

# **ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY**

**St. Patrick's Parish  
McEwen, Tennessee**

## **POLICIES AND BY-LAWS FOR THE OLD SECTION, ST. PATRICK CEMETERY**

Approved by St. Patrick Parish Council, October 3, 2023

The Old Section of the St. Patrick Cemetery consists of the cemetery lying between Wilkie Road and the cemetery road and north of the cemetery access road.



Burials in the Old Section date to 1857 with some accounts of burials between 1854 and 1857. Many areas in the Old Section were maintained by the individual families in the Parish with the families laying out plots, marking graves, and being responsible for burials. Inventories conducted in the 1950's and 1960's compared the Parish Death Records with tombstones and identified more than 200 burials with no tombstones.

The following are the policies and by-laws specific to the Old Section of the St. Patrick Cemetery.

- Grave layout, spacing, and burial were the responsibility of the individual families managing their family plots.
- St. Patrick Church was not responsible for grave location and spacing and has no responsibility nor liability in the event of incorrect grave location or inadequate spacing between graves.
- No new burials in family plots without an existing and valid Right of Sepulture for St. Patrick Cemetery.
- In the event of an existing Right of Sepulture in a family plot, St. Patrick will work with funeral home to determine if there is adequate space for burial and if not, will work with the family for resolution including cremation burial or a replacement plot in the New Section.
- St. Patrick Cemetery will not relocate any existing burial in the Old Section to create space for a new burial, even if the new burial has an existing Right of Sepulture.
- No Rights of Sepulture for new plots in the Old Section will be sold unless unanimously approved by the Cemetery Committee and the Pastor. Even if the plots are considered “Open” with no existing burials, the family will be responsible for any additional costs in the event an unknown burial is encountered.