

**Holy Cross Cemetery  
King's Highway  
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782**

February 15, 2020 Dear friends and family of Holy Cross Parish;

Representatives of the Holy Cross Cemetery Committee and Holy Cross Finance Committee met on February 7th to discuss the financial status of our Cemetery. This discussion included a reevaluation of the fee for the plots, burial fees, and the ongoing maintenance of the Cemetery. We concluded that plots and burial fees which haven't been raised in over 10 years must increase to keep the Cemetery funds financially sound.

We acknowledge that the annual appeal letter is quite helpful and certainly appreciated in supporting the Cemetery but found more is needed to achieve our fiscal goals. To that end, to establish these new prices, a great deal of research was done, comparing our rates with several other Catholic Cemeteries in Michigan, including those within our Diocese. We found that our plot and burial costs were not in line with the others and so the rates were upgraded as noted below. **These plot and burial costs are effective immediately.**

- Single plot: \$500 for resident
- Single plot: \$800 for non-resident
- Cremation Burial: \$400 regardless of residency
- Full Burial: \$1,500 regardless of residency

The burial costs include preparation of the grave before and after burial, including a rough box for full burial, extra groundwork right after a burial such as grading, soil amendments and re-seeding.

In regard to full burials, most cemeteries on the mainland charge extra for a vault (outside the burial fee) but at Holy Cross we use a rough box and as noted, the rough box fee is included within the burial fee. It is worthwhile to note that vaults for the mainland burials are usually contracted out by the mortuary and that charge is paid by the family of the deceased. That price can run between \$700 and \$10,000. On the island, an additional cost would apply to provide, transport, and place a concrete vault.

Maintenance fees will not be charged. It is our hope that these new fees and those from the annual appeal letter can continue to help maintain the cemetery in the proper condition that best represents the desires of the friends and family of Holy Cross Parish.

Thank you for your continued support for Holy Cross Catholic Parish,

Pam O'Brien, Sexton - Holy Cross Cemetery Committee  
William McDonough, Chair - Holy Cross Finance Committee