

St. Joseph Cemetery



St. Joseph Cemetery is available to all of the Christian Faithful, whether they are active members of a parish, the inactive or alienated, non-Catholic family members, or others who may have special reasons for burial at St. Joseph. We minister equally to the poor who should be treated in death, as in life, with dignity.

In 1992, St Joseph Cemetery became part of Catholic Cemeteries of Spokane. This historic change came at a fortunate time for the St Joseph Parish. The church building had long since become too small and with the proceeds from the sale of the property a new church was built to the east. With the purchase of additional land to the west, the cemetery property now encompasses approximately 50 acres, providing available space for future generations.

The original St Joseph Church was completed in 1892 with a total cost of \$1650. The Church served the needs of the parish well, but a fire left by a careless camper burned the church down in 1928. The current church building was erected in 1929. When completely finished it cost \$16,500. The first Requiem Mass in the church was for James McLaughlin who had donated the acre of land on which the church was built. He is interred at St Joseph Cemetery. You can find him buried very close to the Southeast corner of the church.



In the 1950's, Henry Arbes, a retired painter who had worked at the Naval Supply Depot began work on a shrine on the hill behind the cemetery grounds. The shrine was dedicated in May of 1956, with the Rev Ronald Schenk officiating. Henry devoted himself to the building of the shrine until his death in September of 1961. During the years of his work he created the pathway, the altars, the stone cross and the 14 Stations of the Cross. He started the work inspired by faith and created what we see today letting the shape of the rock guide his hands. It is a result of immense dedication and is a Spokane Valley Landmark today. It makes St Joseph Cemetery unique.

Catholic Cemeteries of Spokane

[Holy Cross Cemetery](#) † [Queen of Peace Cemetery](#) † [St. Joseph Cemetery](#)

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