

The Cemeteries of St. Mary's and the Missions  
2026 Spring 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 fulfills our commitment to provide perpetual care for the resting places of our departed loved ones.

There are several major projects planned for the coming year that will strain our budget. We hope 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. The entrance sign at St. Stanislaus in Chatsworth will be sandblasted and repainted. 3. We hope to pave the interior roads at St. Mary's in Georgian Bluffs. These are ambitious and worthy projects. We need your support.

Spring 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. All flower beds will be removed and replaced with sod. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our cemeteries beautiful for all to enjoy. You are encouraged to place a decorative saddle on upright markers or a single well drained cone in front of flat markers. Spring bulbs such as tulips or daffodils planted close to your marker are a great option for floral decoration.

Costs for grass cutting and other maintenance activities have risen sharply this year. The price of fuel and labour as well as other inflationary pressures combine to strain our 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 for a family to sponsor and inscribe in memory of deceased family members. Contact Adam at 519 379 5537 for more information.

Your support of this Spring collection will allow us to maintain the cemetery this year. Bishop Crosby will place an amount equal to your donation into our Care and Maintenance Fund. We need to double the principal in the C&M 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 Spring Cemetery Collection will take place Mother's Day weekend, May 9/10 at all the masses. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your 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 back 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. Please return your contribution next week or any time during the month of May.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cemeteries' Board.

Michael Donovan, Current Chairperson.