offering to prepare a meal following the funeral. It also prepares food to help the family during their time of loss.

► ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, DESTREHAN

The Next Chapter, a support group, was formed to offer moral and spiritual assistance to anyone suffering any type of loss. It meets once a month, with roundtable discussions and occasional guest speakers. The office staff assists family members in selecting readings and music. An annual memorial Mass will be celebrated Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. for those who have lost a loved one during the past year. Contact the parish office at (985) 764-6383.

► ST. DAVID, NEWS ORLEANS

The Bereavement Ministry offers assistance to members of the deceased's family with spiritual assistance before and after the funeral. Assists the pastor and the family in planning the liturgy. Meets once a month. Annual memorial Mass for families is celebrated by Josephite Father Oswald Pierre-Jules, pastor. Contact Frankie Gardner at (504) 943-8760.

► ST. DOMINIC, NEW ORLEANS

Open Arms Caring Ministry offers support for anyone coping with grief of any kind. Support is offered through faith and prayer. All matters discussed are kept strictly confidential. To schedule an appointment, call the parish office at (504) 482-4156 and leave a message for Sandy Sanchez.

► ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, METAIRIE

The parish has two bereavement support groups that offer prayer and support for individuals who are grieving af-

ter the death of a loved one. The groups are facilitated by a trained volunteer. There is one major event each year for the bereaved involving prayer and an opportunity to socialize. Call the parish office at (504) 834-0340.

► ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL, NEW ORLEANS

Bereavement Ministry provides comfort and support to parish families, assists them in planning the funeral and in making arrangements for music and repast. The team prepares the church for the funeral. Contact the parish office at (504) 282-0296.

► ST. HUBERT, GARYVILLE

The parish offers parishioners the parish hall, free of charge, for a family gathering after a funeral Mass. Call (985) 535-3312 to reserve. The Ladies Altar Society has three bereavement groups that rotate their time and service by receiving donated food and beverages on the morning of the funeral. The church supplies paper plates, napkins, dinnerware and cups, while the family provides food, ice, drinks and cleanup. Goodwill offerings are accepted for use of the hall.

► ST. JANE DE CHANTAL, ABITA SPRINGS

The Bereavement Ministry offers compassion and support to the families and friends of the deceased. The group offers Masses for the family and their loved one, provides coffee and light refreshments during visitation until the Mass begins. St. Jane Hall will be made available to families free of charge if they wish to bring and serve a meal. The meal may be either after the Mass or after the burial. Contact the parish office at (985) 892-1439 Jo Kieffer, chairwoman, at (985) 630-8508.

► ST. JOACHIM, MARRERO

Bereavement Ministry strives to be a source of love, care and support to those who grieve the loss of a loved one. The ministry offers a prepared meal. Sympathy cards and Mass intentions are sent to the family. The rosary is recited at the funeral by Daughters of St. Joachim. Contact Mary Plaisance at (504) 258-6300 or mbplaisance@yahoo.com; or Cathy Este at (504) 347-6369.

► ST. JOAN OF ARC, LAPLACE

Bereavement Friends express compassion of the church community to the bereaved family

by helping with arrangements, providing food, rosaries and notifying friends. Members assist with the annual All Souls' Day Mass and reception on Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. for parish families who have lost a loved one in the past year. Contact Frankie Tarullo at (985) 652-2334 or ftarullo@yahoo.com.

The parish has a Bridge to NAIM group for the newly widowed. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Contact Pat Menard at (504) 415-1032.

► ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARADIS

Bereavement Ministry offers prayerful support to parishioners with faith and through prayerful support, giving support for anyone coping with grief of any kind. Contact Debra Frickey (985) 817-1244 or Janice Dufrene (985) 758-7845.

► ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS, NEW ORLEANS

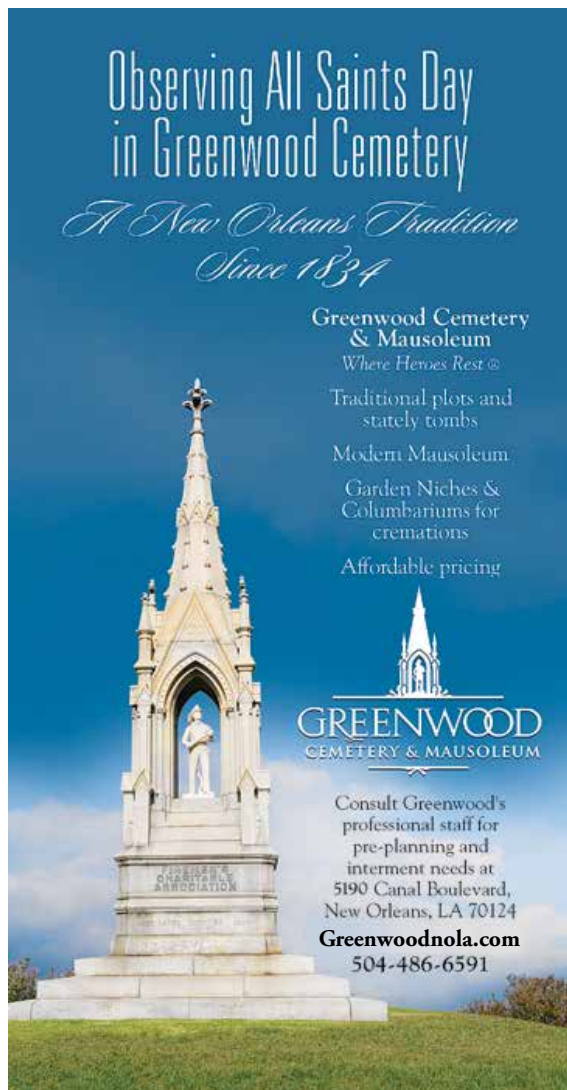
The Bereavement Committee, headed by Geraldine Aguillard, is available to discuss arrangements for the funeral Mass. The Evangelization Ministry, headed by Vaughn Valeary, presents the bereaved family with a spiritual bag, which includes a Bible, memorial card, list of church services and a pen. Call Franciscan Father Joseph Hund, pastor, at (504) 945-3186.

► ST. PETER, RESERVE

Bereavement Committee reaches out to family members of deceased parishioners offering sympathy and spiritual support. Sympathy cards are sent to the family. Families of those who have lost loved ones during the past year are invited to the annual All Saints' Day Mass and blessing of the cemetery. Anyone interested in help with this ministry can contact Peggy Bienvenu at (504) 487-8769 or peggyfbf@comcast.net.

► ST. RAYMOND-ST. LEO THE GREAT, NEW ORLEANS

The Bereavement Ministry is composed of lectors, extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, ushers and Health Ministry members. The group will visit the family of the deceased, upon request, to help them cope with their loss and assist in planning the Mass, including special tributes, readings, music and rosary. The group also will send a card to the family after the funeral. An annual Memorial Mass is celebrated for families who have lost a loved one during the year.



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