

Catholic Cemeteries of the Church of Saint Joseph

12 West Minnesota Street Saint Joseph Minnesota 56374
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320-293-1953

Disclosure of Ownership: The Church of St Joseph Cemeteries are owned by the Church of Saint Joseph, Saint Joseph Minnesota

*“Grant that our brothers and sisters may sleep here in peace until you awaken them to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.”*

Taken from Order of Christian Funerals

Rules and Regulations for The Church of Saint Joseph North and South Cemeteries

The Church of Saint Joseph aspires to have a sacred space for your loved ones to rest. We want all who visit to experience a prayerful space that intensifies your faith. To ensure the best care for your loved ones, and to maintain your Catholic cemetery in a presentable and respectful manner, the following guidelines have been established.

General Cemetery Rules

- The Church of Saint Joseph Cemeteries are intended for the burial of the parishioners of the Church of Saint Joseph who are entitled to Christian burial according to the rules and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Non-Parishioner burials may be allowed.
- With the purchase of a grave, the purchaser receives only the right of burial, not the actual physical property as in a real estate transaction. Burial in said grave is granted to the designated person only. Transfer of graves must be made through the facilities manager.
- Grave plots will only be sold in pairs to husband and wife, except when their child dies, three graves may be purchased.
- A concrete vault is required for ALL full body burials.
- A concrete urn vault is required for all biodegradable urns.
- No grave, crypt, or niche will be opened until payment is made in full.
- There is a winter storage vault available if the family doesn't wish to incur the extra cost of a winter burial. There is no fee assessed for this service if the burial occurs in one of the Church of Saint Joseph cemeteries.
- One ground burial and one cremation may be on the same grave. The burial must come first and cremated remains second. Cremation burials on top of a previous ground burial are required to be in a marble or granite urn no larger than 8" high.
- Two cremations may be buried on the same grave. A monument of the dimensions for a single grave will be allowed. The second cremains will be 50% of the current plot price.

- Commingling, scattering, and/or dividing of cremains is not permitted per Roman Catholic Church Doctrine. Cremated remains are to be interred, in their entirety; in niches or graves only.
- No interments will occur on Sundays and the following religious and federal holidays, Nativity (Christmas), the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (New Year's Day), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th), All Saints (November 1st), the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), the Easter Triduum, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day.
- Firearms are not allowed in the cemetery except by military escort accompanying a veteran's funeral or in attendance at a memorial service.
- Pets are not allowed in the cemeteries, except service dogs.
- No snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and other types of recreational vehicles are allowed on cemetery grounds.
- No advertising or soliciting of any kind is allowed in the cemeteries.
- No dumping of any kind on cemetery grounds; violators will be prosecuted.
- The cemetery staff reserves the right to remove anything that is deemed inappropriate, unsafe, or unnecessary at any time.
- No alcohol or intoxicated persons are to be on cemetery property or in attendance at a graveside service.

Monuments

- All lots must be paid in full before a monument can be placed and/or final dates added to the existing monument.
- A monument permit must be obtained from the facilities manager prior to the monument being placed in the cemetery. All monuments are to be set by the monument company.
- A temporary marker will be permitted up to one year.
- A monument can be no taller than 42". For a single grave the monument can be no wider than 42". For a double grave the monument can be no wider than 78". The depth of the monument will not exceed the width of the ribbon.
- All monuments must blend in with the surrounding monuments.
- The last name must appear on the front side of all monuments.
- For name and dates to appear on a monument, the person must be buried on the grave and have burial rights to that grave.
- Non-religious symbols must be approved prior to the monuments manufacture.
- A rendering is to be submitted to the facilities manager prior to manufacture.
- GI markers are allowed, and it is up to the family to decide who will install the marker.
- To avoid any hardship, consult with the facilities manager prior to ordering any monument.
- The facilities manager is to be notified before any monument work is performed.
- The maintenance of any monument is the responsibility of the monument permit holder; not the Church of Saint Joseph or its employees.

Flowers

General Rules

- Flowers placed on the grave at the time of burial will remain up to 3 days, but may be removed due to weather, another burial in the immediate area, and/or at the discretion of cemetery staff.
- No flowers are to be planted on any grave. Potted or cut flowers may be set on any grave at the allowable dates but must be removed within one week. Thereafter, the cemetery staff will dispose of all flowers and their containers.
- No decorative arrangements are to be permanently affixed to the top of monuments.
- Monument vases are encouraged.
- Monument vases are for floral arrangements only; no flags (except United States Flags), wreaths, solar lights, crosses, etc. Styrofoam liners are permitted to anchor artificial flowers into the vase, no dirt, rocks, or other materials are permitted.
- There is to be no planting of any trees, shrubs or flowers at any time other than by cemetery staff.
- No artificial trees will be permitted.
- No glass, ceramic or clay pots/vases/containers are permitted in the cemetery.
- No balloons are permitted in the cemetery.
- No food or alcoholic beverages and their containers are to be left anywhere within the cemetery properties.

