



Church of Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada

Cemetery Rules & Regulations

These Cemetery Rules and Regulations have been prepared to acquaint people with matters of policy pertaining to burial in the Cemetery of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada.

Death is often unexpected. Making arrangements for your burial in advance of need has several advantages. First, decisions are made at a time when there is little or no stress upon the family. Second, the decision for a suitable burial place is made when due consideration can be given to this important decision.

A cordial invitation is extended to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with our cemetery and its operations.

The rules and regulations governing Saint John's Cemetery are necessary to maintain peace and order within the cemetery and to preserve and enhance the beauty of the grounds. All families have special, individual grieving needs. The cemetery is considered community space and consideration for our neighbors is expected. Respect for all and safety and maintenance are our main considerations for establishing these cemetery policies.

Overview

Saint John Cemetery is owned by the religious corporation of the Church of the Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada. It is operated in accordance with and is subject to the Statutes of the State of Minnesota now or hereafter existing to govern cemeteries.

The purchaser of interment rights acquires no real property. The only right which an owner acquires with the purchase of a niche within a columbarium or an in-ground grave site is the right to interment.

Each right to inter certificate will reference and incorporate the rules and regulations covered herein and shall bind the parties to them in their totality.

The parties to these agreements acknowledge that additions and/or amendments to these rules may be deemed necessary by the Church of the Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada and agree to adhere to any such additions or amendments.

For questions specific to purchase and ownership, please refer to our Burial Right Purchase and Ownership Policy.

Visiting the Cemetery

Cemetery property is sacred ground, not unlike an outdoor church. The following will apply:

- No solicitation of any kind, signs, notices or advertising will be permitted.
- Domestic animals are not allowed.
- The use of alcohol or smoking is prohibited.
- No firearms shall be allowed on parish property, except when military honors are provided for a Veteran.
- The Church of the Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada is not responsible for the safety or protection of visitors to Saint John Cemetery.

Decorations

Cemetery decorations will be dignified and reflective of our Catholic faith and the promise of the resurrections. In many cases, decorations that are not appropriate in church are not appropriate in the cemetery. The only permanent memorial items allowed on any gravesite will be a flat, surface level marker and/or a monument (see memorials/marker).

Flowers placed at the time of interment will be left a maximum of three days. It is suggested that potted plants from funerals not be left in the cemetery since they will later be discarded. Saint John Cemetery cannot accept responsibility for ensuring that flowers and other decorations remain in place.

Church of Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada – Cemetery Rules & Regulations

The primary permitted decorative item is a single-legged plant stand, placed in line with the monument. Exact placement of the stand is dependent upon several factors of ownership and location and will be directed by the cemetery management.

- Effective July 1, 2016, all new plant stands, and those needing replacement must be purchased through and installed by the cemetery staff. Please contact our Cemetery Caretaker at 651-407-0532 for more information.

From April 1 to November 1, live plants are encouraged in the plant stand. Artificial flowers in a plant stand must look fresh and authentic.

Artificial flowers, patriotic flags, and other decorations are during the days immediately before and after Memorial Day. Memorial Day decorations will be removed within two weeks.

Spring clean-up begins about March 15th, weather permitting. All winter decorations, non-permitted and unsightly decorations are removed at this time.

Fall clean-up begins about October 15th, weather permitting and all non-permitted or unsightly decorations are removed at this time.

During the growing season cemetery personnel will remove unsightly decorations from graves. Any decorations that are in the way of lawn maintenance equipment during the mowing season of April through October will be removed in order to carry out the normal lawn care and maintenance procedures.

The following items are not permitted at any time in any location in the cemetery:

- shepherd's hooks,
- other structures for hanging plants (including heart-shaped),
- fencing,
- statues (see circumstance exception for Christian religious statues below),
- patriotic flags (except for Memorial Day exception when small flags are permitted in the single-legged plant stand),
- garden flags,
- flames,
- landscape rocks,
- wind chimes,
- birdhouses,
- bird baths,
- balloons,
- solar lights
- and personal items

For safety reasons, glass and ceramic items are not allowed at any burial site at any time.

Christian religious statues may be allowed on sites with monuments providing there is sufficient room for it to be placed on the monument foundation and completely out of the way of the maintenance workers. It is recommended that statues be removed during the winter months. Management is not responsible for lost or broken items placed on the monuments.

Cemetery management reserves the right to remove without notification all decorations deemed unsafe, inappropriate, have become weathered and unsightly, or are strictly prohibited.

