

Purpose of the Cemetery

St. Mary Catholic Church's cemetery is a private cemetery. The cemetery is primarily intended for the internment of active parishioners who are entitled to Christian burial. Any question regarding the burial of non-Catholic, non-active parishioners, or of any person not entitled to Christian burial shall be decided by the pastor. While rare, the pastor reserves the right to refuse the sale of burial rights to any person.

Definitions

- 1-A Management Team** refers to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the current pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church Lanesville, under the advisement of a committee of parishioners. In addition to the pastor, The Management Team is made up of 5 individuals who have been appointed by the pastor to serve as his advisors.
- 1-B** The term **cemetery** used herein refers to the property located on the campus of St. Mary Catholic Church which is used for ground burial.
- 1-C** The term **internment** refers to the ground burial of human remains, including cremated remains known herein as **cremains**.
- 1-D Grave** refers to a space of ground in the cemetery used or intended to be used for the remains of one human being (or two remains if the second burial is of cremains), the size being 42"x10'. A **plot** is one or more adjoining graves.
- 1-E** The term **memorial** refers to the monument, tombstone, headstone, or grave marker placed on a grave.
- 1-F** St. Mary Church offers active parishioners and non-active parishioners the opportunity to purchase **Burial Rights**. When burial rights are purchased, the buyer has not actually bought a piece of property, rather he/she has purchased the right to be buried in the cemetery upon his/her death.
- 1-G** An **active member** refers to an individual who is a registered member of the parish and/or their immediate family member living in the same household (i.e. husband, wife, children). The individual must be regularly present at liturgy according to their ability, receiving the of the Sacraments of the Church and has a history of stewardship of time, talent and/or treasure at St. Mary Catholic Church. This determination will be made by the pastor.
A **non-active member** refers to an individual who does not meet the criteria as an active member.
- 1-H** A **certificate holder** is the person named on certificate of burial rights issued at the time of purchase. A certificate holder may also be the immediate relative or heir of the person named on the certificate of burial rights.

Purchase of Burial Rights

- 2-A** Burial rights may be purchased at the parish office of St. Mary Catholic Church prior to or at the time of the death of the certificate holder. Please set up an appointment with a member of the Management Team to purchase a plot, by calling (812) 952-2853.
- 2-B** The purchase of burial rights entitles the certificate holder to burial only and is not a deed to property in the cemetery. The certificate holder will be issued a signed, sealed certificate of burial rights as proof of purchase.
- 2-C** The management team reserves the right to adjust the cost of burial rights as the need arises.
The current price of burial rights:
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|-------------------------|---|
| Active Parishioner: | \$500 for one grave space (42"x 10') |
| | \$300 for a second cremains interred in a grave |
| Non-Active Parishioner: | \$1,000 for one grave space (42"x 10') |
| | \$600 for a second cremains interred in a grave |

- 2-D** Payment in full for the purchase of burial rights is required before a certificate will be issued as proof of purchase. Buyers have 90 days to pay the fee in full.
- 2-E** Burial rights are for the use of the named certificate holder. Burial rights may not be resold or transferred without the permission of the Management Team. Certificate holders wishing to sell their burial rights back to St. Mary Church will be refunded the face value of their burial rights, as noted on the burial rights certificate.
- 2-F** The price of burial rights does not include the opening and closing of a grave. The fees associated with opening and closing of a grave shall be arranged with the funeral home handling the burial. Contactors opening and closing graves shall abide by St. Mary Catholic Church's cemetery guidelines.
- 2-G** The price of burial rights does not include the placement of a monument. The fees associated with pouring a foundation or placing a monument shall be arranged with the monument dealer. Monument dealers shall abide by St. Mary Catholic Church's cemetery guidelines.
- 2-H** Funeral homes shall abide by St. Mary Catholic Church's cemetery guidelines.
- 2-I** It is the duty of the burial rights holder, or his/her immediate relative and heirs, to notify the management team of any change in mailing address. Notices will be sent to the last known address of the certificate holder and shall be considered sufficient and proper legal notification.
- 2-J** Graves and plots are distributed chronologically.

