

St. Catherine's Cemetery Policies

Cemetery Purpose and Mission

- To provide for burial of casketed human remains in sealed concrete vaults and/or the burial of cremains (cremation ashes) in sealed urns or containers. Green burials are not permitted.
- To provide for the appropriate perpetual care and maintenance of all cemetery gardens to ensure continuation of a beautiful resting place for persons authorized by lot owners and a beautiful place for the place for the general public and families to visit.

Administration and General Rules

- All funerals, interments, disinterments and reinterments entering or leaving the cemetery shall use and park on established roads and/or paths. The cemetery reserves the right to ingress and egress over lots for the purpose of passage to and from burial sites and for construction, development and maintenance of the cemetery.
 - Visitors to the cemetery grounds are to drive and keep vehicles and bicycles on the established roads.
 - Parking on the grass during hot weather causes the grass to die due to the heat from the exhaust system and engine and tires.
 - Visitors who require electric cart and/or special wheelchair transport shall exercise proper care to existing grave sites while moving through the cemetery. Motor vehicles should park on the roadway or use the grassy shoulders of the roadway. The speed limit within the cemetery is 10 mph.
 - Visitors to the cemetery grounds shall respect the area as a sacred and restful memorial to honor those who have passed before us. The following are prohibited within the confines of the cemetery:
 - ◇ The use of alcohol or illegal substances.
 - ◇ Satanic ritual ceremonies.
 - ◇ Fireworks and explosives of all kinds.
 - ◇ Sleeping or loitering on the cemetery grounds.
 - ◇ Unlawful behavior and/or conduct.
 - ◇ Firearms used for target shooting or hunting of any kind.
 - ◇ Dumping garbage of any kind.
 - Pets always need to be kept under control on a leash. Please clean up after pets.
 - Burials will cease in the Fall/Winter when it gets too difficult to mark out the graves due to snow cover and/or the road to the cemetery becomes snow covered. We will try to accommodate burials to happen on the same day as the funeral.
 - Burials could possibly be delayed due to unforeseen weather such as excessive rain.
 - The main gate will be opened and closed on a timed basis. The summer schedule it will open at 7:00 am and close at 9:00 pm. The fall and winter schedule will follow a time close to sunrise and sunset. It will be posted on the fence near the gate.
 - If the gate is closed and there is a need to get into the cemetery, please call the church for assistance.
 - Once there is a significant snowfall the gate will be closed until spring.
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Lot Purchase

- All lots are available until sold
 - ◊ There are no lots available in Sections A & B.
- Lots are \$150.00 in Sections C & D.
- Lots are \$200.00 in Section E.
- Lots will not be reserved without payment.
- St. Catherine Cemetery will not buy back lots but may be able to help facilitate a sale to a private party.
- The cemetery committee will accept lots as a donation to the cemetery.
- Lots can be re-sold by individuals and families; the sexton should be made aware of any changes made.
- Lot certificates will be issued to the owners upon purchase.

Monuments/Headstones

- Families are urged to get a permanent marker within two years of the burial. Funeral Home Markers are not permanent and can be easily damaged.
- Upright/raised stones are allowed in Sections A, B and E. They are allowed in Section C from the line of existing uprights/raised stones West of that line. They are not allowed in Section C from the line of existing upright/raised stones East of that line.
- Upright/raised stones are not allowed in Section D.
- All upright/raised stones or flat stones should have a base (concrete or granite) a minimum of 3 inches wider than the stone on all sides.
- If a vase is desired, it must be mounted in the base or stone and be able to be recessed into the ground for winter storage or it can be mounted on the upright/raised stone.
- It is desirable for veteran's stones have a ½" hole drilled in the base to facilitate the flag marker.

Burial of Cremains

- Arrangements for burial of cremains should be made with the sexton. There is a charge of \$50.00 for the preparation of the burial. This is paid directly to the sexton.
- It is highly recommended that a graveside service be scheduled with the pastor for the cremains burial.
- The cremains should be placed in a sturdy container and be buried in a grave.
 - ◊ A metal container
 - ◊ A ceramic container
 - ◊ A sturdy plastic container such as the ones provided at the funeral home or crematorium.
 - ◊ No paper-based containers.
 - ◊ An outer burial container is not required.
- Cremains can be buried in a family lot with the following options.
 - ◊ Option 1 – one full burial with one cremains burial in one lot.
 - ◊ Option 2 – two cremains buried in one lot.
 - ◊ Option 3 – one cremains buried in one lot.

Full Burial - Full burials must include an outer burial container for the casket to be placed in during the burial.

Flowers/Planters/Decorations

- Potted flowers/plants are permitted if they rest on the headstone and do not hinder mowing.
- Memorial Day decorations that are not in a headstone vase and are placed in the ground should be removed by the end of the first weekend after the 4th of July, after this date they may be removed by the caretaker to allow for grass trimming without damage to the decoration. Family members are encouraged to trim the grass around these decorations when possible.
- Memorial Day and other decorations taken off by the caretaker will be saved and placed behind the white maintenance shed on the South edge of the cemetery for family members to collect later. They will be saved until Labor Day at which time they may be disposed of or moved to inside the white maintenance shed.
- Perennial plants may be permanently placed on a grave if;
 - ◊ It is centered in a 10-inch hole surrounded by a two-foot donut shaped concrete base.
 - ◊ The base must be centered between the head and foot of the grave (allowing for grave maintenance).
 - ◊ Annual flowers may be planted on a grave site if the family cares for them (watering and weeding).
- Plastic flowers and decorations may be used during the Memorial Day period unless;
 - ◊ The decoration becomes covered with grass it may be removed and possibly discarded.
 - ◊ If the decoration comes loose and is not secured it may be removed and possibly discarded.
 - ◊ The plastic decorations and any decorations stuck in the ground around the headstones or other markers should be removed by the end of the weekend after the 4th of July.
- If family members trim the grass and upkeep decorations, they may be left until Labor Day.
- All flowers/planters/etc. that meet policy must be removed by Labor Day or they may be removed and discarded. The exception to this is if it is a recent burial or special remembrance date.
- No trees or shrubs are allowed on the lots.
- No burning candles or open flames are permitted in St Catherine Cemetery.

Please know that we are sorry for your loss but feel privileged to help care for your loved one. May God bless you and keep you near to Himself in the days ahead.

Our committee is chosen by the priest of St. Catherine Church. The committee feels it is their responsibility and duty to make sure the cemetery is a tranquil place for you to visit, reflect and pray. Your responsibility is to abide by the policies set forth above.

As a committee, we meet regularly throughout the year. Maintenance is one of the top priorities. The caretaker does a wonderful job of keeping the cemetery a beautiful place. On occasion, we do ask for help with a spring cleanup or project here and there. In addition to physical help, monetary donations are appreciated too. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact St. Catherine Catholic Church (701-845-0354). The office staff will be able to give you the name and phone number of one of the committee members or the cemetery sexton.