It is not possible for cemetery workers to attend to all areas of the cemetery during normal cemetery hours. As a consequence, there are occasions when flowers and decoration have been stolen. The cemetery cannot assume any liability for decorations placed on burial sites.

Landscaping

Landscaping is planned for the cemetery as a whole rather than by individual lot owners. Permanent plantings and in-ground annual plantings are not permitted in the cemetery. Written permission from the Cemetery Manager must be obtained for all in-ground planting which may be permitted only when burial rites are owned in an entire block of graves by the same owner/family.

Questions regarding the cemetery landscape or decoration rules can be addressed to the Cemetery Manager at 651-484-2708.

Memorials

No monument or marker will be placed without the permission of the current owner/remainder interest/life estate.

Monuments and markers are the property of the current owner/remainder, and as such the current owner/remainder is responsible for their upkeep. Saint John Cemetery is unable to provide insurance and is not responsible for its upkeep or restoration under any circumstance.

Markers shall be placed at the foot of the grave; monuments shall be placed at the head of the grave; and all inscriptions shall read from the foot of the grave. Exceptions may be granted only by written permission of the cemetery management.

All markers set level with the ground must be not less than four (4) inches or more than six (6) inches of thickness, with a level or sawed bottom. All lettering or carving on markers must be sunk or incised. The use of raised letters in sunken panels or incised letters with a raised border will be at the lot owner's risk and the cemetery management expressly disclaims any responsibility for damage they may sustain.

Cemetery management shall complete all footstone installations and concrete work. No work will be completed unless pre-paid.

No objects or structures of any kind shall be placed in the cemetery except memorials approved by cemetery management and ordered with proper authorization by the current owner or person with remainder interest.

Only memorials constructed of natural stone shall be placed in the cemetery.

Monuments are aligned according to a cemetery master plan. Location and number of lots purchased affect the size and type of monument permitted. Contact cemetery management for specific restrictions pertaining to your lots. Monuments shall be set on the space designated by cemetery management. Due to its age and the layout of certain sections, the cemetery has burial lots with special circumstances and placing of monuments. In those situations, written approval from cemetery management must be obtained before any new monuments will be allowed. Size limitations in those blocks will be determined on an individual basis by cemetery management.

Some lots in these blocks will be designated as flat marker only lots because of varying circumstances. Such lots will always be designate as such on the sales slip filled out at the time of purchase.

Size restrictions for monuments/markers on in-ground burials are as follows:

- Dimensions stated are the maximum allowed for the first marker on any gravesite.
- A second marker, if allowed, can be no larger than 24" x 12"

Monument length x depth x height width x depth

- Single grave: maximum dimensions
 - Monument – 24" x 12" x 16" slant with no base
 - Marker – 36" x 14"
- Two adjacent graves:
 - Monument – 36" x 16" x 48" with die width not exceeding 32"
 - Marker – 42" x 14"

- Three adjacent graves:
 - Monument – 42” x 16” x 54” with a die width not exceeding 38”
 - Marker – 42” x 14”
- Four or more adjacent graves:
 - Monument – 60” x 20” x 60” with a die width not exceeding 38”
 - Marker – 42” x 14”
- Two or more graves purchased on each side:
 - Monument – 66” x 18” x 60” with a die width not exceeding 60”
- The minimum height of a monument is 16 inches.

Epitaphs and symbols on memorials should be compatible with our Catholic faith. Cemetery management requires pre-approval of engraving on memorials.

No memorials may be delivered or installed between November 1 and April 15 without permission from the cemetery management.

Cemetery management shall determine the style and size of engraving for all inscriptions on the columbarium niche fronts. Engraving will be done through a vendor supplied by the cemetery management. Generally, the inscriptions will include the deceased full name and dates of birth and death.

Operations/Policies

The cemetery grounds are generally open seven days a week during daylight hours for the convenience of individuals and families wishing to visit.

All burial services should begin no later than 2:30 PM Monday through Friday. Burial services after 2:30 PM and on Saturdays may be available upon special request but an after-hours fee will apply.

All cemetery fees (this includes the cost of the grave or niche and the opening and closing of the grave) shall be paid at or before the time of the funeral/burial.

Cemetery management reserves the right to stop all work of any nature, including burials, whenever in its opinion such work is hazardous, unauthorized, or not in accordance with these Rules & Regulations.

A Perpetual Care Fund will assure the on-going needs of the cemetery. Funded through the sale of niches and in-ground graves, this fund is treated like an endowment fund from which only earnings may be spent to ensure that the cemetery shall remain cared for forever.

For any other question or concern, please contact cemetery management.