



St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery

N E W S

Volume four

Spring 2012

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Holyhood Cemetery - Historic Landmark

August 7, 1857, the Reverend J. M. Finotti, pastor of the parishes of Brookline and Brighton, bought a lot of land in the southerly part of Brookline, Massachusetts, containing about thirty and a half acres, in order that his parishioners might have a suitable burial place for their dead. The land was very picturesque, rocky and of great natural beauty, and to it was given the name of Holyhood, Holyhood being the term to designate the winding sheet in which the body of our Savior was surrounded before its interment.



was named for St. Joseph, the patron saint of the dying. In the early years the basement vault which includes about 40 crypts was used to store remains in the winter months pending interment. In 1967 the Memorial Day Mass at the Chapel was discontinued as it could not accommodate the large numbers attending. Since then the Mass has been held outdoors. The chapel was later dedicated to James K Fitzpatrick, former President of Holyhood Cemetery Association for over 28 years.



The grounds were laid out and avenues and walks built, the principal avenues being named for the former bishops of Boston, as Cheverus Avenue for Bishop Cheverus, the first bishop of Boston; Fenwick Avenue for Bishop Fenwick; Fitzpatrick Avenue for Bishop Fitzpatrick, and Williams Avenue for Archbishop Williams. The names of other avenues and walks are of biblical origin. Two years after the opening of the cemetery a stone chapel was built on the crowning point of the grounds known as St. Joseph's Chapel. The stone building was designed by Patrick Keeley, the most influential New York architect of many mid 19th century Catholic churches. It



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Letter from the President

Another productive year has passed and the Association continues its commitment to perpetual care and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cemeteries. As noted on the first page of our fourth annual newsletter the background information on Holyhood Cemetery reflects the community's history and culture. Its collection of tombs, sculptures and markers possess artistic and architectural significance.

Our Board of Directors has voted on a number of Capital expenditures and purchases for 2012. Landscape improvements and the Holyhood Master Plan are being accomplished in phases in an effort to continue the commitment to our perpetual care policy and overall master plan. All these projects and purchases enhance the cemetery grounds and allow our employees to provide a better quality service each year.

Grounds maintenance crews are on the property cutting grass and pruning shrubs five days per

week. Barrels are emptied daily and a tremendous amount of tree work has been accomplished this year. The storms we experienced during the year have taken a toll on our older trees. A tree replacement program will start in 2012. The replacement program will be done in phases.

Landscape improvements have been completed at St. James the Apostle on the Parkway. The landscape screening project will continue in 2012. Single grave sites have been created at St. James and St. Vincents and are available for purchase. Each grave can accommodate two full burials as well as 2 cremation burials.

The cremation niches in McGuire Chapel at St. Joseph Cemetery are available for purchase and provide a beautiful alternative for cremation burials. The master plan at Holyhood Cemetery will provide areas for additional cremation burials and plans will be completed this year.

The economic environment over

the past year has not changed much. Budgeting continues to be a challenge. The Association's financial status continues to be sound. The General Manager, Supervisors, Office Personnel and work crews approach the everyday demands of the cemetery with a team effort to provide efficient and quality service.

Thank you for your support through 2011 and we look forward to the New Year.



D. Michael Collins, President

Web Site

Information regarding our history, services, regulations, hours of operation, lot sales, genealogy, and directions, is available at

www.holyhood.com

Phone 617-327-1010

Fax 617-327-0526

New Cemetery Gate Hours



In an effort to provide more safety and cost savings for our cemeteries we have established a new 8:00 a.m. gate opening time. This should reduce a considerable amount of cut through traffic in the morning hours. We are also considering the possibility of closing the gates at various times during the day at St. James the Apostle and St. Joseph Cemetery. Access will always be available through the main gates located at St. James on the VFW Parkway and the main gates located at 990 LaGrange St at St. Joseph Cemetery. The excessive speed of the cars using the cemetery roads as a cut through has raised concerns and safety complaints.

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Decoration of Graves and Lots

Decorating a cemetery plot and keeping that plot clean and tidy shows respect for the dead and makes the grieving process easier for families. Christmas and Holiday decorations placed on graves shall be removed beginning January 15. If such decorations are not removed by January 15th they shall be considered abandoned and will be disposed of by cemetery personnel. Veterans flags placed on the grave for Memorial Day will be removed after July 4th weekend.



New Graves Available for Purchase



In addition to the 120 new crypt graves installed at St James the Apostle, Sec 7A we have installed 40 new single graves (burial for two) at St James the Apostle, Sec 3A. The first phase of the landscape tree screening project in this section is complete. As the plantings mature it will increase the peacefulness and beauty of the entire area.

An additional forty single graves are in the pro-

cess of being developed at St. Vincent, Sec 1. This year we have eliminated a good portion of overgrowth along the perimeter of St. Vincent. The appearance of the Cemetery is more open and easier to maintain. Tree work along the roadway has also been complete and allows our ground crews to better maintain the area.

The cremation wall on the outside of the Maguire Chapel is another burial option for cremations. This wall provides an area for a bronze plaque to be placed at the grave. It is an excellent location at the top of the hill with a peaceful sitting area for visitors.

We still have a number of cremation niches available inside the McGuire Chapel at St. Joseph's. The cremation niches can accommodate from 1 to 3 cremations depending on the size of the niche purchased.

