

The Cemeteries of St. Mary's and the Missions

2025 Fall Newsletter

The month of November is a time when nature imitates the paschal mystery – life, death, and resurrection. What was recently vibrant and green appears to die. After the dead of winter, our world rises gloriously to bear the fruit for which it was created. Our cemeteries call us to remember those who loved us; to celebrate for they are with us here and to believe that we will see them when they come in glory. Throughout the year, but especially in the month of November, we welcome visitors to pray at the graves of loved ones and support their upkeep.

Our 4 parish cemeteries are the resting place of many parishioners over the past 175 years. We hold them in sacred trust and endeavor to maintain them with your help and generosity. Over recent months, we have graded the roadway at St. Stanislaus in Chatsworth. The wrought iron fence at St. Mary's Georgian Bluffs, which was donated some years ago by the Myatt family, was sanded and repainted. At the pioneer cemetery in the Irish Block, stones were recovered from the bush and will be reset in a congregate grave next summer. A bench donated by a parishioner has been installed at St. Mary's Cemetery in South Bruce Peninsula. These projects are in addition to regular care and maintenance. These duties fulfil our commitment to provide perpetual care for the resting place of our dearly departed ones.

In the coming year we plan to complete paving the interior roads in St. Mary's Georgian Bluffs, sandblast and repaint the entrance sign at St. Stanislaus and maintain the trail and install the congregate grave at the pioneer cemetery in the Irish Block. These are costly projects which stretch our budget beyond grass cutting, monument maintenance and turf restoration. We are committed to proceed with them as funds are made available this year.

The Cemeteries' Board is comprised of our Pastor, our manager, and 2 representatives from each of the 4 cemeteries. This year we

welcome Sylvia Langpohl from Chatsworth to the Board. We also salute Art Radbourne from Sauble Beach who is retiring after serving for over 35 years. We owe him a great deal of gratitude as we do all who are dedicated to the service of our cemeteries.

Adam Helmers, our Cemeteries' Manager, stands ready to assist those making at need arrangements or planning for future needs. He may be contacted by phone, text or email provided on the front or back of the bulletin. He noticed that many families are making preneed arrangements for younger family members.

St. Mary's and 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.

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. 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 greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cemeteries' Board,
Michael Donovan, Current Chairperson