

"IT IS HOLY AND GOOD TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD"

2 Maccabees 12:42-46

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HOLY REDEEMER CEMETERY NEWSLETTER

Holy Redeemer Social Club: A Gift to Our Cemetery

Did you know that every member of Holy Redeemer Parish is *already* a member of Social Club? According to the Ministry Directory that is given to every new member of our church, Social Club is a social organization for parishioners and to promote the interests of the Parish and to raise funds to support those interests. The goal of Social Club is to unite with other parish organizations to support their interests and promote Catholic Education and socialize as a group.

Our Social Club partners beautifully with our Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild. Together they raise funds by making nut rolls, pierogies, cookies and other treats. Social Club also conducts a bingo on Saturday night, (Early-birds at 7-7:30pm and bingo until 10pm).

While fundraising is important because it helps our Church minister to your needs, the main purpose of Social Club is to promote the Social gatherings of parishioners. Believe it or not, this is an important part of being "a Church."

Recently, Social Club helped us celebrate the Diaconate Ordination of our Parish Son, "Rev. Mr. David Rombold." They were very active in establishing a new parish tradition: Our Christmas Party. In the past, Social Club has treated our Al-

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-John Pansera, President

tar Servers to a day at Kennywood. And we cannot forget the many bus trips to the shrines- also

known as "Casinos." Perhaps most tenderly, when we offer the annual Mass for the deceased, Social Club is present with our Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild ministering to our Parishioners in their need.

On March 2, 2015, Social Club made a \$7,000.00 donation to our Parish Cemetery. This very generous gift helped us to pay bills and make a few needed repairs.

When John Pansera, President of Social Club, understood the need of our Cemetery, he took action. "This is what we do. This is why we started Social Club at St. Agatha's all those years ago. We help to support the vision of the Parish. We are very happy to help." We should thank, Social Club, for helping us honor our Faithful Departed.

Memorial Day Cemetery Offering

Over the years, many visitors have complimented Holy Redeemer Parish Cemetery for its beauty and service. Our parishioners are always pitching in and helping when they are needed.

Your donations to our Cemetery are needed at this time. Because our Cemetery has little income, your gifts will help us take care of this holy place. Even though we have a limited Perpetual Care Fund, it is insufficient to meet the rising expenses. The Memorial Day Offering is a wonderful way of remembering and honoring those who rest there.

DECORATING AND SPRUCING UP OUR PLOTS

Now that the weather is finally warming up and we are thinking about how our properties can be groomed for the summer, our attention inevitably turns to our beloved resting in our cemetery.

It is important to us that our beloved's resting place be properly manicured. Our care for the grave reflects our belief that in God, all are alive. Even the monuments express in word or image our belief that the im-

mortal soul is destined to be with God.

The tradition at Holy Redeemer Cemetery has always been that we work hard to beautify the graves of our beloved deceased. With that in mind, now that the growing season is upon us, we ask your help in keeping our cemetery holy and beautiful.

As you beautify your graves please keep the following regulations in mind:

1. No curbing, fencing, stone chips, hedges, borders or enclosures of any kind are permitted around monuments or graves.
2. Flowers are not to extend beyond 12 inches from the grave or monument. Do not plant trees or bushes. These sometimes complicate grass cutting.
3. Please do not plant in the Memory Garden.
4. The engraving of monuments and grave stones should be of a religious nature.
5. Please do not attach objects to mausoleum wall or vault coverings. Also, do not leave live flowers in the mausoleum.
6. Kindly respect the speed limit and do not park on the grass.
7. Cemetery hours are 7:30 AM to Dusk. For more information or questions about how you can maintain a grave, please call our office at 724-758-2245.

Burial and Visiting the New Grave

Our whole parish family shares in your grief and we pray for you and your loved ones. It is our goal to respect with honor the holy resting place of your loved ones.

In order to prevent any misunderstanding, we wish to explain to you what our normal procedure is and what you can expect when you visit your loved one's burial site.

When a new grave is opened, the site goes through stages of settling and refilling. This is why excess soil is mounded, in order to accommodate this process as the soil works it's way into the ground and becomes compacted. We suggest that anyone who visits the site and sees the need for additional service call our office. In the course of opening a grave for a burial, several opera-

tional decisions must be made:

- It may be necessary to transfer family memorials to a safe distance from the excavation area to avoid possible damage to the memorial.
- The stability of the concrete foundation supporting an existing memorial is sometimes disturbed. This necessitates removal of the original foundation and installation of a replacement foundation before the memorial can be reset on the grave. Weather and soil compaction must be considered before a new foundation can be installed.
- Grave preparation prior to seeding will depend upon subsoil, season of the year, and post-burial

weather conditions. Leaving a neatly mounded supply of excess soil over a reasonable period of time permits a natural filtering of soil in the void areas around the burial container: Seasonal conditions, such as frozen grounds during the winter months, justify letting nature control the settling process. Please be patient with us in this regard. These conditions are the determining factors as to how soon the grave can be top dressed and seeded.

- The final top dressing and seeding of the grave will be completed at a time when weather conditions provide the environment for a successful growth of grass. PLEASE NOTE: Settling and refilling may occur 2 or 3 times before the ground is finally compacted sufficiently to top dress the gravesite.
- Once the grave area and the memorialization has been re-established, we ask that you consult the Rules and Regulations relative to planting and decorating.

If you have questions regarding your lot, please contact the cemetery (or Parish) office. Our staff will do their best to provide the service requested. Your continued interest in the appearance is sincerely appreciated.

Holy Redeemer Cemetery Committee:
Mr. Joseph Bellissimo Sr., Mr. Dale Chronister, Mr. Joseph Cioffi, Mr. Ralph Coast, Mr. Pete Greco, Mr. Carl Jaskolka