

Cemetery Corner 1/31/21

The Cemetery Committee prepared this update on cemetery financial status and operating activity. COVID 19 has stressed the cemetery in many ways, as it has in other sectors of our economy.

Financially, we face continued challenges : At 12/31/2020 operating expenses exceeding operating income by \$12,300 ; also our checkbook balance is about \$20,000 but outstanding bills are about \$48,000. January revenues were very good, the budget is closely monitored and the parish has provided continued support. Investment income from prior years gifts is strong and, with approval, might be used to help resolve some of these current problems.

Operationally, there were several improvements to the cemetery in 2020. They include:

1. Installation of an electronic combination lock on mausoleum door. The cemetery manager gives the combination to family and friends wishing to visit and pray for love ones interred in the mausoleum. Funds were donated by a generous parishioner.
2. Replaced the cemetery pick-up truck. The old truck was in poor shape and repairs to pass inspection were not justifiable. We were fortunate to find a pre-owned truck in good condition., and the parish funded the purchase as it will be used for other parish needs beyond the cemetery.
3. Repairs to garage building. The exterior siding had deteriorated to the point where water was leaking into the building. Some of the siding was replaced and new gutters were installed. This was an unbudgeted expense of \$6,522.

Projects/Activities for 2021:

1. Study and plan for installation of a columbarium at Calvary cemetery. This would include site location, purchase options for a columbarium, foundation planning, and landscaping. Funding options are being considered at this time. This burial choice is more in demand than ever.
2. Obtain bids and the re-installation of the wrought iron gates at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Funding is available from a grant from Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester and a generous gift from a parishioner.
3. Further needed repairs to cemetery buildings and equipment.
4. Review the current Cemetery policy manual and bring it into compliance with Diocese of Rochester regulations.

The Cemetery Committee welcomes any comments or suggestions, and encourages anyone interested in joining this parish group. Calvary Cemetery is a crucial asset to the parish and to Ithaca.