



ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEWARK

To: All Priests, Pastors, and Administrators of the Archdiocese of Newark

From: Joseph Heckel, Executive Director, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark

Date: May 5, 2026

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As Memorial Day approaches, I write to invite your parish communities to join us in what has become one of the most meaningful observances in the life of our Archdiocese — our annual Memorial Day Masses at Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark.

This year carries special weight. On Monday, May 25, 2026, as our nation marks its 250th anniversary, we gather not only to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country but to do so as a community of faith, the only community that can hold grief and gratitude together in the same breath and offer both to God.

Our program, “Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to Our Heroes,” unites Catholic cemeteries across the country in a shared act of remembrance. At 11:00 a.m., Masses will be celebrated at six cemetery locations throughout Northern New Jersey, open to all who wish to attend.

His Eminence Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D., Archbishop of Newark, will be the main celebrant at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington.

Distinguished celebrants at our other locations include:

- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D. — Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington
- Most Reverend Manuel A. Cruz, D.D. — Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover
- Most Reverend Michael A. Saporito, D.D. — Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah

- Most Reverend Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B., D.D. — Saint Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia
- Most Reverend Pedro Bismarck Chau, D.D. — Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City
- Very Reverend John J. Chadwick, S.T.D. — Christ the King Cemetery, Franklin Lakes

Please Note: Memorial Day Mass is no longer celebrated at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange, N.J. We invite parishioners and families in that area to attend Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum in North Arlington or the location most convenient to them.

Most Masses will be held outdoors under canopies, with seating provided. Gate of Heaven and Maryrest Cemeteries will host their services inside their mausoleums.

All priests are warmly invited to concelebrate at any of these services. Changing areas will be available for vestments. Your presence alongside your parishioners would be a tremendous witness to both those who attend and those whose names are carved in the stones around us.

We humbly ask that you include a notice in your parish bulletins at least two weeks before Memorial Day, so that parishioners have time to plan and attend.

The men and women who rest in our cemeteries gave everything. The least we can offer is a Mass, a prayer, and a community willing to remember. We are grateful for your partnership in that mission.

For further details, please contact Graceann DelMauro at Graceann.DelMauro@rcan.org or 973-497-7982.

Thank you, and God bless.

Joseph M. Heckel, K.H.S., CCCE

Executive Director

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark