



The Shell

An e-letter for

Saint James the Greater Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Shell, is a periodic email newsletter for the parishioners and friends of Saint James Church. This does not replace the Sunday bulletin or Parish Life. It's an opportunity for brief updates and news. A symbol for our patron saint is a shell and that gives the name to our e-letter.

Remember Our Ancestors

One cannot come to Saint James Church without noticing our cemetery. It has been here since the founding of the parish in 1843. For generations we have buried loved ones here so that the parishioners and the whole community do not forget those who have gone before us.

There is a section of the cemetery where it looks like nobody is buried there. It's right outside the school cafeteria, behind the Credit Union building. When I came to Saint James in 2002, the school principal had plans to install a building on this open piece of land in the cemetery. He had bought a modular unit with classrooms. This plan had not been approved by anybody, especially the cemetery board who asked me to intervene and stop it.

We had the area x-rayed to see if any remains were there. I wasn't surprised when the company came back and showed us images of the 19th century coffins and coffin pieces throughout the plot. Yes, there were many people buried there. Even though there are no records of who is buried there, it isn't empty space. Nobody can recall any grave markers ever being in that area, so it is strange that the area is full but without any records who is buried there.

With the endorsement of our current cemetery board, we are going to honor all those people who are buried in the area. We will be installing a monument to the unnamed people buried there during the last week of October. Even if people forget that we had the study done in 2002, there won't be another mistake about whether someone is buried there or not. (We had a very generous, anonymous donor pay for the monument.)

On Sunday, November 2, All Souls' Day, we will dedicate this new monument. Following the Noon Mass everyone is invited to process to the cemetery where the monument will be blessed and these founders of White Oak will be remembered. It will be a short ceremony but one that is significant for our parish. I hope that many parishioners will come to honor our heritage and the lives of the people who are in these unmarked graves.

Mark your calendar now: Sunday, November 2, following the Noon Mass.

A Blog

I hope that you have continued to keep up with Nic Kovatch's blog which is part of our adult faith formation effort. Check it out at <http://whystoriesmatter.blogspot.com/>.

Fr. Nolker