

PARISHES ON THE PRAIRIE A.C.C. CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Revised 03-16-2026)

1). All funerals and/or burials should be arranged with a funeral director who will contact the church office for the parish to arrange the burial, and the superintendent(s) in charge of the cemetery who will mark the grave and record the burial. If not using a Funeral Home, you must contact the Superintendent of the cemetery.

- Deb and Ken Gieske, 320-352-3244, for St. Paul's or Calvary (O.L.A.) in Sauk Centre.
- Bonita Radermacher, 320-290-6995, for St. Donatus in Brooten.
- George & Barb Bentfield, 320-293-4811 or Jeff Deters, 320-766-2265 for St. Alexius in West Union.
- Parish office, 320-254-8218, for St. Francis De Sales in Belgrade.
- Joe Heinze, 1-320-429-0948 for Saints Peter & Paul in Elrosa.

2). **Concrete outer burial containers are required for all interments (including "green")**. Any concrete vault may be used; however, the minimum will be a concrete grave box. For "green" burials, the box will not have a bottom. The purpose of this container is to encase the casket, providing protection from disturbance during future adjacent burials and preventing excessive settling of the grave. Full-term babies and children are to have a casket and a vault. These are available as an "all in one" from the funeral home for babies and some children. Appropriate caskets and vaults are available for older children. For infant (miscarriages and stillborn) burials, we suggest a vault or box that will not deteriorate. For cremains burials in the ground, we require either a granite, marble, or other non-deteriorating urn, or a vault for other urns.

3). **COST TO PURCHASE THE RIGHT TO INTER IN A DESIGNATED PLOT**

- A. All of our cemeteries will be charging the same amount for burial plots or the right to be interred.
- B. For Members of the Parishes on the Prairie ACC, we charge \$250 for each plot plus \$250 for "perpetual care," totaling \$500 for ages 13 and over; for those 12 and under, there will be no charge.
- C. For Non-Members, we will charge \$500 for the plot plus \$500 for "perpetual care," totaling \$1,000.
- D. A non-Catholic spouse may be interred next to their spouse at the spouse's price.
- E. Checks should be made out to that parish's cemetery fund. The cemetery superintendent or contact person shall provide for the purchaser a written receipt or Deed.
- F. Perpetual care includes mowing, snow removal, road maintenance, fence care, and any other costs involved in keeping our cemeteries clean, attractive, and inviting now and into the future.

4). **Each burial (cremation urn or coffin), even if it's the second one in a plot, will be paid for at full price.** This is to ensure perpetual care of the plot(s). In purchasing a cemetery plot, the buyer merely purchases a "burial easement" or "right to bury" at a specific plot. The buyer is not purchasing a piece of property; therefore, the buyer is obligated to comply with all cemetery rules and regulations outlined in this policy.

5). **There must be one right to bury or burial easement per burial. This includes cremated remains.** There can be one casket and one set of cremated remains per plot, or two sets of cremated remains in a single plot. Each burial must have a sealed burial vault for a coffin or, for cremated remains, a vault for the urn or an urn that will not deteriorate. In the case of cremation, the cremated remains must remain together in an urn (not scattered) and be buried at a depth of 18-24 inches below ground level. In the case of Cremation Burial, where both are interred in a single plot, the first burial will be closest to the monument, with the second burial farther out in the same plot. Our parishes do allow monument cremation burial, where both urns (such as a husband & wife) can be placed in the monument and sealed. There can then be no in-ground burial in this

plot. State law permits only two burials per plot. No other types of surface burial vaults, artificial concrete cast stone, or over-the-surface grave frames are allowed.

6). All burials upon a “reserved family plot(s) or lot” must first obtain the direct permission from the original purchaser of the burial plot, or the surviving spouse, or the oldest surviving child of the same family owner of the burial plot(s) or the decedent’s youngest surviving sibling before the actual burial can take place. [Law does provide for options; for further information see Minnesota Statute 306.09 or a lawyer]

7). **Each burial is to have a memorial stone or marker** provided at the family’s expense. Arrangements to place a burial marker must first be made with the Superintendent of the parish cemetery who is in charge of marking the plot. When a monument is placed, all excess dirt and sod shall be removed and no damage done to the cemetery grounds or other monuments. Failure to do so will result in that person or dealer or contractor fixing the damage or that same person(s) paying for the costs of the repair done by the Cemetery person or Board. Any vendors working on Cemetery property are required to have workers' compensation and liability insurance that cover both their employees and any incidental damage caused by them.

8). **MEMORIALS—Upright monuments and flat markers**

All markers or monuments must be placed in designated areas and in line with the other markers or monuments on a granite (which is more durable) or precast concrete slab foundation. The foundation is to be at least 4 inches thick and large enough to provide a 3 or 4 inch border on each side of the base of the monument. For a concrete ribbon in the cemetery, the base of the monument goes on the ribbon.