Christmas

- Christmas Wreaths are allowed December 1st through January 3rd.

Memorial Day

- Flowers are permitted seven days prior to Memorial Day and will be removed by June 15. All remaining flowers will be disposed of by cemetery staff.

Mother's and Father's Day

- Flowers are permitted on Mother's Day (mothers only) and Father's Day (fathers only) the day before, day of, and the day after.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

- Flowers are permitted on birthdays and date of death anniversaries, the day before, day of, and day after.

Mausoleum and Columbarium

- Flowers are to be placed in vases that are affixed to the name plate. Vases may be purchased from the facilities manager. Vases are for floral arrangements only, no flags, wreaths, solar lights, crosses, wind chimes, etc. are permitted.
- No temporary hooks are to be affixed to the face of the mausoleum or crypts.
- No placing of any memorials, vases, or pots, etc. on the ground level will be allowed.

Urn Garden

- As with all purchases for any spaces you are purchasing the burial right, not any physical land. The price of the plot will be set by the cemetery committee and adjusted, as necessary. The full price of the plot will cover one urn and the second burial will be half the price of the initial plot. If a third burial is needed for a child, that will also be half the price of the original plot.
- Monuments are to be no larger than the following dimensions 36" long x 30" high x 18" wide at the base. The height of the base may not exceed 6". A 4" base is recommended to allow for a larger monument. An angled monument is also allowed as long it does not exceed the length and width above. Monuments are not to have any offensive etchings and should have approval of the facility manager prior to production. Monuments are to be set by a monument company and notification to the facility manager is to occur prior to any monument setting or work of any kind.
- All flowers or plants either need to be placed in a vase that is mounted to the monument or placed on a plant stand that is mounted in the drilled 1" hole in the ribbon adjacent to the monument. Keep in mind, if a vase is mounted the physical size of the headstone must be diminished to keep the stone within the dimensions above, reducing the space for lettering. There is to be no flowers, plants, flags etc. placed in the grass area, except flags for veterans on Memorial Day.
- No glass, solar lights, balloons, or alcohol of any type is allowed and will be removed immediately. Anything deemed offensive, unsightly, unnecessary, or unsafe will be removed at the facility manager's discretion.
- All other cemetery rules not specified in this section are applicable to the urn garden.

Exhumation

- A body may be exhumed from its grave and placed in a different grave, when there has been an exchange or purchase for that purpose. A body cannot be removed to be buried elsewhere without written documentation from the Minnesota Department of Health and the ordinary of the Diocese of Saint Cloud. These types of exhumation must be made by cemetery employees after receiving the proper permits. Payment of such work is due immediately upon completion.
- Unless authority in writing is filed with the facilities manager no exhumation will be made or permitted except,
 - (a) When the Church of Saint Joseph is directed to by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the facilities manager.
 - (b) When the coroner directs the exhumation, for the purpose of holding an inquest, and has filed with the Church of Saint Joseph facilities manager a signed authorization to release the body to the coroner or their lawful agents. In such case the exhumation must be made by the coroner or their lawful agents: cemetery staff will not be permitted to assist the coroner or their agents.
- The Church of Saint Joseph and its employees will exercise the utmost care in making an exhumation, but assumes no liability for damage to any vault, casket, urn, or monument. Any damage made during the exhumation is at the expense of the party requesting the removal.
- Cremated remains are not to be disinterred unless they are being moved to another niche or ground burial. If the cremains are being moved to another cemetery, no work will be performed

until the proper paperwork is filed with the Church of Saint Joseph facilities manager from the new cemetery of burial.

Perpetual Care

- Perpetual care includes the cutting and watering of the grass at reasonable intervals, raking and cleaning of the grounds. It shall also mean the maintaining and general preservation of the lots, grounds, walks, roadways, boundaries, and structure, to the end that said grounds remain and be reasonably cared for as cemetery grounds permanently. Such permanent care shall in no instance mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial marker or structure of any kind erected upon a lot or lots. Nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marker or monument damaged or destroyed from whatever cause, such as vandalism, theft, invasions, insurrections, riots, strikes, or order of military, or otherwise.

Disclaimers

The Church of Saint Joseph reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that are made regarding the cemetery. These errors may pertain to, but are not limited to the following; interments, or exhumations, or in description, transfer, or conveyance of any interment property, either by cancelling such conveyance and substituting property of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of such purchase. In the event that such errors shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Church of Saint Joseph reserves, and shall have the right to remove and transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

The Church of Saint Joseph disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage beyond its reasonable control. The Church of Saint Joseph reserves the right at any time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind, or add to these rules and regulations of any part thereof, or to adopt any new rules or regulations with respect to its cemeteries or anything pertaining thereto.

It shall be the duty of the lot/plot holder to notify the parish office of any change in his/her post office address. Notice sent to a lot/plot holder at the last address the parish office's records shall be considered sufficient and proper legal notification.

Church of St Joseph Cemetery Committee
October 1, 2020