

Newsletter

St. Mary's Cemetery, Dunkirk, N.Y. May 1, 2012 Number 21

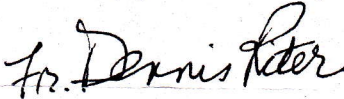
Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

I invite you to visit St. Mary's Cemetery on the occasion of the Annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 28 at 9 a.m. Cemeteries, whether the majestic Arlington in Virginia or our local graveyard, are holy places that call to mind the memory of departed loved ones. We see the graves at St. Mary's as ".....signs that promise Resurrection even as they claim our mortal bodies." (Text taken from the Rite of Christian Burial)

Please consider making a \$50 gift to the annual St. Mary's Cemetery Maintenance Fund. If you cannot afford a fifty dollar donation, enclose whatever you can give in the envelope that accompanies this letter. I'm confident that you want to be part of this yearly effort to provide for the resting place of family members and friends. I'm also quite sure that you can sympathize with the challenges we face as we continually try to maintain our burial grounds. The cemetery crew does its best to keep the graveyard well groomed and to address, to the extent possible, larger issues such as deteriorating foundations and leaning monuments. Unfortunately much damage has taken place over many decades and cannot be quickly remedied.

For information about the purchase of a grave, mausoleum crypt, or a niche for cremains, please stop in at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish office on Washington Ave. or call 366-1750. If you wish to serve on the cemetery committee, please contact either Zen Olow or myself.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Dennis Riter

Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

P.S. The mass at the cemetery is weather-dependent. The alternate site is in the church. Please remember to bring your own lawn chair to the Mass. Also, take a moment to review the report on the back of this page. It comes from Zen Olow, parish trustee and chairman of the cemetery committee.

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2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Accomplishments:

- The leak-prone underground water lines on the south side of Williams Street (Chapel side) were replaced last year. This job was needed as the old lines were constantly leaking and creating a frequent headache for our cemetery crew. We have eight new spigots installed.
- Identified tree removal with 80 percent completed.
- Foundation Repair Project: On-going project for last several summers.
- Electronic Record Retention: Software purchased and data being entered. This will provide accurate and easy access to family members for information on their loved ones. This, too, is an ongoing project.
- Signage for the Cemetery has been improved by installing new improved signs. Rules are posted near Cemetery entrances. "No pets allowed" signs placed throughout the Cemetery. Hopefully, this will stop folks from walking their pets within the Cemetery grounds, which will provide a more serene and peaceful grounds for those visiting burial sites. "Exit Only" signage has been installed on driveways leaving the Cemetery onto Route 60 (Bennett Road). Entry to the Cemetery is on William Street only. Please try to observe these signs for your safety.
- Concrete pads have been installed by the Mausoleums and the Columbarium located on the south side of Williams' Street. The stone benches have been installed so that you can spend time with your departed loved ones.
- A new zero turn lawn mower has been purchased this year and is in service. This will replace an older unit that needed repairs. We got our money out of the old unit.

Objectives: Priorities for this year include:

- Foundation work – continuous process.
- Stone benches will be installed on the concrete pads by the Mausoleums and Columbarium for those wishing a quiet place to sit.
- Cemetery employees are wearing safety yellow shirts. This will help to identify employees for assistance and questions and also keep our employees safe.
- Columbarium on the North side of Cemetery will receive new concrete and improved landscaping & gardens.
- Madonna Area will receive new gardens.
- We are researching best prices for needed equipment. A generator has been donated by a Parishioner. Thank you. We are finalizing the purchase of a cement mixer to speed up the pouring of foundations.

Finally, we have experienced a turnover of our seasonal help. We have hired three new employees and are encouraged with their progress.

We appreciate your ideas and suggestions. Many have been acted upon and we invite you to continue to express your ideas and thoughts with us. Please observe the posted cemetery rules. If you have any questions about them or what is allowed, please call me, Zen Olow, at 716-640-2776.

Respectfully Submitted by

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Zenon M. Olow, Chairperson