

**Please contact
the parish office; 701-748-2121
with any questions or concerns.**



**St. Martin Church
Cemetery Guidelines
Hazen, ND**

Effective: December 11, 2018
Revised: December 11, 2018

A cemetery is a sacred place. In it, lie the bodies of Christians, men and women who were baptized into Christ, bodies that were temples of the Holy Spirit and that now await resurrection. Therefore, we honor the bodies of those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and we revere the earth that has received them. We wish our parish cemetery to be a testimony to the love we bear our departed relatives and friends and to the hope we have in their resurrection in Christ. Therefore, the following regulations have been established in the hope that their observance will serve to accord to St. Joseph Cemetery the dignity that is proper to the place of Christian burial.

General Regulations

1. St. Martin Cemetery of Hazen, North Dakota is owned by St. Martin, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the Laws of the State of North Dakota. The cemetery operates in accordance with the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, the statutes of the Diocese of Bismarck, and the laws of the State of North Dakota. It reserves the right to refuse admission and/or burial in the cemetery, if deemed harmful, scandalous, or contrary to the Catholic faith.
2. The purchase of a grave site signifies transfer of *burial rights*. It does not convey title of land, which belongs to St. Martin's and the Diocese of Bismarck.
3. The parish intends to maintain the cemetery as a decent and attractive site. The costs that are levied are intended to defray the expense of caring for the cemetery.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Board and/or the Finance Council of St. Martin's to determine the cost of grave sites.

5. St. Martin's reserves the right to adopt additional rules and regulations and to amend, alter, or repeal such rules and regulation at any time, and without notice.
6. Rules formerly adopted which are contrary to these rules and regulations are hereby repealed and shall be declared to be no longer effective, having been replaced with the most current rules and regulations.
7. St. Martin Church office shall act as the cemetery secretary and shall keep a local register of all burials in the cemetery.
8. St. Martin's shall take every reasonable precaution to protect the property, including memorials of lot owners within the cemetery, but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage, whether direct or collateral, from natural wear and tear, the acts of thieves, vandals, rioters or malicious mischief makers; from all acts of providence including but not limited to winds, tornadoes, cyclones, hail, snow, frost, fire, explosion or lightning; and from all causes beyond the parish's reasonable control.
9. St. Martin's is not responsible for hiring or retaining a person or company to open any grave for interment, disinterment, or relocation of a grave. St. Martin's disclaims all responsibility for damage caused during the opening of any grave. Any person or company retained to open graves at St. Martin Cemetery shall comply with all regulations and rules relating to excavation on cemetery property.
10. St. Martin's shall not provide for the care of the memorial headstone. It shall, however, keep the grass cut and maintained.

Cemetery Guidelines

1. Sale of lots must remain in continuity whenever and wherever possible.

2. Two traditional full body vaults or three urns, or a combination thereof, approved by St. Martin's, per lot, are allowed.
3. Vaults are required for traditional casket burials. They must be made of material other than wood that will remain in their original condition for many years. Urn vaults are not required.
4. Without the express permission of the Diocesan Bishop, non-Catholics may not be buried in a Catholic cemetery, unless they are members of a Catholic family or the non-Catholic spouse in a mixed marriage (Synod Manual, Ch. 3, Sec. 181, Par. 1).
5. Separate burial of pets in the St. Martin Cemetery is prohibited.
6. The rules for memorials are as follows:
 - A. One upright memorial is allowed per grave site. One family memorial, centered between the two graves, is allowed on any two grave sites (e.g., husband and wife). Additional burials in the same grave need to be designated by a flat stone placed on the main body of the grave.
 - B. Each grave must be marked by a temporary memorial and replaced with a permanent memorial within 24 months of burial. Memorials are to be placed 3" from the grave opening. For multiple burials in one grave, (e.g., two traditional and three cremains) one memorial at the head of the grave and one flat stone memorial for each of the cremains (for a maximum of four memorials per grave) will be allowed.
 - C. Permanent memorials must be composed of granite, marble, or bronze.

D. Flat Headstone:

- 1) Single Flat Headstone: 8" x 16" minimum to 12" x 40" maximum slab of granite or marble, not less than 3" thick with a 5" border of frosted granite or concrete, with overall dimensions of the memorial and base not to exceed 22" x 50".
- 2) Double Flat Headstone: 12" x 24" minimum to 12" x 48" maximum slab of granite or marble with a minimum 5" border of frosted granite or concrete, not less than 4" thick, with overall dimensions of headstone and base not to exceed 22" x 58".

E. Upright headstone:

- 1) Single Upright Headstone: 8" x 16" minimum to 12" x 40" maximum slab of granite or marble, not less than 3" thick with a 5" border of frosted granite or concrete, with overall dimensions of the memorial and base not to exceed 22" x 50" and height not to exceed 48".
- 2) Double Upright Headstone: 12" x 24" minimum to 12" x 48" maximum slab of granite or marble with a minimum 5" border of frosted granite or concrete, not less than 4" thick, with overall dimensions of headstone and base not to exceed 22" x 58" and height not to exceed 48".

- F. Commemorative items: Items that are attached to or placed above the headstone in a manner that allows for unobstructed mowing and trimming are allowed, (e.g., built in flower vases on the headstone). No benches are allowed unless an integral part of the monument.

Care of Lots

1. The "general care" of the cemetery is provided by St. Martin's or other contractors. General care shall be construed to mean the

cutting of grass at reasonable intervals, the cleaning of the grounds, the pruning of shrubs and trees, and the general preservation of the grounds and property.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. These items **must be removed within 14 days after the holiday**. All unremoved items will be disposed of after that time, per previously stated policy.

- A. The general care assumed by St. Martin's shall in no way include the care or cleaning of any monuments or the replacement of any monument foundations or markers placed on the lot by the holder of the burial rights.
 - B. General care creates no obligation for the replacement of soil on individual lots, nor for the reseeding, sodding, watering, or other care of the grass, except for the cutting at regular intervals.
 - C. All family members and acquaintances are encouraged to periodically inspect the graves of relatives and friends, clean them, and work to enhance the appearance of the cemetery.
 - D. St. Martin's or its contractors may remove all floral designs, plants, or foliage of any kind, and may also remove any decorations not otherwise allowed, without notice, as soon as such items become unsightly, interfere with maintenance activities, or become detrimental or diseased. St. Martin's has no responsibility to return to its owners any items that are removed.
2. The placing of wooden flower boxes, wooden frame or cement borders, fences, edging, hedges, trees, shrubs, annual or perennial plants, shelves, toys, ornaments, chairs, and any similar items will not be allowed on or around the grave area.
 3. Floral, religious, or patriotic items may be placed on the graves no earlier than *seven days* prior to the following holidays: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day,