

# **ST. MATTHEW PARISH CEMETERY**

**Located on the grounds of St. Matthew Parish,  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin**

## **WELCOME!**

This cemetery is a living testimony to the long history of St. Matthew Parish. It serves as a beautiful reminder of our beloved dead and attests to our faith in the resurrection. Out of respect for those whose bodies dwell in these “sacred sleeping places” we ask that all visitors maintain an attitude of reverence while on these holy grounds.

## **Hours of Operation**

The cemetery grounds are accessible every day from dawn until dusk.

## **Cemetery Decoration Guidelines**

- The current discipline of the Catholic Church requires that all graves be dignified, permanent, and marked. A headstone may be purchased directly from a monument company or with the assistance of a funeral director. A new grave may be marked temporarily with a wooden cross no taller than 18 inches. Please consult with the St. Matthew Parish custodian before placing a cross.
- Annual and perennial floral plantings are permitted only at graves with raised headstones. Flowers should be placed in front of the headstone and within 12 inches of it. When the cemetery is cleaned during the fall all plantings will be trimmed flush to the ground.
- For safety reasons, grave markers that are flush to the ground should not be decorated with flowers planted in the ground. However, with the approval of the parish custodian, a permanent vase may be installed near the grave marker and flowers or other decorations placed within it. Vases may also be placed at graves with raised headstones.

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- American flags, singly or in standards, may be placed at any grave and should be positioned as close as possible to the grave marker or headstone.
- Wreathes, crosses or other decorations may be placed on an approved stand at least 24 inches high at any grave. A tripod provides the best stability.
- Please do not place edging, fencing, curbing, or stones on the grave plots. These may be hazardous for those walking through or cleaning the cemetery.
- Larger bushes or shrubs may only be planted with the prior approval of parish custodian.
- The cemetery maintenance staff reserves the right to correct or to remove any decoration or planting that is unsightly or overgrown, or that violates these decoration guidelines.
- The cemetery is thoroughly cleaned twice each year during April and November. At this time all artificial decorations placed during the preceding months will be removed and discarded and perennial or annual plantings will be trimmed flush to the ground. The cemetery receives additional bi-monthly cleanings during the spring, summer, and fall.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding St. Matthew Parish Cemetery, or if you would like more information about Catholic cemetery regulations, please contact the St. Matthew Parish office at (414) 762-4200 x20.