

# St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Serving the Catholic Community  
of Evansville since 1841  
Fall—2006



## ST. JOSEPH IS YOUR CEMETERY

*Fr. Gene Schroeder  
President*

*St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery*

Time was, most Catholic Churches had their own Catholic Cemeteries. Yours still does. On Evansville's western edge is a 120-acre natural sanctuary. Its gently rolling, meticulously groomed terrain is dappled by mature shade trees. It's serenity is enhanced by the trill of songbirds. This is St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, a wonderfully peaceful place for prayer, reflection and loving memories.

St. Joseph Cemetery is hallowed ground, dedicated to perpetual remembrance. It's a testimonial to our Catholic Church's abiding respect for life, and for the continuing dignity everyone deserves in death.

Best of all, it's yours. St. Joseph is the Catholic cemetery for every member of every Catholic church in the city of Evansville. When there's a need, you can rely on the staff of St. Joseph Cemetery.

The present St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery is actually the second Catholic cemetery in Evansville. The first Catholic cemetery was established in the area of Virginia and Garvin streets (near present day St. Joseph Church) in 1841. The present St. Joseph Cemetery was established in 1871 when three Evansville city parishes, (Assumption, Holy Trinity and St. Mary) looked to the future and joined in establishing St. Joseph on the westside of Evansville. In the years since, St. Joseph Cemetery has become the final resting place for over 37,000 people.

The original members of the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery Association had great foresight in 1871 when they purchased over 120 acres of land for the cemetery. A conservative estimate gives St. Jo-

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# St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

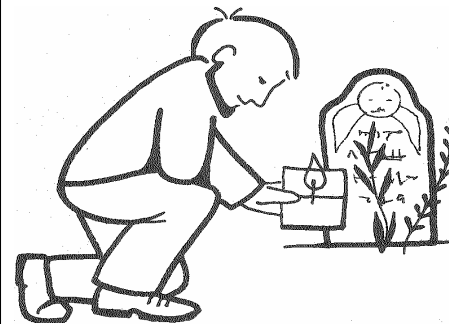
invites you to join in praying for all the faithful departed at the annual

## ALL SOULS DAY MASS

Sunday, October 29, 2006

2:00 PM

In the Mausoleum Chapel



Grant eternal rest  
to all of our loved ones,  
and may your perpetual  
light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.

### ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CEMETERY OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 am 12 noon and 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Saturday: 7:30am to 12:00 noon

The cemetery grounds are open daily

SUMMER: 6:30 am to dusk

WINTER: 6:30 am to 5:00 pm



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN PURCHASING A GRAVE

*Larry Strawn  
Superintendent  
St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery*

Can I interest you in buying a place for you to be buried? If there ever was a conversation stopper this would probably be it. After all, who wants to talk about dying and being buried? If you are like most people, you'd probably like to avoid this issue entirely or only talk about it when absolutely necessary.

Because death is not something we like to deal with, most of us are caught off guard when issues like buying burial plots come up. It's likely that there are only a few times when we have to deal directly with this. The first is when someone in our family dies. The second more likely time is when we get a solicitation phone call asking if we are interested in buying a burial plot. We are not at our best in either of these situations and because of this we don't really know what are good questions to ask.

So what are some good questions to ask when thinking about buying a burial plot in a cemetery?

- **What do I need? What can I afford?** Our financial resources are an important consideration in buying grave lots and tombstones. You can spend a lot of money, many thousands of dollars buying a burial plot and monument. Often times, especially at the death of a loved one, the feelings of grief and love can lead us to spend money that we really don't have. We can easily spend thousands of dollars for burial plots and tombstones. Spending lots of money does not indicate that we love a person more, any more than does spending less money indicate that we love a person less.

- **What is being offered to me?** It's easy to be enticed by an offer of "buy one grave spot and we'll give you the second one free." It's good to ask just what is included in this free offer. Are there extra costs for opening and closing the grave? Is there a cost for using the chapel at

## What you should know...(cont.)

the cemetery? Is there a cost for pouring the foundation for the monument? Are there extra charges for putting any plaques on the monument?

