

Parish Cemetery

St. Joachim – St. John the Evangelist

Old Cemetery:

GPS: 41.500428, -73.954413

60 Falconer St.

Beacon, NY 12508

New Cemetery:

GPS: 41.500428, -73.954413

325 Washington Ave.

Beacon, NY 12508

Cemetery History



The Parish of St. Joachim - St. John the Evangelist operates the cemetery. It is a small parish cemetery with limited resources. The cemetery consists of two parts. The current cemetery is located at 325 Washington Avenue, Beacon. This cemetery was established in 1929. It covers over 20 acres and is known as the new cemetery.

The old cemetery is officially located at 60 Falconer St, but it is recognized as being at the corner of Grove Street and DePuyster Avenue, with its first burial dating back to 1866. There are no plots available for sale at the old cemetery.

The parish cemetery plays an important role in the spiritual life of our community of faith. The Catholic cemetery provides a place of refuge. It is a place of rest and hope: a source of contemplativeness and an atmosphere of solace allowing us to be secure in the knowledge that the faithful departed will find eternal joy. Christian burial is a religious act, a corporal work of mercy.

A Tomb of the Unborn was dedicated in 1996. A pavilion was built in 2011 to be used for committal services, especially in bad weather. The pavilion and the attending Memorial Wall were dedicated on Memorial Day, 2012.

Catholic cemeteries are special places, blessed by the Church to receive the mortal remains of the faithful

<http://www.interment.net/us/ny/dutchess.htm>

departed and to be a place of comfort for the living. As such they require governance that preserves their Catholic nature. Conduct in the cemetery should reflect the dignity and respectfulness that a Catholic cemetery deserves and requires.

Cemetery History Timeline

1865: Rev. James Coyle purchased the first land (about 4 acres from James and Mary Jones) for St. Joachim's Cemetery. Fr. Coyle was the first resident pastor of St. Joachim's Church.

1866: The first recorded burial was that of Ignatius Cooley, age 32, Feb. 16, 1866.

Between 1884 and 1890, Rev. Michael McSwiggan, pastor, purchased additional ground for the cemetery from Henry and Julia Wolcott.

1886: Sr. Mary Alpheus Coffey, S.C. was buried near the priests' lot in the cemetery, the only Sister of Charity buried in the "old" cemetery.

1886: The remains of Rev. Peter McCourt, fourth pastor were transferred to the cemetery. He had originally been buried in the churchyard in 1876.

1925: The cemetery was enlarged and an iron fence installed on three sides under Rev. Thomas B. Dougherty.

1928: Fr. Dougherty, with his own money, purchased about 13 acres of land from the Ursulines on the northeast edge of the city for the new cemetery and donated the land to the church.

1931: First burial in new cemetery, Anton (Izzo), Elizabeth, age 28, Jan. 16, 1931

1934: Fr. Dougherty was buried in the priests' plot in the "old" cemetery having died suddenly of a heart attack while sitting down to dinner on Sunday, September 9.

Between 1964 and 1982, Rev. (later Monsignor) Richard Luedke designed the "new" cemetery and had the garage and office built on the property.

1979: A new section of 120 plots for veterans was opened in the cemetery (on the left hand side as you enter the cemetery). There are also two separate plots reserved for veterans near the top of the hill in the cemetery.

1981: Msgr. Richard Luedke purchased about 7 acres of land from the Ursulines for the cemetery.

1996: A Tomb to the Unborn was dedicated in the "new" cemetery.

1997: Began clearing a new area in the new cemetery for future use, made improvements to the children's section and created a drainage pond.

2003: First burials in the newly opened part of the cemetery.

2007: New Cemetery Board formed.

Priests Buried in the Cemetery:

Rev. Peter McCourt, 1876, transferred to priests plot (5-AA-7) in old cemetery 1886.

Rev. Michael J. McSwiggan, priests plot (5-AA-10), old cemetery, 1890.

Rev. Michael V. Aylward, priests plot (5-AA-3), old cemetery, 1921.

Rev. Thomas B. Dougherty, priests plot (5-A-6), old cemetery, 1934.

Rev. Julius A. Staniewicz, priests plot (5-A-1), old cemetery, 1987.

Rev. James S. Prendergast, priests plot (5-AA-1), old cemetery, 1936.

Rev. Charles D. Breslin, priests plot (5-AA-5), old cemetery, 1941.

Rev. Thomas J. Lennox, C.S.C. family plot (1-K-33(34)), old cemetery 1907.

Rev. Edward F. Somers family plot (1-M-50(48)), old cemetery, 1916.

Rev. John A. Maloney, family plot (3-A-45), old cemetery, 1946.

Rev. Martin F. Dooley, family plot (2-T-51), old cemetery, 1944.

Rev. Francis X. Dooley, family plot (2-U-52), old cemetery, 1961.

Rev. Cornelius J. Murphy, Sullivan family plot (4-E-3), old cemetery, 1964.

Rev. Donald Poulin, priests plot (E-2-17), new cemetery 1996.

Rev. Donald Licata, priests plot (E-2-18), new cemetery, 2006.

Religious Sisters Buried in the Cemetery:

Sr. Mary Alpheus Coffey, S.C., old cemetery (3-C-45), 1886.

Sr. Maria Elena McMahan, S.C., new cemetery (H-4-1), 1968.

Sr. Marie Joseph Ernestine Seymat, O.S.U., new cemetery (X-4-1), 1941.

Sr. Mary Josephine Nesser, O.C.D., new cemetery (EE-10-6), 2009

Sr. Romaine Welch, O.C.D., new cemetery (EE-10-7), 2010

Sr. Therese Mary Murray, new cemetery OCD (2012)

Sr. Mercedes (Mercy) Laporno, new cemetery OCD (2015)

Sr. Rita Donohue, new cemetery OCD (2018)

Notables buried in the parish cemetery:

Melio Bettina, world light heavyweight boxing champion, 1996, new cemetery, P-1-7.

Henry L.A. Forrestal, successful businessman (builder of St. Joachim's School), 1996, old cemetery, 1-M-5.

J. Gordon Flannery, New York State Supreme Court Judge, 1955, old cemetery, 2-N-28.

Mathias Toohey, prior owner of the property on which St. Joachim's Church now stands, 1930, old cemetery, 4-A-12. Successful businessman, owner of one of the area's brickworks.