

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery is a holy place. The Rite of Christian Burial by Catholic Clergy will accompany each interment and inurnment. The Church provides cemeteries to help people face the hard reality of death in the context of the promise of Eternal Life.

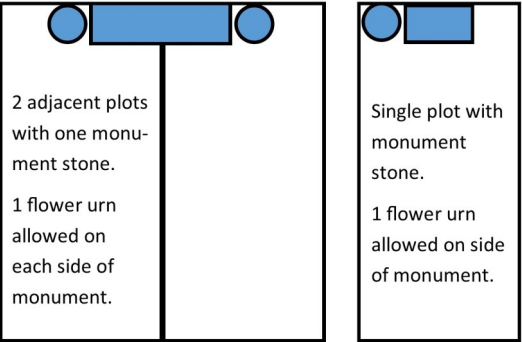
This brochure is intended to explain some of the rules and procedures that the Diocese of Gaylord has adopted with its assumption of responsibilities for St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

General Maintenance and Decorations

1. Tree and Shrubbery Maintenance. The Cemetery Staff will undertake to maintain, as may be practical, the planting of trees and shrubs, and to preserve and maintain landscape features. While we do not allow individual plantings, those in place are considered to be “grandfathered.” The maintenance staff does not maintain nor is it responsible for these grandfathered plantings.
2. Perpetual Care. Perpetual care shall consist of: watering, mowing and raising of sunken graves when determined necessary by the cemetery staff.
3. Containers Permitted. Urns and/or vases (containers) that are within the height and width of the marker shall be allowed. It is recommended for proper care that containers

not be larger than 18” in diameter, measured at the widest point, and not be larger than 24” in height. Containers must be made out of bronze, concrete, steel, clay, copper, marble or granite. Containers made of other materials need approval in advance from the St. Joseph Parish Office.

Containers must be located at the head of the grave, beside the monument/marker, not in front or behind; it is recommended that they be placed upon a concrete slab, not to exceed 18” by 18”, or incorporated into the monument/marker. Only one such container is allowed per marked occupied graves space, except for those spaces which have a double headstone. Then, containers on either side are allowed once one of the spaces has been occupied. A second container may be placed beside a single grave if space allows.



If a flag is placed on the plot, it must be located following the same rules for containers. And flag so placed shall not exceed 12” by 18” in size and not be over 36” in total height. Flags placed by veterans organizations will be removed in accordance with military protocol. The placement of flags, medallions, or other articles is not permitted in the Columbarium area.

Containers not used by June 15 of each year shall be tagged and removed. If not claimed by

the owner within six (6) months, the containers shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the cemetery staff. No containers are permitted in the Columbarium area.

4. Flowers and Winter Wreaths. Flowers, natural, dried or artificial, are permitted within the approved containers as listed above. In keeping with the desire to have as natural setting as possible, environmental concerns to the cemetery and neighboring properties, and effective grounds maintenance, the use of natural or dried flowers is encouraged and appreciated. Floral arrangements not in containers will be removed. The placement of flowers and other articles is not permitted in the Columbarium area. Winter wreaths are permitted and should be no larger than 24 inches at their widest point, and shall be placed beside the marker, not in front or behind. Winter wreaths should be natural, not artificial, and should be securely placed on a tripod when possible.
5. Decorations Beyond Burial Day. The Cemetery Staff shall not be responsible for floral pieces, baskets or frames in which, or to which, such floral pieces are attached beyond the day of burial. Cemetery staff or their agents will remove funeral designs and floral pieces as soon as they become unsightly, and they assume no responsibility for their return.
6. Removal of Articles. In order for the Staff to complete fall and spring maintenance, all articles placed on plots are to be removed by October 1 of each year, and no placement of articles may be made prior to May 1 of each year. Winter wreaths will be permitted beginning Thanksgiving Day, and must be removed by the following March 31. If there are special circumstances which call for the placing of winter wreaths earlier, please check with the parish office for arrangements. The Staff may remove articles that do not conform with these rules.

