

Dear friends with family members at rest in our cemeteries and parishioners,

Our Catholic faith urges us to profess our belief *in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come*. Our funerals reflect that belief and so should our burial sites. At the end of the funeral Mass, the priest incenses and sprinkles with holy water the coffin or the urn because the body has been a temple of the Holy Spirit and will be called to full resurrection on the last day. Finally, the body/cremains are taken to the gravesite for interment.

Catholic cemeteries provide a ministry in the church that recognizes the uniquely Christian understanding of death. They also provide us with holy ground where we can, with some regularity, go to remember our dead, recall their goodness to us, and ask God's blessing on them.

We, the cemetery committee of Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish, chaired by Fr. Jim Crookston, Pastor, oversee the care of our cemeteries and mausoleum and seek need your help. With your understanding and support, our challenging situation is one that we can face and solve.

This past year, Holy Ground gifts for over three hundred loved ones and a generous \$10,000 grant in memory of Catherine R. Held, produced \$30,500 that prevented the immediate depletion of funds for general lawn care and the operation of the cemetery office. This summer, we can begin the repair of the cemetery walls, a \$50,000 project that will take several years to complete.

For grave owners/family member:

Our records suggest that your family has members buried at either the St. John or the St. Joseph Cemetery or the St. Joseph Mausoleum. Therefore, we now invite your Holy Ground four-year gift of \$100 per grave or an annual gift of at least \$25 per grave. We realize that a family with many individual graves face a challenge providing for all graves of your familial ancestors. Please consider asking other family members to share in the Holy Ground Project and completing it over time.

We also invite your help in improving the accuracy of our cemetery records. Please return the enclosed information page even though you may not be able to make a holy ground gift at this time. We appreciate any copies of burial records for your family members interred at St John or St Joseph Cemetery or St Joseph Mausoleum. We will provide acknowledgment of your gift and periodic updates on our stewardship of the holy ground where the remains of your loved ones rest.

For parishioners without family members interred at our cemeteries:

We welcome your contributions to the Holy Ground project. If you have yet to do so, you may rename as Holy Ground Donation and use the Cemetery offering envelope dated May 26, 2019, for our cemeteries to support our holy ground project.

If you have any questions, please contact Denny Heptner, cemetery business manager, or Pat Heptner, cemetery records secretary, at 814-536-0117 or sjgcathedral@outlook.com. May God bless you for your help as we remember our deceased loved ones and adequately care for their Holy Ground.

Very Reverend James F. Crookston, Rector

Holy Ground Gift Amount: _____

Donor Information – Please print

First Name: _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address

Street: _____ Town: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phones

Home: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Gift for (grave space(s))

1. First Name: _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Dates as you can provide

Birth (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Death (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Burial (MM/DD/YEAR): _____

2. First Name: _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Dates as you can provide

Birth (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Death (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Burial (MM/DD/YEAR): _____

3. First Name: _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Dates as you can provide

Birth (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Death (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Burial (MM/DD/YEAR): _____

4. First Name: _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Dates as you can provide

Birth (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Death (MM/DD/YEAR): _____ Burial (MM/DD/YEAR): _____

Deed/Easement: Please send a copy of your document(s)

Is the Deed/Easement transferred? Y: ____ N: ____ Date of the transfer (MM/DD/YEAR): _____

Current Owner's First Name: _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address of Current Owner

Street: _____ Town: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phones of Current Owner

Home: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Please use the back of this information page or copy this form for additional names included in your Holy Ground Gift.

Likewise, please use the back of this information page or copy this form for additional deed/easement information.

Send your response to St John Gualbert Cathedral, PO Box 0807, Johnstown, PA 15907-0807.

Thank you for your participation in the Holy Ground Gift and Information Verification Project.