

# Saint John the Baptist Cemetery

## Cemetery Committee Report to Parish Leadership Council

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Gene Delaune, Chair

Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator

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### 1. The Cemetery Committee

Members: Gene Delaune, Chair, Ron Flor, Mark Hammer, Judy Harris, Bob Sitarz, Arnie Bona.

### 2. Activity for 2018/19

#### Summary of Financial Activity

<u>St. John the Baptist Cemetery Income</u>			
Account	Description	17/18 Actual	18/19 Actual
4050.01C	Cemetery Donations	4,030	4,128
4120.01C	Dividend/Interest Revenue		2,799
4355.00C	Grave Sales	17,025	42,100
4355.01C	Columbarium Niche Sales	14,900	11,700
	Income total	35,955	60,727
<u>Cemetery Expense</u>			
Account	Description	17/18 Actual	18/19 Actual
6100.00C	Professional Fees - Legal		0
6110.01C	Caretaker Contract	17,700	18,300
6180.00C	Supplies	116	157
6185.01C	Repurchased Graves	0	0
6240.00C	Bank Charge Exp	20	1,342
6260.00C	Property/Liability Ins. Exp		0
6250.00C	Maintenance & Repair	4,323	5,389
	Expense total	22,159	25,188
	Cemetery net	13,796	35,539

#### June 30, 2019 Balances

Cemetery checking   \$ 52,877  
 Reserves               \$186,126  
 Endowment            \$183,734

#### Burials

Full body                       24  
 Cremation in-ground       19  
 Columbarium niche         6  
 Total                           49

#### Sales

Full body graves               28  
 Cremation in-ground         5  
 Columbarium niche           5  
 Additional right of burial   5  
 Total                           43

### 3. Projects Completed or in Process

- Infant monument - complete
- Landscaping near monument
- Gate on east side - complete
- Policy review – in process
- New sign – completion mid-2020
- Drive lane repair – mid-2020

### 4. Communal Interment of Cremated Remains

- July 2020

### 5. Cemetery Counts as of 11/30/2019

- Full body burial spaces
 

Total	3,409
Unsold	137
- Cremation in-ground spaces
 

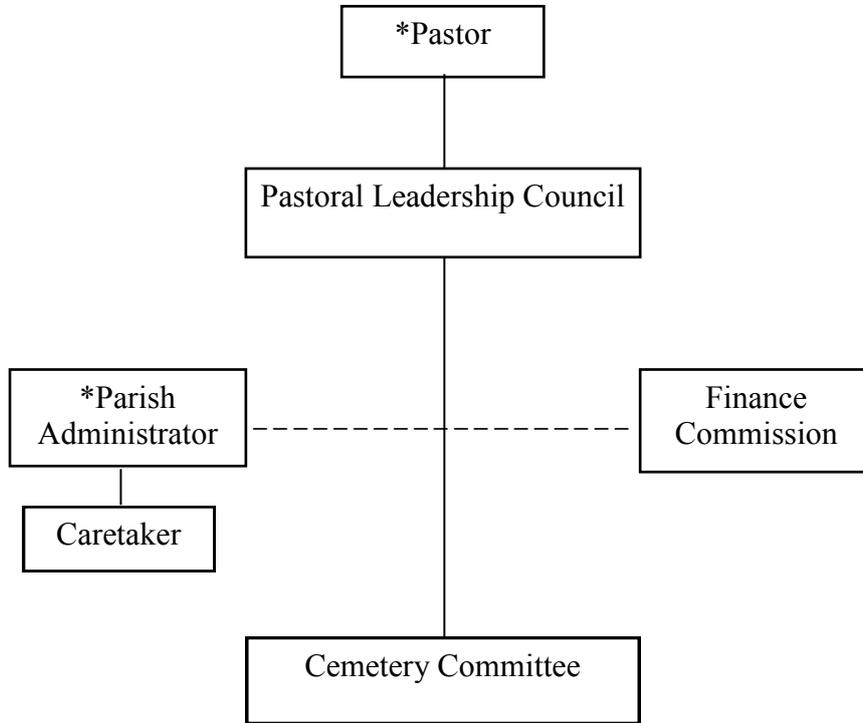
Total	360
Unsold	150
- Columbarium niche spaces
 

Total	174
Unsold	148
- Infant burial spaces
 

Total	264
Unsold	65

**St. John the Baptist Church  
New Brighton, MN**

Cemetery Committee  
Organization Chart



\*Non-voting, ex-officio Cemetery Committee member

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE – PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of: November 12, 2019

*Cemetery Committee Chair will assist Parish Administrator with -- composition of projects list; identification of priorities and related action plans; review and endorsement by the Cemetery Committee; and, assistance with action plans.*

