



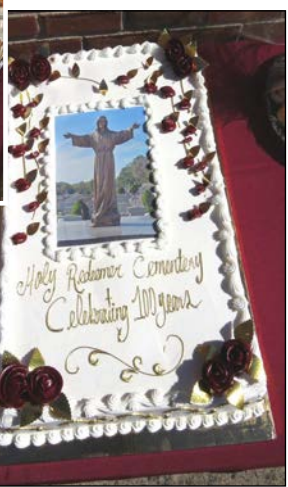
1919-2019



OCTOBER 19, 2019

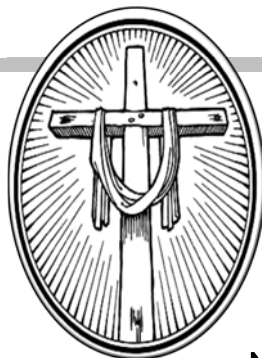


Thank you



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOLY REDEEMER CEMETERY

1734 CLINTON AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080



Holy Redeemer Cemetery is owned Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, NJ. In community was raised to the status of a F. Baldwin. One of Father Baldwin's years of devoted service to Sacred Heart one acres of land between Clinton and of establishing the Holy Redeemer Cemetery, which officially opened its gates on October 13, 1919.

and operated by the Church of the 1905, when the Sacred Heart faith parish, its first Pastor was Rev. John accomplishments during his long Parish was the acquisition of twenty-New Brunswick Avenues for the purpose

Holy Redeemer Cemetery is consecrated, sacred ground. The cemetery currently is the burial ground for 15,626 deceased. It is the final resting place for The Sisters of Mercy and the Sister Servants of the Infant Jesus. There are two baby sections as well as a cremation section in the cemetery. Holy Redeemer has honored and laid to rest over 1,800 veterans.

In 1985, construction began to add a Mausoleum to the cemetery which opened in 1986. This structure included crypts and a chapel. With overwhelming interest in the Mausoleum, in 1995 a new wing was added and was completed in 1996. This construction included additional crypts and two new walls with niches for cremated remains. With a growing choice for cremation proper burial space was needed. The mausoleum added two glass-front units with single and double niches. The first structure was installed in 2012 and another in 2016. Currently the mausoleum has entombed and inurned 933 deceased.

Weather and time had taken a toll on the original towering metal sculpture of the Calvary scene positioned at the entrance circle to the cemetery. The figures were eventually beyond repair and the sculpture was removed opening space for a new plan. In 2012 the entire front entrance of Holy Redeemer Cemetery was redesigned with new gates, fencing, signage and a new burial feature which holds 15 crypts for full body entombment and 58 cremation niches. The open arms of the resurrected Christ is the new statue that stands atop this burial structure.

Discussion and plans are under way for an extension onto the mausoleum which will be designed and hopefully completed within the next few years.

The successors of Father Baldwin have carefully and conscientiously supervised the care, development and expansion of this cemetery through the years, so that today it remains one of the most beautiful in our section of the state.

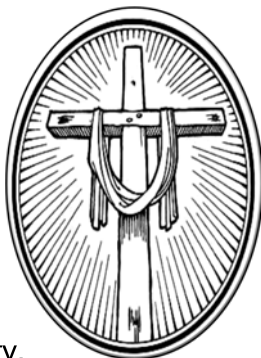
Visit us online for a full presentation of Holy Redeemer Cemetery and Mausoleum

www.holyredeemercemetery.net

1909-1919  CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND MINISTRY

FROM THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ -- Once a tract of farmland that gently rose on a crest above the north bank of the old Bound Brook, the cemetery was initially consecrated by the Most Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, Bishop of Trenton, on September 21, 1919, with several hundred persons in attendance. Bishop Walsh had visited this spot a year earlier in his quest to find ample acreage for burial purposes for the Catholics in this vicinity.



The place he found was suitable in size and location -- 21-acres stretching from Clinton to New Brunswick Avenues, with sweeping views of the sparsely inhabited surrounding countryside and the distant Watchung Mountains. The pleasant and peaceful environment gave rise to the name "Brookview Crest" and "Brookvale Crest," which were first associated with the project.

Located in the colonial village of Samptown, one of two small hamlets which would become So. Plainfield, it was once S Manning's farm in the 1870s, Henry W. Gennerich's in the early 1900s, and lastly, Peter S. Cook's in 1916. As luck would have it, the buyer — the Catholic Church's representative Father John F. Baldwin and the seller, Peter Cook -- would form an unexpected and mutually beneficial relationship.

In 1916, Yonkers-based Frederick Scott Cook was a noted civil engineer with the New York City Public Works Department. At sixty-two and nearing retirement, Cook was ready to leave the city behind "to enjoy country life and busy himself with gardening." Around the same time Cook was planning retirement to New Jersey, Henry W. Gennerich had financially hit rock bottom, in debt for over \$32,000, with bankruptcy imminent. His Clinton Avenue farm was for sale. A deal was struck, and Cook moved his family of four to the country.

Cook's desire "to busy himself with gardening" in his retirement years took on a whole different reality as he now had 21 acres of fertile farmland to cultivate. He approached the situation with zeal, planting (likely with extra experienced manpower) acres of corn and potatoes. The first growing season's bumper crops were a sensation to residents as well as the many citified guests who visited "Stonewall Gardens," the name he christened the farm.

The Cook family enjoyed entertaining friends year-round, whether a Thanksgiving holiday, or summertime picnic when guests could take a leisurely cruise on the family's houseboat along the brook's winding and shady course. The novelty of the cruise prompted a comparison to "a scene on the streams in Holland." Tours of the farm were revelations to their city folk friends who never saw twelve-foot-high, well-eared stalks of corn, or knew how and where it grew.

There is no doubt the Cook family was happy at Stonewall Gardens, which begs the question, why did Cook decide to sell it in 1918? Father Baldwin may have made Cook an offer he could not refuse. After the sale, Cook was hired as the civil engineer in charge of design and construction of the cemetery, with Baldwin directing the entire operation. Cook immediately laid out a mile of drives and 8000 feet of paths, a thousand burial plots, and a temporary receiving vault, followed by landscaping of hundreds of trees, shrubs and plants and sod. An on-going project, he continued with the work and occupancy of the family home at the entrance way which was included in the property sale until moving to Atlantic City in 1922.

Cook died in 1935 at the age of 81 in Asbury Park, and was survived by his wife Josephine and two daughters.

The next time you visit Holy Redeemer Cemetery, remember that the pathway you tread was likely of Cook's design.



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MOST REV. JAMES F. CHECCHIO - Main Celebrant

Rev. Robert Pinnisi - Bishop's MC

Rev. John P. Alvarado, Rev. Pervaiz Indrias,

Rev. Peter Tran - Concelebrants

Deacon Gregory Caruso

Daniel Mahoney - Music Ministry

Lynda Yelenovsky - Event Planner and
Cemetery Business Administrator

John Batkowski - Bishop's Mass Photos

Rev. John P. Alvarado - Event Photos