

The Cemeteries' of St. Mary's and the Missions

2021 Spring Newsletter

Hope springs forth with the warmer weather and improved prospects for an end to the pandemic. Our cemeteries continue to notice an increased demand as many parishioners complete purchases of lots, plots, markers and niches in the columbarium. The 2021 price list has increases that reflect only the rate of inflation and rates are competitive with all others offered in our area. Our Cemeteries Manager, Angela Corrigan, is anxious to help you make pre need arrangements as is a prudent choice or complete a marker placement.

Our original columbarium was purchased in 2016 and was fully funded by a generous parishioner. As the proverbial seed of the gospel, it has yielded good fruit. We are now able to add 2 more 48 niches columbaria this spring. This major step is validation that many find the choice of placing cremated remains in an above ground granite structure an attractive option. The significant cost of these additional units will be met from the sales of niches in the original unit. The growth of our columbaria and their perpetual care is self-sustaining. Good news!

Cremation is a growing preference and the assurance that perpetual care can be provided in this beautiful setting is a comfort for family members living far from our area. There is no need to regularly tend to the gravesite. The cost of a niche for 2 urns, including the front plaque is a good value as it compares favorably with the costs associated with a plot and then the separate purchase of a marker. The new columbaria will be arriving in the coming months. Those intending to choose this option should act soon to take advantage of this year's prices. A full range of choices as to which of the 96 niches you prefer will be made available on a first come first serve basis.

A Memory Wall is a unique feature of our columbarium. A brass plaque with the name of a loved one who is interred at another location are mounted on the handsome granite face. This memorial in a prayerful setting keeps those who have gone before us in our hearts and minds. Who would you like to remember and commend to our prayers?

In addition to the columbaria, we have purchased 2 more granite benches to be placed in the immediate area of the columbaria garden.

These additional benches will complement those donated by the K of C and C.W.L. and for a similar donation we will inscribe the name of your family or loved one as a lasting tribute.

The roadway at St. Stanislaus' in Chatsworth has been leveled and new gravel added. The trees lining the north roadway at St. Mary's Georgian Bluffs have been trimmed back. Maintenance is an ongoing activity and we are happy to have Lynn Curley join Angela this year to learn what is involved in managing our cemeteries. It is prudent to have a person fully capable of assuming the manager's duties in an emergency.

Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Cemetery in Hepworth last fall. In 2021 we will celebrate mass at St. Michael's in the Irish Block on Saturday June 26th at 10:30 am and at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Chatsworth on Saturday September 25th at 10:30 am. A date to bless the new columbaria and the existing graves at St. Mary's Georgian Bluffs will be announced in the coming months.

You can support our cemeteries by purchasing a lot, plot, niche or memory wall plaque or by making a bequest to the Cemetery Fund. There are great tax advantages to making a bequest now or in your last will and testament. Your financial planner can help you with this.

On Mother's Day weekend or any time during the month of May you are asked to return your Parish Cemeteries Collection offering. 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. If you are not attending mass in person, please drop off or mail your donation marked "Cemetery Collection" directly to the parish office at the address on the front of the bulletin.

St. Mary's & the Missions are blessed to have 4 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.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cemeteries' Board,

Michael Donovan, Current Chairperson