- A. **The monument or marker must be of durable, permanent materials such as granite or bronze, as in the case of Veteran memorial footstones. There are to be no homemade monuments or markers.**
- B. All footstones and flat markers not placed on a concrete ribbon shall be flush with the surface of the ground, and a concrete base shall extend 3-4 inches on all four sides at ground level.
- C. When there is a concrete ribbon, most flat markers shall be placed on the ribbon or on a base on the ribbon. If there already is a marker on the ribbon, it can be placed in the ground (military markers, for example)
- D. **Angled monuments shall be placed directly on the foundation or ribbon.**
- E. On a four-grave lot, only one upright monument will be allowed, and the names of the interred can be placed on both sides. Flat markers can also be used to identify the interred. In exceptional cases, two smaller upright monuments may be used with permission of the superintendent.
- F. The names of the interred are to be placed only on the side of the monument where they are interred. The family name and names of children will be allowed on the other side of the monument.
- G. **Simple temporary markers are permitted up to one year.** Placement of your monument soon after purchasing a grave plot is encouraged so that family members do not have to do it at a stressful time.
- H. **Permanent monuments or markers are required within one year of burial.**
- I. **The size of the monument may vary with the cemetery, so check with the superintendent. The width of the plots varies with or within the cemetery.**
- J. Any firm or person found in violation of the rules pertaining to monuments or markers will be barred from doing further work in the cemetery.
- K. **The Cemetery Board reserves the right to move or remove any stones which do not fit with the above descriptions, are not properly placed, or have become unsightly or a danger to persons.**

9). Normally, there will be no refunds for cemetery plots. The family can transfer them to another person(s) by working with the superintendent or may donate each unused plot back to the cemetery.

- 10). The clearing of snow in the cemetery for a funeral burial shall be done by a person or company designated by the parish. The family may be charged for some snow removal for a burial.
- 11). Mowing and trimming of the cemetery shall be done by a person or company hired by the parish.
- 12). **The cemetery will have designated (hired) persons engaged to dig burial plots. The family is not to dig the grave or help dig the grave without the designated gravedigger's approval.** Those digging the graves are to cause as little damage as possible to the surrounding area, remove all debris, and restore the ground.
- 13). All signs, symbols and/or expressions that express vulgar or irreligious sentiment or speak of paganism are forbidden on grave markers or otherwise. No advertising of any description is permitted within the cemetery. The cemetery reserves the right to remove any of these items.
- 14). Should a monument become unsightly or dilapidated or a danger to other persons, including children, the cemetery board reserves the right to remove or reposition it in such a way as to be safe for others. In certain cases, these costs may be incurred by the family who bought the monument.
- 15). Persons visiting the cemetery are to respect all other monuments and refrain from defacing any markers or damaging the fence or picking flowers, or shrubs either wild or cultivated on or within cemetery grounds.
- 16). All floral arrangements or baskets or other decorations must be placed either **on top of the monument or on holders on the base of the monument. In areas without a ribbon, a shepherd's hook centered on either edge (between the monuments) of the monument or marker next to the foundation may be used.** Please ensure easy access for mowing and trimming. Only one item may be placed on each edge next to the foundation. When a concrete ribbon is used, flowers may be placed only on the monument or the base. Monument companies can provide small granite squares with vases for the side of a flat marker on a ribbon. **No flowers, plants, bushes, or trees are to be planted in the ground within 10 feet of a monument or marker. We reserve the right to remove such plants.** Live flowers can be placed in a pot on the monument or hanging from a shepherd's hook if they are watered so they don't die. Please remove dead flowers.
- 17). The local parish or cemetery board will not be responsible for the destruction or loss of any floral arrangements, designs, or baskets placed on or near the monuments. Most damage comes from the wind.
- 18). **The local parish or cemetery board or appointed person from the parish reserves the right to remove all decorations left on monuments which have become old or unsightly or have not been properly placed.**
- 19). Any driving of any animal or motor vehicles such as car, truck, snowmobile, ATV, horse, cattle, or any other animal or vehicle) over grave sites without permission is absolutely prohibited. Any damage to grass or cemetery property or monuments shall be at the offender's expense.
- 20). All garbage or rubbish is to be taken out with you. Help keep our cemeteries clean and attractive.
- 21). All monies contained in the **parish cemetery fund** as well as fees received from burial rights, donations, charges, or other gifts shall be retained in a separate parish account and dedicated solely to the perpetual care, upkeep, and maintenance of the cemetery grounds proper and to cemetery record keeping.
- 22). These Rules and Regulations are partly in response to the "Minnesota Catholic Cemetery Policies and Procedures-2002," a copy of which is located in the local parish office. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change only with the consent of the Pastor and/or Superintendents of **Parishes on the Prairie ACC.**

SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR EACH CEMETERY IS AS FOLLOWS:

St. Alexis: Floral decorations are permitted but must be removed by Oct. 1st. They are to be placed on top of the monument or on holders on the base of the monument. A permanent stand or vase for flowers is permitted as long as it is on the edge of the monument and does not interfere with mowing of the grass. Single grave monument size: 42-inch width with a minimum of 3-inch foundation showing. Height about 30". Double grave monument: 48-inch width with 3 inches of foundation showing all around. Height about 36". Contact superintendents if looking for a size other than specified.

St. Paul's and Calvary: Single grave monuments have a 42" maximum foundation, a 36" maximum base, and a 30" maximum tablet size. For double graves, the maximum size is an 84" foundation, a 78" base, and a 72" tablet. For both, a minimum of 3" base and 3" foundation must show.

St. Anthony of Padua: Each plot will cost \$250 and will be available to former parishioners.