

Newsletter

St. Mary's Cemetery, Dunkirk, N.Y.
Number 24

May 8, 2015

Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

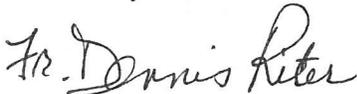
I invite you to St. Mary's Cemetery for the annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 25, at 9 am. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR. The mass will be celebrated on the north side of Williams Rd as in the past few years. In the event of bad weather, we will hold it inside at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. In either case, there will be a special remembrance of all those who have served this nation in the armed forces as well as the thousands buried at the cemetery in its 161 years of existence.

Please consider a \$50 gift to the annual Cemetery Maintenance Fund. If you cannot afford a fifty dollar donation, give whatever you can. Your donation will help to ensure that final resting places of your loved ones are maintained as well as possible. The task is daunting inasmuch as many graves have been there longer than 150 years!

You may enjoy our parish website (www.seasdunkirkny.org); and in particular, the cemetery tab. It has photos, history and an opportunity for on-line giving via credit card or on-line debit.

A return envelope for your gift is enclosed. **You may make your donation online** or through the website. Keep in mind that your donation, or perhaps even a mention in your will, can help to provide for the present and future care of these sacred grounds.

Sincerely,



Fr Dennis Riter

Pastor

P.S. If you need information regarding the purchase of a grave, crypt or niche for cremains, please contact Dan Hillman at the parish office 366-1750.

Please turn to the other side

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014-15 winter has finally ended. We have had a late start to the spring and that is now dragging into the summer. Winter has been hard for our dump truck because of plowing and the age of the truck. We had to replace the fuel tank and rear brakes. We did in house to reduce costs but it was still pretty costly.

No large purchases of cemetery equipment are planned for this year. The staff has been doing very good maintenance on the equipment. However, equipment lasts only so long and a couple of items that need replacement will be a lawn mower and dump truck. We need to plan accordingly. We are considering changing out the larger zero turn lawn mower to replace it with a smaller, more versatile piece of equipment.

Repair/Replacement to the Chapel roof still needs to be completed and should be completed if the budget allows.

We need some repairs to our driveways throughout the cemetery, either the repair and/or sealing of the blacktop. We are waiting on quotes these two items.

Please be aware of the cemetery rules that are posted throughout the cemetery and on the office building. Items that do not follow these rules will be removed by cemetery staff. Please do not try to interpret the rules by thinking something is allowed. If in question, please see Ken Drozdziel for interpretation. Many items are not allowed because of safety issues for the staff and maintenance issues with the equipment. Fake flowers are becoming a real issue because of the wire in the stems. While weed cutting with equipment, the wire becomes a flying object and could injure an employee or cause equipment to "jam up." All cemetery rules and regulations as well as informational updates can be found by liking us at www.facebook.com/stmaryscemdny.

The rectory and cemetery again will offer memorial trees to families that wish to memorialize their departed loved ones. Also, concrete benches can be donated for the same purpose. An information sheet is enclosed for your reference. Please call the rectory office at 716-366-1750 if you have any questions.

Staffing of the cemetery again is an issue for this summer. Weather related schedules and hard work makes finding employees difficult. We are happy that we are in the process of hiring 2 to 3 new part time employees for this summer.

We started on a program to repair many of the foundations that have deteriorated and caused headstones to lean and fall over. This program will be a very slow and very costly one. Thanks to some of our fellow parishioners for their effort to getting this started.

The long term care and maintenance of St. Mary's Cemetery is a very costly venture. The burial of one of our loved ones is an expense to the families. However, keep in mind that the cemetery needs to maintain the grounds forever; not just today or tomorrow, but forever. This cost is called perpetual.

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. 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