

The Cemeteries of St. Mary's and the Missions

2024 Fall Newsletter

In July Adam Helmers assumed the duties of Cemeteries' Manager. His attention to our finances, his care for our four cemetery properties and his ability to assist those making at need arrangements or planning for future needs are his strengths.

This has been a busy season for our cemeteries. A 64 niches columbarium has been installed at St. Mary's in Georgian Bluffs. The project came in under the budgeted estimate of \$40,000. due to the generous contribution of parishioners Mike Curley and Gary Emonts. Their gifts of time and talent are much appreciated. A growing number of parishioners are choosing to have their cremated remains inurned in an above ground columbarium. The investment made to provide this option will serve you well.

Those entrusted with the care of cremated remains of a loved one are reminded that it is their duty and obligation to inter those remains in holy ground promptly. It is not appropriate to leave them sitting on the mantle or in storage for a long time. Please contact our office to arrange for a niche or in ground interment.

With the trend to cremation growing, we would like to remind parishioners who intend to be interred in their parents or grandparents grave that you must be able to demonstrate that you have the legal right to be interred there. As cemetery operators, we must ensure that such interment will not be challenged by either siblings or other surviving family members who may have shared in the estate of the original rights holder. We strongly recommend that interment rights be treated as an asset and that provision for the future control and exercise of

those rights be included in your last will and testament. If no provision exists, persons wishing to access those rights should act before the time of need to avoid undue stress at the time of loss.

Throughout the year but especially in the month of November we welcome visitors to pray at the graves of loved ones. This is truly a corporal work of mercy which like burying the dead in holy ground is our duty. Let those interred the cemetery speak to you. "What you are now, I once was. What I am now, you will be."

St. Mary's & the Missions are blessed to have four beautiful cemeteries that serve as the resting place of generations who have gone before us. We hold these properties in sacred trust with an inherent obligation to care for them in perpetuity. We are always grateful for your generous support, however in this unusual year we make a special request that you make your best efforts to share your blessings with our cemeteries. Regular maintenance such as grass cutting, top dressing sunken graves, tree removal, marker repair as well as management and administration need your annual support.

You can support our cemeteries by purchasing a lot, plot, niche, or memory wall plaque or donating to the Cemetery Fund. Next weekend we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. We remember those who have gone before us and now rest in our cemeteries awaiting the final resurrection. Any time during the month of November we urge you to return your Parish Cemeteries Collection offering. All donations are matched by Bishop Crosby, with funds going directly into the local Care and

Maintenance Fund. You may direct your donation to one of our 4 cemeteries by placing a note on the memo line of your cheque. Those with envelope boxes will find an envelope dedicated to this collection. Extra envelopes marked All Souls can be picked up at the back of the church this month. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cemeteries' Board,

Michael Donovan, Current Chairperson