

St. Mary's Cemetery
Scantic Road, Hampden, MA

Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Effective July 1, 2020

Saint Mary's Cemetery strives to create an environment of peace and solemnity, encouraging frequent visits and prayers for the dead. We understand that families express their love and devotion by decorating graves where loved ones are buried. Decorating, however, must be done in a way that does not create a safety hazard, infringe on other lots, impede proper maintenance, diminish the Catholic character of the cemetery, or offend others.

For these reasons, cemeteries adopt regulations for the common good and, for them to be effective, it is sometimes necessary to take steps to see that they are uniformly enforced.

Saint Mary's Parish owns and operates the cemetery for the common good. Those who purchase lots or gravesites in the cemetery are not purchasing the land itself, which continues to be owned by the Parish, but are purchasing burial rights and are issued easements of burial. Rules are adopted for good order and to manifest the church's beliefs and teachings. Compliance with rules and regulations are a condition of the easement.

Saint Mary's Parish seeks to maintain its cemetery in a fashion that reflects the Catholic Church's teachings about the dignity of every human person.

- Cemetery is open for burial of bodily and cremated remains from April 1 to December 1 (or until the first significant snowfall, whichever is first)
- Flowers allowed from May 15 to June 25
- Winter decorations allowed from Dec. 1st to March 15
- After these dates, only one pot of flowers per lot
- Do not dispose of unwanted pots or other materials on site; bring them home for disposal
- No artificial flowers, artificial grass, or artificial accent pieces
- No urns, metal planters, glass containers, vigil lights, shepherds hooks, stuffed animals, figurines, toys, novelties, statues, votive lights, etc. These items tend to disrupt the beauty and serenity of an area and have been a source of complaint from adjacent easement owners.
- No planting of flowers, trees, or bushes in the earth
- No pets allowed
- Cemetery closes at dusk

The cemetery assumes no responsibility for loss of any item or damage to flower pots or other containers and maintains the right to dispose of broken or unsightly containers at any time.