

Sacred Heart Cemetery

AS A MINISTRY

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To bury our dead is one of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy defined by the Church, as found in the teachings of Jesus. This important obligation of us as the faithful serves a variety of purposes. First, it provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and honor the human body as a sacred temple of the Holy Spirit, which is created in the very image and likeness of God. Second, it reminds us of our sacred duty to remember and pray for our beloved dead, as they prepare in purgatory to fully separate from this world and enter into the eternal light of God's face in Heaven. Third, it offers us pause to be mindful of our own mortality and to prepare ourselves for our earthly death.

Cemeteries are considered "Sacramentals." This means that they are physical reminders of the Sacraments of the Church. As such, they are considered holy places that require the necessary honor, respect, and attention.

Sacred Heart is blessed with an abundance of ministries, focused on nearly every phase of our lives within the Church. Our Sacred Heart Cemetery provides us with an equally important ministry to serve our blessed dead and preserve the sanctity of the human body. Unfortunately, the needs of our cemetery as both as physical entity and a ministry are often forgotten.

Over the next few weeks, please watch your bulletin for more informational flyers explaining the current state of our Sacred Heart Cemetery and the needs and issues facing it.

CHURCH TEACHING:

The bodies of the deceased must be buried. The church permits cremation, but ashes must then be buried or placed in a columbarium in a timely manner.

The church teaches that death separates the soul from the body, but that the soul will be reunited with the body on the day of the resurrection of the dead.

FROM THE CATECHISM:

CCC:2300 The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit.

TO PURCHASE A PLOT:

- Call the Parish Office
- Look for a booth at the Bazaar on September 15th.

Did You Know?

- Our cemetery opened in 1895.
- There are specially reserved sections for the Presentation Sisters and infants.
- The cemetery is located at 114 Lancelot

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AVAILABILITY & PEACE OF MIND

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One of the most thoughtful gifts you can give to your loved ones is the knowledge that your final wishes and resting place have been arranged. Very often, a loved one passes away and, in a matter of days, the family is left making decisions for funeral arrangements and a burial plot. This, in the midst of grief, can often lead to a sense of overwhelming fatigue for the grieving.

Though many aspects of a death cannot be planned, the final resting place can be prepared for ahead of time. Sacred Heart offers both single and group cemetery plots. While single plots are routinely sold, groupings of plots are often purchased by a family in advance, knowing that they wish for their earthly bodies to remain near to each other as they await the resurrection, when the body and soul will be reunited in Heaven. These group plots tend to be very popular. Families wishing to be buried together are encouraged to reserve their plots by calling the Parish office. While reserving your plots serves to provide peace of mind and comfort to loved ones, it is also very helpful for future planning for the cemetery.

Though Sacred Heart Cemetery has plenty of plots currently available, the input of the parish will be of vital importance as we consider how best to carry on in our sacred ministry of caring for our dead and providing availability for future generations of parishioners.

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The church teaches that death separates the soul from the body, but that the soul will be reunited with the body on the day of the resurrection of the dead.

FROM THE CATECHISM:

CCC:2301

The Church permits cremation, provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body.

TO PURCHASE A PLOT:

Call the Parish Office, 225-7065.

Did You Know?

- Unused burial rights may be returned to the cemetery for the original purchase price.
- You can purchase groupings of graves to belong to a family.
- The cost of a plot is \$300.

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MAINTENANCE & BEAUTIFICATION

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Every spring and summer, the Parish Office receives multiple calls from upset parishioners, concerned about the state of our cemetery. Over the years, with the limited resources that have been allocated to it, the cemetery has accumulated a long list of needs for beautification. Many of our trees are in need of pruning or replacing, and a large number of Ash trees throughout the grounds will need to be removed in the coming years. In addition, mowing and trimming at the cemetery each week during the spring and summer months are a significant undertaking for the limited Parish staff, who also are responsible for maintaining the entire Church and surrounding grounds.

We all desire to make and maintain our cemetery as a place of peace, reflection, and comfort. However, it truly must be a mission and focus of the faithful if it is to be maintained. Opportunities abound for the future beautification of our cemetery, but we need help.

The Cemetery Board is seeking volunteers for everything from serving on the Board, to volunteering for a mowing and trimming schedule, tree trimming, flower planting and care, and, most importantly, helping to craft a vision for the future of our cemetery.

If you feel called to participate in this important and needed ministry in our Parish, please contact the Parish Office.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR A HAPPY DEATH:

O Blessed Joseph, you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms. Amen.

TO PURCHASE A PLOT:

Call the Parish Office, 225-7065.

Did You Know?

- Rules and Regulations for the cemetery can be found on the Sacred Heart website.
- The Sacred Heart Cemetery Board meets monthly at the Parish Hall and is looking for new members.
- Trees and plants can be donated to the cemetery by contacting the Parish Office.

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A FINANCIAL NEED

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HOW IS THE CEMETERY CURRENTLY FUNDED?

It is currently funded through a combination of lot sales, proceeds from internments, and donations. However, these do not fully cover the annual operating costs, and the cemetery runs a deficit each year.

IS THERE A FINANCIAL CONCERN FOR THE CEMETERY?

Yes, average annual loss is nearly \$15,000, which is pulled from the cemetery's savings to cover. The savings account currently has a balance of approximately \$46,000. At this rate, the savings account will be depleted in about three years.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING THE CEMETERY?

The people of Sacred Heart are responsible for the financial health of the cemetery, as it is a mission of the Parish.

WHAT DOES THE CEMETERY NEED IN ORDER TO BE SELF-SUSTAINING?

\$26,000 is needed solely to cover basic operations each year. This covers basic lawn care and does not include special projects or urgently needed upkeep. The cemetery needs an endowment to cover future expenses and perpetual care.

IS THE CEMETERY ITS OWN ENTITY OR IS ITS BUDGET TIED INTO THE CHURCH'S BUDGET?

The cemetery exists as a part of Sacred Heart Parish with the same tax ID. It is a ministry of the parish. The cemetery has its own checking and savings accounts, which are funded through a combination of lot sales, proceeds from internments, and donations.

IN SHORT...

No matter what decisions are made regarding the cemetery, the parish has a moral, financial, and spiritual obligation to the Sacred Heart Cemetery for maintenance and perpetual upkeep. Focus needs to be given to the ultimate goal of self-sustainability for the cemetery. Financial gifts can be designated directly for the cemetery, and prayers for the continued support of this important mission of our Parish are much appreciated.

TO PURCHASE A PLOT OR MAKE A DONATION:

Call the Parish Office, 225-7065.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PARISH PEOPLE

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This fall, the Sacred Heart Cemetery Board has provided the Parish with bulletin inserts regarding the state of the cemetery. The topics have included its purpose with regards to our faith, maintenance and beautification, the financial need, and its future. Now, we want to hear from you.

Please take 2 minutes to provide your thoughts regarding the future of the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Are you planning to have your loved ones or yourself buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery?

Yes No Why or why not? _____

What future investments should be made in the cemetery?

Beautification Columbariums for cremations Additional plots through expansion
 No investments or improvement Other _____

What areas of ministry are you interested in volunteering to help with for the cemetery:

Spring clean-up Tree trimming Planting flowers Planting trees
 Trimming grass with a team once a month Donating perennials Donating trees
 Other (please list):

Optional: Yes, please contact me!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

***Please place this form in the weekly collection or deliver to the Parish Office.
These questions may also be found at the Sacred Heart website and filled in online.***

Thank you for your time.