

## CEMETERY RULES

*Please limit decorations to one per grave*

Natural and artificial flowers are permitted. It is preferable to have approved, permanent vases attached to the foundation or stone.

All containers should be of **plastic or wood** construction with ample drainage. They should be placed on the marker foundation, not dug into the turf.

Metal stands, boxes, pots, glass, decorative stones and border edging are strictly **prohibited**. Candles of any kind are not permitted unless in a holder, attached to the headstone and made especially for a vigil light. These restrictions are for safety reasons.

Flags may be placed in planters with the plants, in approved permanent holders or in the ground flush against the base of the foundation stone.

Shepherd hooks: According to Diocesan regulations shepherd hooks are no longer allowed on cemetery property due to the fact that they can be caught by the mower and hurled into visitors, cemetery staff, or damage grave markers.

**\* Please see note below!**

Statues or large vases must be on cement foundations by stone, unless they are used as grave markers.

Wreaths or wire stands are permitted for a short time after a funeral.

Flowers, flags and decorations will be removed when they are damaged or blown about the area; also at Spring and Fall clean-up (March 1st and October 1st).

No planting is permitted of shrubs, trees, flowers or plants of any kind. **Grave blankets are NOT permitted any time.**

No one is permitted in the cemetery after dark. No cars are permitted on or across grave sections.

No unusual or non-traditional inscriptions or monuments. A religious symbol of Christianity must be bigger on the stone than other personal symbol (i.e. tractor, fisherman) see Pastor.

**Benches** are not allowed unless they are the grave marker and fit within the cemetery's rules for sizes of markers or monuments.

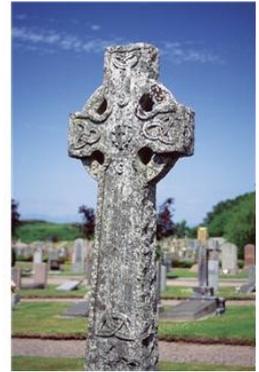
We encourage the placement of decorations. We will try to be as careful as possible during our normal interment and maintenance activities as we can. We regret that we cannot guarantee that all decorations will be free from damage or loss, and we cannot accept responsibility for these occurrences.

March 1-15 and October 1-15 are used to clean up the grounds and prepare the cemetery for the spring and winter (weather dependent). All decorations will be removed and disposed of at that time. If you wish to save your decoration, please remove it before March 1st and October 1st. After November 1st when the grass is not being cut, artificial wreaths no more than 30 inches in diameter placed on stands are permitted.

**\* Note:** If you have a headstone/marker with no other option for flowers e.g., cement foundation that will hold a flower pot, you may be permitted one shepherd hook flush against the foundation of the headstone/marker until further notice.

The Catholic Cemetery is a holy place. These sacred grounds are blessed by the Church and dedicated as a place of prayer and dignity for our faithful departed. Please maintain a quiet reverence and respect for the other people visiting the graves of loved ones. Please abide by the following:

- Proper attire and behavior at all times
- No alcoholic beverages
- No picnics
- No pets.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CEMETERY!

Questions come up time to time about the cemetery. Hopefully this will answer a few of them.

- ▶ Canon Law says there are two sacred spaces...the Church and the Cemetery. If you can't bring it into the Church it can't be in the cemetery.
- ▶ Easements and deeds are covenants with the people to care for the graves past their lifetime. They give the "right" to be buried in the cemetery. The person does not "own" the grave lot as you would a piece of land. That is why planting of flowers, shrubs, etc. is not allowed.
- ▶ Pieces of metal on the ground (such as old military markers) around headstones need to be removed. They can become a projectile not only injuring the person mowing or perhaps someone visiting a loved one's grave while the cemetery is being mowed. Please call the parish office if you have such a military marker as there are other options.
- ▶ If a headstone has a personal symbol on it e.g., (a tractor) then it should have a religious symbol of Christianity that must be bigger on the stone than other personal symbols. A Christian symbol could be something like a cross, an angel, roses, a bible, a dove, etc. **NOTE!** If you already have a headstone in the cemetery that does not meet that requirement, you do not have to change it.
- ▶ The Cemetery authority (parish) shall provide reasonable maintenance of the cemetery property.
  1. The laying of seed, sod, or other suitable ground cover.
  2. The cutting of lawn throughout the cemetery at reasonable intervals.
  3. The trimming of shrubs to prevent excessive overgrowth.
  4. The trimming of trees to remove dead limbs.
  5. Keeping in repair the drains, water lines, roads, buildings, fences and other structures.
  6. Keeping the cemetery premises free of trash and debris.
- ▶ A portion of the cost of a cemetery lot goes to the income care of that lot. So in the case of St Patrick Parish that is \$200 and in the case of Holy Cross that is \$100. That money is used to cover the upkeep *forever* but with the cost of mowing and upkeep that money doesn't last long. That is one reason statues, flowers, etc. need to be either attached to the stone or on the cement slab. That allows the mowers to freely pass through the long "aisles" of the cemetery. Once the cemetery is mowed then the slab around every stone has to be weed wacked. They cannot go around each object that is on the ground by a loved one's grave. Every effort will be taken not to damage items on the ground but it is not guaranteed. The more labor intensive, the higher the cost for upkeep.
- ▶ The care of the headstone is the responsibility of the family, even in the case of an "act of God" knocking a tree over onto it.
- ▶ The Cemetery Insurance only covers things like fences, buildings and other structures. It does not cover the headstones or any statues, pots, etc. that may get damaged.
- ▶ Graves can be bought back from a family for what they paid for it originally minus 5%. The exception is for example: a family owns 4 graves and 3 are used and there is a family name monument on one of the grave lots.
- ▶ Graves owned by a relative can be given to another family member but all of the heirs of the original purchaser of the lot must sign a form releasing it and have that form notarized. These forms and more information are available in the parish office.

**The cemetery rules are on the other side!**