Effective February 1,

2012 the gates of the

cemeteries will be

open 7 days per week

from 8:00 am to 7:00

pm and in winter

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Holyhood and St. Joseph Cemetery



In 2011 Holyhood Cemetery and St Joseph Cemetery made approximately 709 interments. It is always difficult losing a loved one or family member. A few of these burials are individuals who

in some way were close to all of us. Among them were the Honorable Kevin White, former Mayor of Boston, who served this community throughout his public life, and was also a former Holyhood Director who contributed his time and expertise for many years, Kara Kennedy, the daughter of the late Senator Edward Kennedy, and Albert Sexton a longtime Board Member who also contributed his time and effort to maintaining the beauty of our cemeteries. All funerals take a degree of planning. Some require additional planning and attention to ensure the privacy and respect that all families deserve at this difficult time.

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Memorial Day Mass



On Monday, May 30, 2011 the annual Memorial Day Services took place at St. Joseph Cemetery and Holyhood Cemetery. The traditional services provide families and veterans a chance to remember those who served. The cemeteries were decorated with flags honoring America's fallen military service members.

Memorial Day St. Joseph Cemetery 2011

"A nation that does

not honor it's

heroes, will not

long endure."

President Abraham

Lincoln

Thanks to the coordination by Veteran Services Departments, many volunteer programs such as the East Boston High School Army JROTC program, High Schools, Boy Scout troops and members of Veteran's posts assisted with the placement of flags on Veterans graves. A monumental task was made easier this year with the completion of Phase I of the map scanning project. In 2011 there were more than 1,000 in attendance at St. Joseph Cemetery and approximately 75 gathered at Holyhood. Monsignor Helmick, from St. Theresa of Avila, said the Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery, while Father Jack Ahern, former pastor at St. Mary of the Assumption in Brookline, said Mass at Holyhood Cemetery. The effort and commitment on the part of the cemetery personnel leading up to the holiday brought conditions up to a high standard and resulted in many favorable comments.



Monsignor Helmick, St Theresa of Avila, West Roxbury, MA



Front Entrance St Joseph Cemetery

Memorial Day 2011



Richard T. Leary, Holyhood Board of Directors; Father Jack Ahern, St. Ambrose Parish, Dorchester; A. Thomas DeMaio, General Manager

Holyhood Cemetery Employee Retires

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John Tobin has decided to retire after 42 years of employment. Toby as we call him intends to keep himself busy enjoying the outdoors, walking, and surfing on the Cape. He has been an outstanding employee with a great work ethic. Toby promises to keep in touch with his fellow workers and stop in to tell a joke or a humorous story. We all wish Toby the best in his retirement.



John J. Tobin, Jr. (Toby)

Congratulations Monsignor Helmick!



Reverend Monsignor William Helmick celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood.

Monsignor was born in Arlington, MA and grew up in St. Agnes Parish. He attended St. Agnes School in Arlington, Matignon High School in Cambridge and St. John's Seminary in Brighton. He was ordained on

February 2, 1962. His assignments included St. Frances Cabrini Parish in North Scituate as Parochial Vicar, Archdiocesan Tribunal Secretary, Archdiocese of Boston Secretary to the Cardinal and Master of Ceremonies, and finally St. Theresa of Avila Parish as Pastor. He was named Monsignor by Pope John Paul II.

We are all very fortunate to have such a dedicated Pastor. It is very evident how devoted the Monsignor is to his Parishioners, those in need, and the entire community.

The Board of Directors and entire staff congratulate you and look forward to many more years.

*The cemetery is a
place for meditation
and prayer, hallowed
by symbols of our faith
and our devotion in the
memory of those who
rest in eternal peace.*

Holyhood Masterplan

The Holyhood Cemetery Masterplan continues to move forward with the approval of our Board of Directors. Walker-Kluesing Design Group have identified several locations at Holyhood that show potential for additional full and cremains burials. In selecting these areas they have considered the landscape aesthetics of the cemetery as a whole.

One particular area selected is the staircase behind the Fitzpatrick Chapel. Three alternative designs for interments of cremated remains with appropriate landscape characteristics will be submitted to the Board of Directors for review.





St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery

990 LaGrange Street
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Phone: 617-327-1010

Fax: 617-327-0526

Website: www.holyhood.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

The gates of the cemeteries are open

7 days per week from 8:00 am to

7:00 pm and in winter 8:00 am to

5:00 pm

We have 13 employees at Holyhood. Our labor workforce consists of seven mostly long-term employees. This year a new three year union contract was negotiated and approved by the Board of Directors with SEIU Local 615. All our employees provide a high level of service to the cemetery. We commend the workforce for an outstanding spring cleanup. They took advantage of the mild winter allowing them to clean and maintain additional areas of the cemetery grounds. In past years snowstorms and extreme cold temperatures interfered with cleanup efforts in these areas. Congratulations to all our employees for a job well done!

On behalf of the entire staff and Board of Directors we would like to thank our churches, families, monument dealers and funeral directors who support our service effort throughout the year. We encourage you to call with constructive suggestions or any questions.

Thank you

A. Thomas DeMaio,
General Manager



"The A-Team should consist of every employee of the cemetery, because we are only as strong as our weakest link" - John Toule



Holyhood Cemetery Association

990 LaGrange Street

West Roxbury, MA 02132