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Cemetery Operations Management Assistant – Volunteer / Part Time ... Job Description Finalized	Done
Cemetery Committee Membership – announce / recruit / interview new members	Ongoing
Infant Area – develop landscape plan	In Process.
Cemetery Policy update	January 15
Status report to Pastoral Leadership Committee	December 10
Communal commitment of cremated remains	July
Replace cemetery entry sign	July/August
Expand and seal north apex drive lane	June
Cemetery Operations Management Assistant ... announce / interview / recruit	Future / TBD
Cemetery software	Future / TBD
Landscape master plan	Future / TBD
Cemetery Sunday / Tour	Future / TBD

## ST. JOHN the BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY



On May 24, 1902, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis assigned Rev. Anthony Szczukowski as St. John's first Pastor. The parish was legally established shortly thereafter, on July 16th.

In October 1908, the parish purchased land for a cemetery consisting of 3,636 grave sites. The cost was \$450.

The first burial at the cemetery was in September of 1909. The cemetery was re-dedicated in 1959, and today, as in the past, the Cemetery Ministry is an important part of the St. John's parish community.

On June 14, 1999 a St. John's Cemetery Committee was formed and many enhancements and improvements have since occurred.

## **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Cemetery Cremation Plaza**



St. John the Baptist Cemetery has three columbaria cabinets with niches available for the interment of cremated remains, which were completed and blessed in 2017.

With an increase in cremations among the general public and among Catholics, creating a beautiful cremation burial option is one way that St. John the Baptist Parish is seeking to live out its core values of affirming a reliance on prayer and living in a generous spirit.

For information on pricing and availability of cremation niches, please pick up a cemetery brochure in the St. Paul Plaza kiosk or contact Jeff Bauer, Cemetery Caretaker, at 651-329-2187.

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Cemetery

## Infant Section Monument Blessing

August 11, 2019



## **Epiphany cemetery offering free burial for cremated remains**

The Catholic Spirit, by Matthew Davis -- October 25, 2018

Father Thomas Dufner once counseled a young woman who wore a locket with her grandmother's ashes in it to bury the remains, after the woman admitted she couldn't sleep at night. "The thing about death is that it is not the end," said Father Dufner, pastor of Epiphany in Coon Rapids. There's still a presence associated with the remains of our beloved dead, which is why even primitive peoples have always buried their dead."

As cremation has become widespread, so has the practice of keeping the deceased's ashes in the home indefinitely — a practice generally prohibited in the Catholic Church. Father Dufner and Epiphany Cemetery Director Bob Mathewson have been discussing for years how to encourage people who have not buried cremated remains to do so. Their conversations led to offering a free day of burial Nov. 16 at the parish cemetery.

"It's actually a good opportunity for us to be of some service to people and provide a need for our beloved dead," Father Dufner said. Mathewson said there are many reasons people hang on to cremated remains instead of burying them. Some had intended to, but "life has just caught up with them," he said.

The Catholic Church has permitted cremation since 1963, but Catholic teaching requires that the dead be buried or interred in a sacred space, usually a cemetery. A person's cremated remains should not be kept at home or scattered. Due to an increase in the practice of cremation, the Church clarified its teaching in a document released in 2016.

In making the burials at Epiphany free for a day, Mathewson aims to remove what he sees as one of the main hurdles to burial. "For a lot people, one of the reasons [not to bury the remains] was it costs too much money to bury them," he said. "For some people, it was just the fact it slipped their mind. They were always going to get around to it but just never have."

Mathewson estimated that in 45 percent of the burials at the parish's cemetery, the deceased has been cremated. Father Dufner said that as he's presided over funeral Masses, he has observed cremation become a more common choice. Mathewson said that handling the dead with proper dignity is important for Catholics, and he takes it seriously in his work.

People can register for the free burial by contacting Epiphany by Nov. 12. The registration is open to any Catholic or non-Catholic with cremated remains. The staff will take any cremated remains that are more than 18 months past the deceased's funeral, a recommendation of the Catholic Cemetery Association, Father Dufner said. Mathewson has consulted other Catholic cemeteries in the United States that have offered free cremation burials.

In Church tradition, November is the month especially devoted to praying for the dead. It begins with All Saints Day Nov. 1 and All Souls Day Nov. 2. Mathewson said the day will include a 10:30 a.m. prayer service before the burial, and the remains will be buried together in a vault. The cemetery will absorb the costs of the burials.

Father Dufner and Mathewson said this first free burial day is experimental, but they hope to see it grow and other parishes adopt the practice. "We're hoping, by offering this, that we will get quite a few people that will bury their ambiguous remains, pay the proper respect for their loved ones," Mathewson said.