General Instructions

- 3-A** No more than one human remain shall be interred in each grave. The only exception would be in the case of cremains. No more than two cremains may be interred in each grave. It should be noted that there is an additional fee for the second cremains interred in a grave. Proper identification of the location of the existing remains will be noted by the Management Team.
- 3-B** The interment of cremated remains shall be in accordance with the norms of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The *Order of Christian Funerals* (1998, pg. 392) states:
The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transportation, and the final disposition. The cremated remains are required to be placed in an urn vault at the cemetery. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that Church requires. Whenever possible, appropriate means of recording with dignity the memory of the deceased person should be adopted, such as a plaque or stone which records the name of the deceased.
- 3-C** A burial permit, presented by the funeral home, is required to be presented to the management team for each interment as required by local or state government.
- 3-D** A Roman Catholic priest or permanent deacon's presence is required at the interment of all remains in the cemetery.
- 3-E** The opening of a casket within the cemetery is prohibited.
- 3-F** No disinterment or removal shall be allowed without the permission of the management team. Applications for disinterment must include:
 - i. Proof of the relationship between the applicant and the deceased
 - ii. Reason for the request
 - iii. A description, including physical location, of how the remains will be respectfully reinterred
 - iv. Cause of death of the deceased
 - v. A statement releasing the Management Team and St. Mary Catholic Church from any liability for damages caused by the disinterment.
 - vi. Proof that the disinterment abides by the laws of the local and state government

Cemetery Use

- 4-A** Fencing, curbing, coping, rock gardens, and edging material of any kind is prohibited.
- 4-B** Glass vases, glass jars and glass containers are prohibited.
- 4-C** The planting of live flowers, shrubs or other living plants is prohibited. Lawns shall not be dug up or disturbed for any purpose except under the supervision of the Management Team.
- 4-D** All perpetual care of the cemetery, including grading, landscape work, and improvements of any kind will be done under the supervision of the Management Team. All trees, shrubbery and vegetation shall be planted, trimmed, cut or removed under the supervision of the Management Team as needed. Breaking branches, removing or injuring trees is prohibited.
- 4-E** Decorations, including saddle arrangements, are allowed. However, decorations which have been dislodged by the elements, inhibits mowing and trimming, or is deemed to be unsightly, dangerous, detrimental or diseased by the Management Team will be disposed of without verbal or written notification.
- 4-F** All vehicles entering the cemetery must be kept under control and may not exceed 10 miles per hour. Motorcycles, bicycles, and ATVs must remain on the paved roadways. Parking or driving on the grass is prohibited.
- 4-G** Throwing rubbish or litter, including grave decorations, in any part of the cemetery other than trash receptacles is prohibited.
- 4-H** No signs, notices, or advertisements of any nature shall be allowed within the cemetery, except for those erected by the management team.
- 4-I** The Management Team must approve and supervise all gatherings in the cemetery.
- 4-J** Visiting hours within the cemetery are from dawn until dusk. Anyone found in the cemetery after visiting hours shall be considered a trespasser.

Monuments and Markers

- 5-A** The Management Team reserves the right to approve and prescribe the kind, size, symbolism, craftsmanship, quality and materials of memorials, monuments and markers to be placed in the cemetery prior to placement. All monuments are required to be in line with teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 5-B** The location and position in which a memorial is to be placed or erected on a plot is subject to the approval and under the supervision of the Management Team. All memorials must face east and be placed at the head of the plot.
- 5-C** No more than one memorial or marker may be placed on a grave. The only exception is that all military veterans who have been honorably discharged from service may have a stone or bronze foot marker located within the 4'x10' plot. The foot marker must be set in concrete and placed flush to the ground, to facilitate mowing over it.
- 5-D** All memorials placed in the cemetery is to be approximately 42" wide.
- 5-E** No concrete footer shall be placed in the cemetery until a member of the management team meets with the contractor to ensure it is placed in the proper location. Each concrete foundation shall extend 1 inch on all four sides of the monument base. Each foundation shall be at least 22-24 inches in depth with a flat bottom and shall be wider at the bottom than at the top. Concrete exposed above the ground is to be kept at a minimum.
- 5-F** The Management Team reserves the right to stop all work when, in its opinion, proper foundation preparation has not been made or when the work endangers life or property.
- 5-G** While the Management Team will exercise due care to protect memorials, it is not liable for any damage or injury thereto.

Loss, Damage and Vandalism

- 6-A** The Management Team is not responsible for direct or collateral loss or damages from causes beyond it's reasonable control including but not limited to Acts of God, the elements, war, common enemy, air raids, invasions, insurrections, riots, order of any civil or military authority, thieves, vandals, malicious mischief, explosions, unavoidable accidents.
- 6-B** In the event that it becomes necessary to reconstruct or repair any section, plot or grave which has been damaged, the Management Team will send written notice of the necessity of such repair to the certificate holder. Fees associated with reconstruction or repair will be the responsibility of liable party if one can be determined.

Reservations and Petitions

In closing, the Management Team reserves the right, without notice, to make temporary exceptions, suspensions or modification to these guidelines when prudent. The Management Team reserves the right to change, altar, repeal, rescind, or add to these guidelines, or to adopt a new guideline, with respect to the cemetery. Certificate holders, their immediate relatives and heirs, may petition the management. All petitions may be submitted to St. Mary's Parish Office during regular business hours or by calling (812) 952-2853. All decisions will be made with the input of all members of the Management Team.