

St Louis Catholic Cemetery

The St Louis Catholic Cemetery is a sacred place worthy of being maintained with honor and dignity, today and in the future. The members of the St Louis Cemetery Committee have set forth rules and regulations for its operations. They are subject to change without notice. All lessees having grave space in the cemetery are required to abide by these and any future rules or regulations that may be adopted.

Definition of Terms

- A burial plot, known as a grave, is defined as an area of ground intended for the burial of one individual.
- Cremains is the term used for the cremated remains of a human person.
- Spouses are defined as a man and women united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- St Louis Cemetery is properly consecrated as a sacred place in accordance with Canon Law 1210, which provides “only those things that serve the exercise or promotion of worship, piety, and religion are to be admitted into a sacred place; anything that is not in accord with the holiness of the place is forbidden”.
- A registered parish member is (1) on the Parish Roster and (2) also contributes financially and gives service to the Parish. A non-registered person is someone who does not meet the two mentioned criteria.

General Rules

- A full body burial requires the use of a vault.
- The burial of cremains requires a vault. Scattering of cremains is prohibited on cemetery property.
- Cremains placed in the Columbarium do not require a vault.
- Before the initiation of any burial plot preparation, or setting of a headstone, the parish office must be contacted so the Cemetery Sexton can mark the proper placement.
- The cemetery board, with approval from the Pastor, reserves the right to add or change regulations.

Plot Rules

- Burial plot cost can be obtained from Parish Office.
- Grave space for St Louis Cemetery is leased through the Parish Office. The lease is a contract for right of burial only. It is not a transfer of real estate or a title to real estate.
- Maximum of two (2) grave spaces are allowed for lease on a pre-burial need.
- The right to burial in each plot belongs to the individual who purchased them. They may be transferred to immediate heirs or descendants, with written notice given to the parish office, but they may not be resold. All sales take place through the Parish Office.
- Burial plots can be donated back to St Louis.
- Unused plots must be returned to the parish office and the original cost will be refunded to the lessee.
- All plots are intended for burial. Purchasing multiple plots to block off areas is not the intent of our parish community.
- Plots can be chosen from rows currently open for sale. The cemetery board determines the opening of new rows.
- St Louis is responsible for maintaining the plot after burial. It may take 6 months to one year for the completion of fill dirt and seeding.

Grave Marker-Headstone Rules

- Plot lessees are responsible for purchasing of headstones.
- See attached page for grave and marker specifications.
- Non-traditional headstones or engravings that are secular (non-Christian) must be approved by the cemetery board, and if needed consultation with the Pastor.
- **Guidelines for engraved images on tombstones:**

Religious images allowed: cross, dove, rosary, bible, praying hands, Sacred Heart, Immaculate Heart, miraculous medal, image of a saint, biblical passage, heart, marriage bands/rings

Images of God's Creation allowed: a head shot of deceased, flowers, trees, plant life, animal life

Images not allowed: logos, brand names, motorized vehicles, guns, knives, weapons, hobbies, sport memorabilia, references to alcohol or drugs

- All final headstone designs and layouts must be approved by the cemetery board and if needed the Pastor, prior to final order placement and purchasing of said monuments from a monument company.
- Monument companies must have their footer installation approved in advance by the cemetery sexton, Any footer installed without approval is subject to removal at the cost to the monument company.
- Any headstone that spans combined plots, with exception of spouses, approval from cemetery board is required.
- Headstones damaged by time or weather are to be repaired by immediate family. If no living family members that are parish members, the cemetery board may repair the headstone at the cost to the parish.
- Headstones are to be set within (1) year of burial. After attempts to notify the family, the cemetery board reserves the right to place a simple grave marker after 18 months of the burial. (Name of deceased, date of birth, and date of death will be on the marker).
- All markers and monuments must be made of granite, bronze, marble, or limestone being consistent with products offered from a monument dealer. No boulder, rocks, driftwood, petrified wood, etc., will be allowed.
- The cemetery board with approval of the Pastor, has the right to refuse any stone that does not meet the intentions of these rules.
- Headstones and markers must have a concrete foundation, level to the ground, at least (24) inches in depth, and with a base measuring (4) inches wider than the monument on all sides.
- The foundation and headstone must line up with existing monuments in its proper row.
- The cost of opening and closing of the grave is not included in the purchasing of the plot.
- No foot markers/stones are permitted with exception of military, flat, and bronze markers.
- Mausoleums are permitted in the designated area of the cemetery only.
- Maximum headstone height is 36 inches.

Decoration Rules

- During the mowing season (March 1 – November 1) it is required that flowers, lights, statues, or mementos be placed on the headstone or hanger adjacent to the headstone. Articles should be marked with names so they can be replaced if blown or knocked off. No items / flowers are permitted on the grass during mowing season. Any items / flowers on the grass after March 14 will be discarded without consent of the owner.
- The cemetery board has the right of refusal to any object placed on a grave and has the right to remove the object if deemed inappropriate.
- Artificial flowers may be placed on the ground in front of headstone starting November 1 through March 1.
- Temporary grave decorations are permitted (2) days prior to: Easter, Mothers Day, Memorial Day, Fathers Day, July 4, Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Christmas. Any decorations remaining (2) days after these dates will be removed.
- No live plants, trees, or shrubs may be planted.
- Benches, stone borders, fences, and footstones are not permitted on plots at any time.
- Shepherds hooks may be purchased & installed through the parish office.

Visitation Rules

- Visitation hours are from sunrise to sunset. Visitation outside the hours is strictly forbidden.

Additional Information

- The fee for opening and closing will be double the rate if burial is after 4:00pm Monday – Friday. No funeral may begin after 11:00am on Saturday.
- In ground cremations must be buried in the designated cremation area.

Grave Specifications

Adult casket burial

- Single grave dimensions length 11 feet, width 5 feet 3 inches.
- Single foundation maximum dimensions length 5 feet 3 inches, width 20 inches.

- Double grave dimensions length 11 feet, width 10 feet 6 inches.
- Double foundation maximum dimensions length 10 feet 6 inches, width 20 inches.

Infant casket burial (infant section of cemetery)

- Grave dimension length 5 feet, width 2 feet.
- Foundation maximum dimensions length 2 feet, width 16 inches.

Cremation burial

- Grave dimensions length 42 inches, width 30 inches
- Foundation maximum dimensions length 28 inches, width 16 inches, and must be flat to the ground.