- **What about pre-paying the costs for burial plots? Will there be any additional charges when the actual burial takes place?** Most pre-payment plans cover all the costs for the grave and related burial expenses, but it is always good to make sure this is the case.

- **Can you pay for burial plots in installments?** Most cemeteries will allow for installment payments over a specific period of time. If you choose this option, you want to check out if there are any interest or finance charges for doing this. At St. Joe Cemetery, we give people the option to spread the payment for the cost of burial plots over time, with no interest rates or finance charges.

- **Are there different prices for burial plots in the cemetery?** In some cemeteries, the cost for the same kind of burial plot will vary depending upon its location in the cemetery. It's always good to ask if there are different prices for different sections of the cemetery. At St. Joe Cemetery all single and double burial plots are the same throughout the cemetery. Three, four and more grave lots are figured by the square foot and will cost the same anywhere in the cemetery.

- **Are there any costs for future upkeep of the cemetery?** Some cemeteries, especially small rural parish cemeteries have a special collection each year for cemetery upkeep. Other cemeteries may require a specific amount of money to be paid at the time you purchase a grave. This cost is often in addition to the price for the grave itself. At St. Joseph Cemetery, the cost for the perpetual care of your burial plot is included in the cost of the grave itself. A portion of the cost of the grave is set aside in a special fund to ensure the your grave plot will be taken care of long after you have departed.

Whenever you are faced with the task of purchasing a burial plot, be sure to check around. Ask questions and compare prices. Before you buy, we encourage you to come and talk with us at St. Joe Cemetery. We feel confident that we will be able to provide you with the lowest prices and best service in town.

**NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT ST. JOE CEMETERY**

Over 37,000 people are buried in St. Joe Cemetery. Each year there is an average of 300+ burials. Keeping accurate records of burials is important for any cemetery. Here at St. Joe Cemetery, we have hand written records that date back over 130 years.

In recent years, the task of record keeping has been made easier by having all the records on computer. We are one of the few local cemeteries that has all its records on computers. All of these records is a complete mapping system which not only locates where everyone is buried but can also quickly determine if there are any available grave spaces close to deceased family members or friends.

Our computerized records make it easy for us to respond to inquires from people who are doing family histories.



Our most recent addition to our mausoleum, completed in 2005, gives us the opportunity to display different religious art on special feature panels. We have chosen to use each of these panels to display an iconic rendition of the patron saint of each of the eighteen parishes that claim St. Joe as their parish cemetery.

In this first phase of our mausoleum expansion we have highlighted the oldest three parishes in the city of Evansville: Assumption Parish, founded in 1837; Holy Trinity Parish, founded in 1849; and St. Mary's Parish, founded in 1867.

The picture to the right represents Assumption Parish. It was the first Catholic Parish in Evansville and, from 1944, served as the Cathedral Church of our Diocese, until it was closed in 1965. It was located at the present Winfield K. Denton Federal Building in downtown Evansville,.



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**St. Joe Is Your Cemetery (cont.)**

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seph Cemetery enough in ground burials for 250 more years.

With the continuing trend toward above-ground entombment in crypts and niches, St. Joseph built its first mausoleum in 1977, built an addition in 1993 and most recently added another mausoleum section in 2004.

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery has a long history of faithful service to the Catholic Community of Evansville and we stand ready to continue that tradition well into the future.

