

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church/Sitta Cemetery
P.O. Box 95
Needville, Texas 77461

Rules and Regulations of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Cemetery and Sitta Cemetery

The Catholic Cemetery of St. Michael the Archangel owned by St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, is operated for the religious and charitable purposes of the Roman Catholic Church through the burial and memorialization of the faithful departed.

A common misconception is a cemetery plot is purchased, but in reality a Right of Interment is purchased. The purchaser does not own the plot (they only own the right to be buried there) and all burials must be approved by the pastor.

The ownership and use of interment right shall at all times be subject to all of the canons, regulations, laws and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, the Arch-Diocese of Galveston-Houston, and shall also be subject to rules and regulations of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church now in force or hereafter enacted by the Parish for the government, use, care, control, management, restriction and protection of the Cemetery, and holder(s) agrees to comply herewith. Holder(s) expressly acknowledges that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or interpreted to restrict the rights of the Cemetery with respect to the unfettered continued operation of the Cemetery. The parish of St. Michael the Archangel shall have full and absolute authority to operate, manage and control the cemetery, and further, without limitation, to determine the design, type, size, location of all roads, features, plantings and improvements within the Cemetery and all of the lots and spaces thereof including those purchased.

*A representative from St. Michael's Catholic Church office staff will direct the selling and sequencing of cemetery plots. This is done with maintenance and accessibility in mind. Also, rules and regulations will be reviewed with plot owners and help will be provided to answer any concerns or questions. Plots for purchase are limited to two (2), unless approved by the pastor. Two or more Rights of Interment would be allowed if the purchase was for a married couple or a dependent child. All purchases must be approved by the pastor.

*To purchase plots in St. Michael's Cemetery, purchaser must be a registered, active, contributing member of St. Michael's Parish for (1) one full year. There is additional cost if the purchaser is a non-parishioner.

*St. Michael's uses a grave digging service to open and close all graves at the cemetery. The funeral director will assist families in their time of need by making arrangements with the digging service to open and close graves. The family is to notify St. Michael's office about the upcoming burial, to verify the plot number and a member of the cemetery committee will mark the plot for the grave digging service. The fee for opening and closing is usually collected by the funeral director conducting the funeral service.

*Outer containers are required to prevent cave-ins and having to fill in with dirt.

*Plot prices are as follows: St. Michael's Parishioners-\$900.00 per plot. Non-Parishioners - \$2,000.00 per plot. No double level burials are permitted on a grave plot; this defined as one casket placed on top of another. No cremation urn burial is permitted on a grave plot that already has a casket burial on it.

*There is a limit of two cremation urns if burial in a standard plot space.

*Plots are non-transferable and must be sold back, to the church, at the buyers original purchase price.

*A communal cremations area will be available for purchase on an individual basis. The location of the cremations area will be decided by the St. Michael's Cemetery Committee. Parishioner price will be \$450.00 with an additional fee added for interment by funeral home. Non-Parishioners will be charged \$1,500.00 with an additional fee added for interment by funeral home. Each plot will be a 2'x2' area and requires an outer container. A flush to ground marker, with a cement base for stability, is required so it can be mowed over.

*There is no preference on height of headstones. Monuments and flush to ground markers must be placed at the top of the grave and must fit in the plot space. Headstone size must be in agreement with the parish office and the monument company. All headstones must have a cement base so they are stabilized properly. The church office must be contacted prior to the placement of all monuments and flush to ground markers. Monuments and flush to ground markers must be placed on grave prior to the first anniversary of death. Exceptions can be made with the proper approval (notify the church office).

*No concrete/granite borders around the cemetery plots or concrete and rock over the plot space.

*No benches are allowed at the gravesite.

*Any symbol/character, verse, saying, poetry, nickname or design not conducive to the image of the Catholic Cemetery will be allowed.

*Flowers are acceptable if placed in vase on headstone. Flowers should be removed when faded or worn. Cemetery representatives and caretakers have the right to clean unattended graves of unsightly decorations and out of season flowers. Grave decorations should be kept to a minimum and limited to a vase or top monument head dress.

*Funeral design and floral pieces will be removed from graves when they become wilted.

*General cleanup of the Cemetery will be one week before Easter and one week before All Saints Day, November 1. Notices will be placed in the bulletin and/or local newspaper.

*Regular maintenance is required at cemetery by caretaker- if any damages occur, St. Michael's and its Cemetery Committee will not be held responsible. No plantings are allowed on the gravesite and if done they will be removed by the caretaker.

*Vigil lights are acceptable but, St. Michael's and its Cemetery Committee will not be held responsible for damages incurred to said property. Solar lights are also allowed if placed on the

headstone base. These items must be placed so that they do not impede the maintenance of the grave. Open candle containers are not allowed.

*The St. Michael's Cemetery Committee must approve any other exception for a change from the present cemetery rules.

*These guidelines are retroactive for all future burials.

Approved on 10/13/2017 by Father Marty Pham and St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church Cemetery Committee.