



# St. Mary Cemetery

## *Notes from our Parish Meetings*

### *on September 21, 2025*



- Prayer, Welcome & Introduction of Cemetery Board Members
- **Overview & Objective of Meeting: TO INFORM AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE CEMETERY ENDOWMENT SO THAT WE CAN COVER ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR THE LONG TERM**
- Projects we have completed in the past year
  - Tree Removal
  - Expansion of cemetery to the West
    - We are currently selling in the last remaining section
    - Clearing and Excavation, Road/Stone & Seeding
    - Began to lay the Foundations
  - Expansion of the cemetery to the East (with Green Burial area)
    - Green Burial means the body is placed in the ground without a casket or vault. The area is kept as natural as possible with rough mowing only 1 or 2 times a year
- Projects to be completed in the next 12 months
  - Rebuilding Brick Base of Crucifix (\$6,241.00)
  - Stone Road for East Side of Cemetery (\$11,900)
- Longer Term Projects
  - Paving of old blacktop drives (\$79,000)
  - Paving of new road on West side
  - Adding a Columbarium containing 48 niches that will hold cremated remains (\$20,000)
- Regular Year to Year Maintenance: (Mowing: \$550/Mow & \$950/Mow & Trim usually April - Oct), Topsoil, Seeding & Weed Spray
- Annual Revenue currently generated for Cemetery
  - Sale of Graves, Farm Rental (will be reduced in 2026 since we have expanded to the East), Billboard Rental, Burials, St. Mary Cemetery Donation Envelopes & Interest from Endowment Funds
- Pulling \$15,000 to \$20,000/year from Endowment to help offset expenses
- We have a great Concern for 5 Year Plan & After
- Green Burial & possibly adding a Columbarium will help keep expenses down since they require no mowing or trimming around headstones
- **We are kicking off a Capital Campaign to fund long-term upkeep**
  - **Cemetery Envelopes are included in your bi-monthly envelope mailings**
  - **We will be placing extra St. Mary Cemetery Envelopes in the Basilica pews and vestibule**
  - **All loose money collected on All Souls Day (Sunday, November 2, 2025) and the All Souls Envelopes will go to the St Mary Cemetery Endowment Fund**

We had great feedback from those that attended with the following suggestions to generate revenue:

- Add St. Mary Cemetery as an option for funeral donations
- Increase the cost of graves
- Add St. Mary Cemetery as a donation option on the OLC website
- Mail this summary to all Parishioners; post information on OLC website and Facebook so it can be shared with family & friends that live out of the area
- Information about the cemetery in the Bulletin to keep parishioners informed

We distributed an updated Rules & Regulation Brochure that includes the latest pricing & the Green Burial. If you would like a copy, please stop into the Parish Office

There was interest in adding a Columbarium. Since the Endowment money is restricted to maintenance & upkeep only, we cannot use Endowment Funds to pay for this. Therefore, if anyone is interested in purchasing a niche or donating, please contact Jennifer in the Parish Office. How we move forward will depend on the response.

The Committee would like to Thank everyone who took the time to attend one of the sessions and offer us advice and feedback. The cemetery holds our loved ones' remains and we want to ensure that we are able to maintain it for generations to come.

In Christ,  
The St. Mary Cemetery Committee