



OUR LADY of SORROWS

Welcome to our newest section! It is taking shape beautifully, and we've already had a couple of burials here. The cross can be seen from halfway across the new cemetery and is provoking a lot of interest. Father Bertrand Poussard was inspired with the name for the section: "Our Lady of Sorrows" is one of the titles given to Mary the mother of Jesus. Her "7 Sorrows", along with her "7 Joys", are honored in rosary devotions, songs and art.

We were pleased to receive the gift of these statues in 2009 from the former facility of the Oblate Fathers in Augusta. Superintendent Dick Nee spent a lot of time cleaning and repainting. Then he had to figure out how to install the figures – especially the cross, which had been cut off at ground level when it was removed from the St. Paul Center – so they would be secure. After a lot of thought, and discussions with various people, he decided to have a metal sleeve made that was just larger than the cross. That sleeve was inserted in the ground, and cement was poured around it. Then the cross was lifted – with help from Swan's Wilbert Vault Company – into the sleeve. In the spring of 2010, the cross and the statues of the three Marys were placed, and field supervisor Curt Magnuson built the low wall around the feature.

The landscaping of the section is an ongoing project. The weeping cherries that came from Broadway Gardens are especially appropriate. Bloom for these, as for all flowering plants, is weather dependent, but in good years they bloom in early spring with a stunning double pink flower.

The area immediately surrounding the statues is the cremation garden. The rest of the lots in the section are casket burial lots; see reverse for details.

"Our Lady of Sorrows", or "Mater Dolorosa", actually dates back to the 1200s. As early as 1221, the first altar to the Mater Dolorosa was set up at the monastery of Schönau. Then in 1233, seven young men in Tuscany founded the Servite Order (Servants of Mary), and in 1238 they took up the sorrows of Mary as the principal devotion of their order. Our Lady of Sorrows has its own feast day, originally granted to the Servite Order in 1667. In 1667 Pope Pius X moved the feast day to September 15th – the day after the Feast of the Cross.

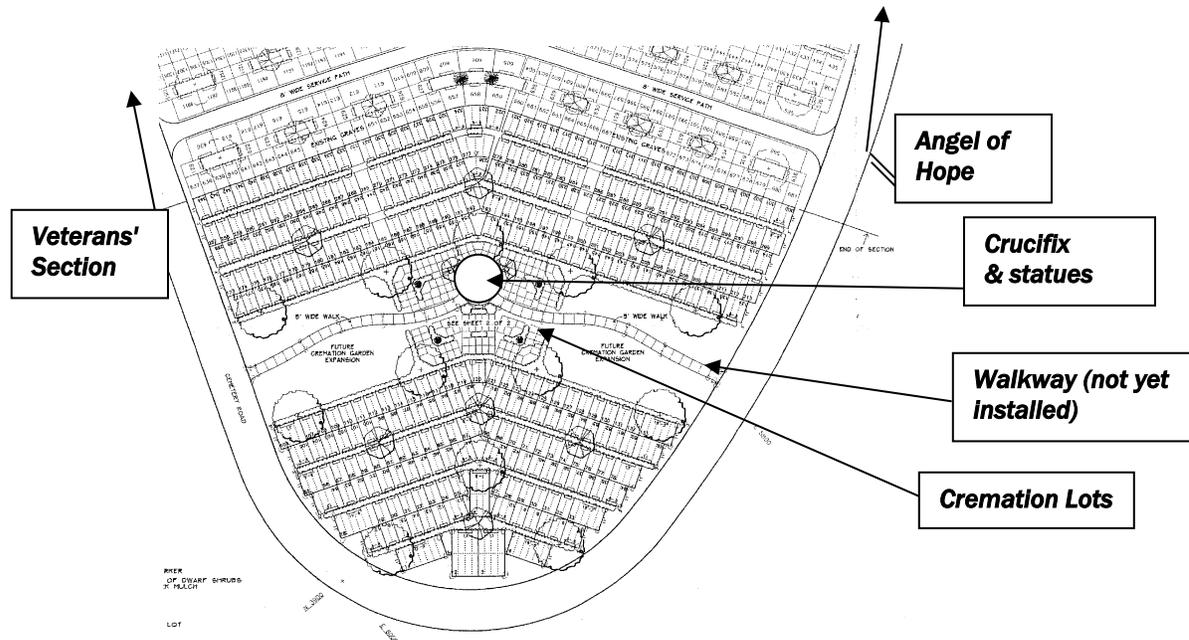
Four of the 7 Sorrows of Mary relate to the time of Jesus' death:

- when she meets him carrying the cross
- the crucifixion & death of Jesus
- when she receives his body from the cross
- when she places his body in the tomb.

What is more natural than that Our Lady's friends would accompany her in her time of grief? The "3 Marys" at the crucifixion, whose statues grace this section, are sometimes taken to be Mary the mother of Jesus together with her friends: Mary Salome (the wife of Zebedee, and the mother of John the Apostle and St. James the Greater) and Mary Jacobe (the wife of Cleofas, and the mother of St. James the Less; also possibly Jesus' aunt). St. John 19:25 removes Mary Salome and adds Mary Magdalene. Other accounts suggest that one of the Marys must have been Mary of Bethany, who was the sister of Lazarus and of Martha, and who washed Jesus' feet with her hair. Our statues might be any combination of these, or perhaps another we don't know about. They represent both the horror of friends at the death of a loved one, and the compassion and solidarity of these same friends in sharing their grief. Each of these women was in her own way dedicated to Jesus and would have been devastated at the turn of events in Jerusalem. Nothing is more natural than for any or all of them to have been present at Golgotha, praying for Jesus even as they watched him die. Surely they also prayed for comfort for his mother, and perhaps even for themselves.

Dear Lord,

Please help me in this time of loss and overwhelming grief. My heart is crushed, but I know that you will not abandon me forever. Please show me your compassion, Lord. Amen



Cremation lots include the right to bury 2 cremations.

Outside the cremation garden, each space may be used for one casket or two cremations, just as in other parts of the cemetery.

As of late 2018, you also have the option to pay for burial fees themselves in advance - call & ask us for more information at 207-773-5796.

As always, you may pay in full or make payments as you prefer.