

Holy Rosary Parish's Rosary Garden is Restored to Former Glory

Matthew Santi, Holy Rosary School graduate (1999), planned and built the original Rosary Garden as his Boy Scouts Eagle Project as a member of Troop 312. It was a special tribute to the school's namesake and provided the faithful a special place to meditate in prayer outside.

Over the years, it had been lovingly attended by various parishioners. In recent years however, it was neglected, allowing weeds, broken stepping stones, and a missing cross to detract from its former beauty. Many current students did not even realize that a rosary existed there along the south wall of the gymnasium building beneath the overgrowth! This situation provided a perfect service project.

On a crisp fall day in 2014, Mrs. Santucci's sixth grade class donned gloves and boots, and armed with various gardening implements, set to the task of cleaning up the Rosary Garden. Students dug up grass and weeds and hauled the debris to the yard compost dumpster. Some of the decorative plants, trimmed back to a manageable size, remained to offer both admirers and bees some colorful flowers. The old "beads" were set aside to be reused later as the rosary was re-created.

During the winter, the class made plans to restore the rosary. First, many students offered up monetary donations along with generous support from the Holy Rosary Women's Association to purchase new round stepping stones with which to create the "Hail Mary" decade beads. The square "Our Father" beads came from the first Rosary Garden. Then in late March, 2015, the students returned to complete the job. Matthew Santi's homemade concrete stepping stones were repurposed as edging along the east border of the garden, keeping the grass from encroaching upon the new layer of mulch. For the finishing touches, Mrs. Santucci's husband, John, built a beautiful new cross, and it slid perfectly into the existing slot from the original one, and Mrs. Santucci provided some Easter lilies now planted at its base which will return each spring anew!

Many hands made light work, and the end result is fantastic. Students reflected on this as a very rewarding experience, and they enjoyed working together outside. Parishioners are welcome to come and walk along its path to pray the rosary anytime!



"In the Beginning..."



"The Finished Project"