

The Cemeteries of St. Mary's and the Missions 2026 Fall Newsletter

Our parish cemeteries have seen great improvements in the past year. The roadway at St. Stanislaus' in Chatsworth was graded and new gravel added. The wrought iron fence at St. Mary's Owen Sound was sanded and repainted. A bench, donated by a rights holder, was installed at St. Mary's in South Bruce Peninsula. In each cemetery a focus on improving the grounds involves turf restoration, top dressing sunken graves and repairing monuments that have fallen into disrepair. Regular maintenance is a task that fulfils our commitment to provide perpetual care for the resting places of our departed loved ones.

Several major projects planned for this year have strained our budget. We hoped to avoid running a deficit and with your support in the cemetery collection we will be able to go forward with these 3 priority projects. 1. Work will continue in the pioneer cemetery at St. Michael's in Meaford with the intention of completing a congregate grave. 2. A new entrance sign at St. Stanislaus in Chatsworth will be designed, manufactured and installed. 3. In the coming month we hope to pave the interior roads at St. Mary's in Georgian Bluffs. These are ambitious and worthy projects. We need your support. With God's grace they will be completed.

Fall cemetery clean-up is in progress. We remind you that all decorations, plants, and shrubs must be removed from gravesites in accordance with cemetery bylaws and posted signage. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our cemeteries beautiful for all to enjoy. Planting Spring bulbs such as tulips or daffodils close to your marker are a great option for floral decoration.

Costs for grass cutting and removing hazardous dead trees have risen sharply this year. The price of fuel and labour as well as other inflationary pressures are challenging to budget. What can you do

to assure that our cemeteries continue to be beautiful resting places for our loved ones? Support the Spring and Fall Cemetery Collections or purchase a lot, plot, niche, marker, or memory wall plaque. At the columbarium, a marble bench is available to sponsor and inscribe in memory of deceased family members.

Your support of this Fall collection will allow us to maintain the cemetery this year. Our Bishop Joseph will place an amount equal to your donation into our local Care and Maintenance Fund. We need to double the principal in the fund to generate enough interest to meet our annual maintenance costs. The bishop's matching dollars assure that funds will be available in perpetuity. This is the nature of our commitment to those resting in our cemeteries. A fully funded C&M is our aim, and we are making steady progress.

The Fall Cemetery Collection will take place on All Saints'/All Souls' Day weekend, October 31st/ November 1st at all parish masses. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued generous response. Parishioners who use the weekly envelope box can make their donation by using the beige colored Cemeteries Collection envelope. Others may do so by using a plain envelope or one of the purple envelopes marked "All Souls Day" that can be found at the entrance of the church. You may direct your donation to any one of our 4 cemeteries by placing a note on the memo line of your cheque or writing the name of the cemetery on the outside of the envelope. Please return your contribution next week or any time during the month of November.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cemeteries' Board.

Michael Donovan & Roberta Carey - St Michael's Meaford
Bob Griffith & Bruce Muise - St Mary's Georgian Bluffs
Herb & Sylvia Langpohl - St Stanislaus' Chatsworth
Elaine Kocher & Joyce Vanstone - St. Mary's South Bruce
Adam Helmers - Manager & Lynn Curley - Associate Manager

