



Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc

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December 2018

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings! ■

As we approach this blessed time of year it is helpful to recall all the blessings that we have received in the past year. Your Catholic Cemeteries Association (CCA) has worked diligently to provide a peaceful and beautiful environment as a final resting place for your loved ones and family. We have opened new sections which allow you to create fully customizable monuments, conducted an extensive tree reduction program for your safety as well as replaced and repaired roads and walkways to add to the serenity of our properties. As always feel free to contact us so we can answer any questions or concerns you may have about your Catholic

Cemeteries Association. On behalf of all of us at CCA, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New year!

Peace,

John Pinone



ENJOY

0% Financing through December 31, 2018

Dignity of Life Seminars





This Archdiocesan approved program is successfully assisting parishioners with elder care and end-of-life planning. The goal of the session is to provide educational and resource information in the areas of burial, funeral, and estate planning. Let a panel of experts assist you and your loved ones. Call our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Gode for more information about other Outreach programs, (203) 780-8418.

Please visit our website online at www.ccacem.org for more information about us.

Dignity of Life Seminars at a glance-

**January 23rd, 2019, Wednesday
Hamden Senior Center
Hamden, CT
Time: 1pm**

**January 28th, 2019, Monday
Sacred Heart
Southbury, CT
Time: 2 pm and 6pm**

**February 6th, 2018
Bristol Senior Center
Bristol, CT
Time: 10:30 am**

**February 15th, 2019 Thursday
St. Augustine
Hartford, CT
Time: 2pm and 6pm**

**February 20th, 2019 Wednesday
St. Ambrose Parish
North Branford, CT
Time: 2pm and 6pm**

To register for a Dignity of Life Seminar, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Gode at 203 780-8418



Did you know that pre-planning begins with Education?



Join us for our next Dignity of Life Seminar, meet our staff and enjoy light refreshments. A Family Service Advisor is available to answer questions and offer information about special discounts, memorials and more. Visit our website at www.ccacem.org to find a Family Service Advisor at one of our 30 Cemeteries nearest you.



Leaving a mark...

Catholic Cemeteries Association attended the recent Catholic Men's and Women's conferences on October 20th and November 3rd. What a blessing to gather together in celebration of our faith! Take and receive all God has for you!! See you next year!



Memorial Christmas Tree Program

All are welcome to place a remembrance ornament in memory of a loved one on our tree.

Removal and return on Jan. 6th. Pick up your ornament at the Cemetery Office. Thank you in advance for participating! Merry Christmas!

Giving back...

We are accepting non-perishable food items to



support the local Food bank and shelters until Jan. 6th, 2019. A drop-off box is located in the mausoleum. Thank you in advance for your kind donation!

Peace on earth to men of good will Luke 2:14



Be Faithful to God's Gift on Christmas Night

by [Pope John Paul II](#)

DESCRIPTION

Pope John Paul II's Homily at Midnight Mass, December 25, 1996.

PUBLISHER & DATE

December 25, 1996

1. "In the depths of the night a voice resounds" (Polish Christmas carol). In the first reading the Prophet Isaiah says: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined" (Is 9:1). The light shone because "to us a child is born, to us a son

is given" (Is 9:5).

The same Christmas carol identifies that voice in the night: "Come, shepherds, God is born for you; hasten to Bethlehem to greet the Lord". It is the same voice which resounds in the passage of the Gospel of Luke just proclaimed: "In that region there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. The angel said to them, 'Be not afraid for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger'" (Lk 2:8- 12).

The Christmas carol continues: "[The shepherds set off, and in the manger they found the Child with all the signs which had foretold his birth. They adored him as God..."

2. What St Luke wrote in the Gospel about the birth of the Lord Jesus has been translated into countless songs and works of literature, these make up the rich tradition inspired by Christmas. We bring this tradition with us when we come to Midnight Mass, also called the "Mass of the Shepherds". At this hour Bishops and priests throughout the world join me, the Bishop of Rome, in celebrating this Mass.

In every place liturgical and extra-liturgical songs are proclaiming the joy of the Lord's birth.

The angel says: Be not afraid, rejoice! The birth of a human being is always a source of great rejoicing (cf. Jn 16:21). What great joy then must the birth of the God-Man bring!

Isaiah says: "They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest" (Is 9:2). A remarkable harvest! Behold, humanity is ripe for this moment when the Creator is born "of woman".

Man, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:27), grows and journeys towards this God-Man, in whom he receives the gift of his own fulfilment and in whom, at the same time, all creation is raised to its fullness.

The responsorial psalm of this liturgy proclaims: "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day" (Ps 96:12). And a Christmas carol echoes: "Let all creation sing to its Lord". This invitation to praise resounds with particular eloquence. Behold: all creation, which the Apostle Paul will describe as "waiting with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God" (Rom 8:19),

becomes a witness of the revelation of the Son of God in human flesh. At the same time, this is the beginning and the foundation of the revelation of those who have become sons and daughters of God by reason of the divine adoption to which all people are called.

What profound reasons for joy the Lord's birth gives us!

3. St Paul also speaks of these reasons in the Second Reading: "The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men" (Tit 2:11). The Son of God does not come into the world empty-handed. It is true that in the stable at Bethlehem he receives the gifts of the shepherds but first he himself brings great gifts. His generosity is indescribable: "The loving Father offers us today ineffable gifts from heaven, as the Eternal Word becomes flesh, by his wondrous power" (Christmas carol).

Precisely that priceless gift which the Apostle calls "grace" - the gift of a share in the life of God, a universal gift, the opening of the path of eternal salvation-is the most profound source of Christmas joy.

With this joy in our hearts, we celebrate the solemn and beautiful night liturgy. We wish to join the choirs of angels who over the stable of Bethlehem are glorifying the Lord: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Lk 2:14). We pray today for everyone Christians and non- Christians, believers and non-believers alike. For we want to be faithful to the gift brought by God on Christmas night: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, made manifest for all humanity.

From this Basilica of St Peter's, I send everyone a cordial greeting and I pray that this source of joy issuing forth in human history with the birth of the Son of God will be plentiful for all, so that each person may draw from it and quench his thirst. Yes, the fountain of salvation which God desires to offer to each human being has now been opened. It was for this very reason that he drew near to us and in his Son became like us: true God and true Man.

"God is born man's might is amazed. The Lord of heaven empties himself! The fire subsides, the splendour is veiled, the Infinite is encompassed" (F. Karpinski, Christmas Song). On this night the frontiers of human existence are extended. The Son of God, taking upon himself man's limitations, opens before our eyes the prospect of God's infinity. "Natus est hodie Salvator mundi".

Today is born the Saviour of the world.

Come, let us adore him!

resource: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=5713>

Thank you!

Catholic Cemeteries Association would like to thank all those that participated in our Feast Day celebration in honor of **Our Lady of the Rosary**. A special thanks to **Rev. Tim Meehan** our celebrant, to **Tom Borino** for providing the music, to **Kathy McGarry** our photographer, and to the **Legion of Mary** members of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity parish for their amazing generosity in sharing of their time, talent and treasure.

May God bless you all.

Our Lady Queen of Peace...Pray for us!

