

Core Values that Guide the Saint Mary's Garden

- Those who originally envisioned an extensive garden for the parish took as their model those garden areas which attend English country churches. This style, with its emphasis upon simplicity, quietness, running streams, a variety of plantings, and graceful sweeping lawns, is our general model. In addition a close examination reveals a hint of the Latin influence with the introduction at several places of small shrines and statuary, arguably the product of Father Nicholson's travels in Italy. We are committed to maintaining the garden as closely as is possible to this general vision, a vision which we have received from previous generations, particularly as it is embodied in the creativity and genius of The Reverend Robert Woods Nicholson.
- Ours is an age where our responsibility to care and sacrifice for the environment is as significant as in any other time in human history. We therefore are committed to making the garden of our parish church an effective and radiant icon of environmental stewardship.
- Because gardens hold enormous potential as places of contemplative activity, we commit to maintaining various "*rooms*" or segregated spaces for such activity.
- Because our garden is a gift from God, we commit to the principle that it should be a shared space for all members of our Barnstable community and the greater world.
- Because what it looks like reflects a measure of how we feel about our God Creator, we commit to maintaining the garden to the highest possible standards available to us.
- Because so many in times past have given themselves to the well being of our parish family, we give thanks for their lives by in providing and maintaining a dignified area for the earthly remains of those who have gone before us.

Conclusion

We rejoice that God has entrusted to us such a remarkable demonstration of God's presence in our midst, The Garden of Saint Mary's Church. May all our efforts to care for this sacred space be but a reflection of our gratitude to the God who has bestowed upon us and every generation all that we have, all that we are.

Policy Relating to Memorial Gifts and Designations

The Garden Committee will maintain a listing of appropriate and needed gifts offered to the enhancement of the Garden area. Specifically, such a listing will be regularly reviewed by the Committee and any additions will require the consent of a majority of the Committee. (By way of example, such a listing could include such things as a sprinkler system for the Memorial Garden, trees with designated locations, gifts to the Garden endowment accounts, benches with appropriate locations, restoration projects, lighting, daffodils, large plantings of shrubs, etc.)

All memorial gifts are to be recorded in the Parish Memorial Book as maintained and displayed at the entrance to the Sanctuary. While final authority for all gifts to the gardens (and to the church) lies with the rector and the vestry, the Garden Committee will be consulted regarding the appropriateness of any marker, object, or gift relative to the garden's core values, space issues, environmental, and or aesthetic concerns. The Garden Committee through its meeting minutes shall advise the vestry regularly of its meetings and activities.