**MYTHS AND REALITIES ABOUT ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY**

**MYTH:** Non Catholic family members may not be buried in St. Joe Cemetery.

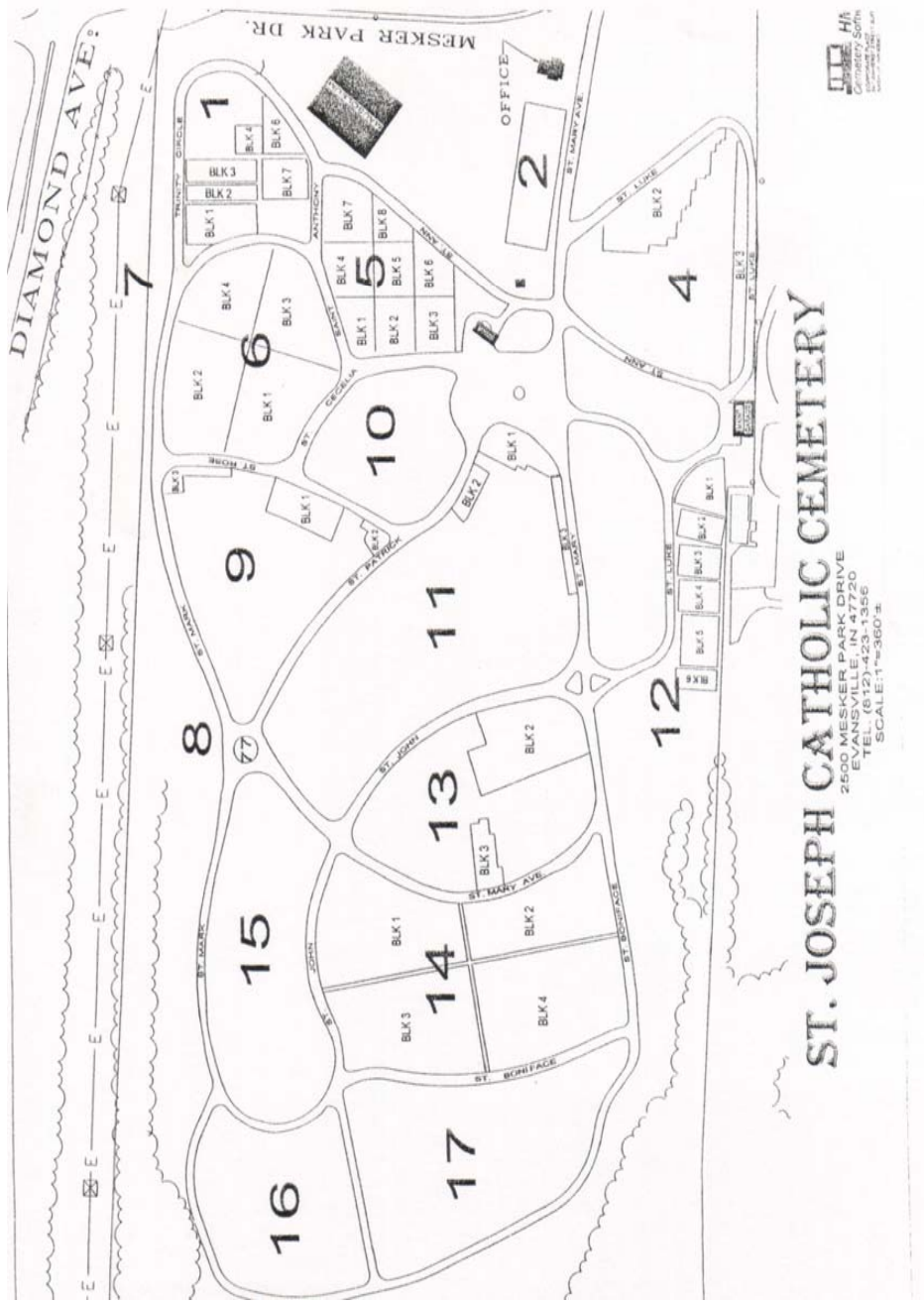
**REALITY::** Family members who may not be Catholic (e.g. spouses, children, parents, brothers and sisters or any other family member) can be buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in order to maintain family unity, even in death.

**MYTH::** The Catholic Church does not allow people to be cremated.

**REALITY:** Although it has long been the custom of the Church for people to be buried in either a mausoleum crypt or in-ground burial plot, the Catholic Church does allow people to have the remains of their loved ones to be cremated and their cremains to be buried in the cemetery. The cremains can be entombed in a mausoleum niche or in an in-ground plot.

**MYTH:** St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery will not bury anyone who does not have the financial resources to purchase a grave.

**REALITY:** St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery has never refused to bury a person because of lack of financial resources. One of the great Corporal Works of Mercy is to bury the dead. For this reason, it has been a longstanding policy of our cemetery to bury all those Catholic requesting burial even if they have no means to pay for such burial places.



## St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Serving the Catholic Community

of Evansville since 1841

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Evansville, Indiana 47720

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[www.stjoecemetery.org](http://www.stjoecemetery.org)

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