Foundations and Monuments

1. Foundation Installation. All foundations shall be installed to Cemetery requirements by a contractor of St. Joseph Cemetery. Foundations may be ordered by contacting the Cemetery Manager or Parish Office. The Cemetery Staff, when determined necessary due to improper installation or poor materials, may remove a foundation detracting from the overall condition of the marker, re-level or replace any foundation. They may also remove from any plot any deteriorated foundation or memorial that was not installed according to the cemetery requirements until the owner pays the normal charges for and acceptable foundation to be installed.

Foundations placed by those other than the St. Joseph Cemetery Staff will require a permit available from the Sexton and payment of the site location fee prior to installation. The Sexton must approve the size, type, and location of any foundation so requested. The installer will also be financially responsible for any damage to turf, landscape features, markers, monuments, or other cemetery features. Those installing said foundation may be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to properly perform the proposed work and furnish proof of adequate liability and workman’s compensation insurance.

2. Monuments and Marker Foundation. All monuments and markers shall be placed on approved concrete foundations. Markers may also be placed flush with the ground.
3. Payment and Orders. Monuments and markers shall not be delivered to the plots until perpetual care is paid and the foundations have been paid for in full and installed. Orders for foundations shall be placed a minimum of two weeks in advance. Foundations will not be placed during the winter months.

- 4. Monument and Marker Material. All monuments shall be made of durable granite, marble, bronze, or other material approved in advance by the St. Joseph Cemetery Staff.
- 5. Monument Setting. Monument retailers and independent stone setters must set all memorials in conformity with Cemetery requirements and in accordance with trade standards of proper methods of handling and setting with non-staining material. Monuments must be placed at the head of the grave when at all possible. The Cemetery Staff may correct any error that may occur in the placing of a monument, marker or foundation.
- 6. Size. Monuments and Markers installed on any plot shall not be smaller than 10” by 8” in base size, and shall not exceed 40” in length for a single burial space, 80” in length for a double burial space and 18” in width. The height for an upright monument shall not exceed 36”, which includes the base above the ground. Taller monuments may be considered upon written request to and approval from the St. Joseph Cemetery Manager.
- 7. Design and Inscriptions. St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery may reject any memorial or improvement which, on account of size design or inscription, is unsuitable to the plot on which it is to be placed. Inscriptions shall be limited to:
 - a. Legal names or socially acceptable nicknames;
 - b. Significant personal dates;
 - c. Emblems of organizations or institutions approved by the Catholic Church;
 - d. Suitable quotations from any nationally distributed book of quotations, poetry or religious text;
 - e. Each stone shall have some religious symbolism on it.
 - f. Columbarium Niche face stones require inscription limitations. Inscription orders are placed through the parish office. As space

allows, inscriptions are limited to First Name, Middle Name or Middle Initial, Last Name, Year of Birth and Year of Death. Military medallions are not permitted.

Other

- 1. Grave Opening Orders. Orders for opening graves will not be honored unless the family or an authorized representative of the family comes to the parish office and signs an Interment Authorization Form at least 48 hours before burial is to take place.
- 2. Vehicles. The use of recreational vehicles shall not be allowed in the cemetery.
- 3. Prohibited Activities. Certain recreational activities disruptive or disrespectful in nature to the intended purpose of the Cemetery are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, roller-blading, skateboarding, skiing, snowshoeing, golfing, flying a kite, jogging, bicycling, or playing in the Cemetery.
- 4. Dogs And Other Pets. Dogs and other Pets are not allowed in the cemetery.
- 5. Hours. No person shall be in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery after sunset or before sunrise.
- 6. Changes. The Cemetery Manager and/or Pastor may make temporary changes or additional rules, as needed, to meet emergencies not covered by these rules. There may also be exceptions, suspensions or modifications of any of these Rules when such action appears necessary. These temporary exceptions, suspensions or modifications shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such Rules.

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
Offers The Following Burial
Options

Columbarium Cremation Niches
With Niche Face Stone Engraving

In-Ground Interment Space

For further information
Please contact the staff at:
St. Joseph Catholic Church
12675 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 421-7310

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