

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery: General Rules and Regulations

Effective Date: Spring 2026

NOTICE: All rules and fees listed herein are **subject to change** by the Cemetery Management or Parish Administration without prior notice.

I. Rules for Cemetery Visitors and Conduct

All visitors are requested to help maintain the sacred and solemn character of the cemetery.

- **Respectful Conduct:** Visitors must maintain a quiet, dignified demeanor. The use of loud music, offensive language, or disruptive behavior is prohibited.
 - **Hours of Operation:** The cemetery is open to visitors from **dawn until dusk**. Visitors remaining on the premises after closing hours will be considered trespassers.
 - **Traffic and Vehicles:** Vehicles must drive slowly and remain on designated roadways. Yield the right-of-way to any funeral procession.
 - **Children:** Children must be closely supervised. Running, yelling, playing on, or climbing on monuments or memorials is not allowed.
 - **Pets:** Pets are not permitted unless they are designated service animals.
 - **Cleanliness:** Littering is prohibited. All refuse must be placed in designated receptacles or removed from the cemetery.
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II. Rules for Interment and Lot Ownership

- **Right of Burial:** The purchase of a grave space conveys the right of burial, not ownership of the land itself. This right is subject to all cemetery rules and regulations.
 - **Interment Notice:** At least **two (2) full business days' notice** is required for all interments to allow for proper grave preparation.
 - **Open/Close Fees:** The following fees are required for the preparation and closing of a grave:
 - Cremation Burial (Inurnment): **\$50.00**
 - Full Body Burial (Interment): **\$100.00**
 - **Payment:** No burial or monument installation will be permitted until the lot, and all required Open/Close and perpetual care fees have been **paid for in full**.
 - **Burial Vaults:** All full-casket burials **require a concrete vault or grave liner** to ensure ground stability. Cremated remains must be interred in a durable, non-biodegradable container.
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III. Rules for Monuments and Markers

These rules govern the placement and size of all memorial markers within the cemetery.

- **Monument Placement:** All monuments and grave markers shall be placed on the **west side of the grave**.
 - Markers must be placed in a line consistent with existing grave markers in that section.
 - If no other stones exist, the marker must be set **six (6) inches inside the grave edge**.
 - **Size and Type Preference:** The cemetery prefers **flat markers** (flush with the ground). Upright markers are also permitted, provided they do not exceed three (3) feet in height. Benches of similar size are allowed; however, benches designed to hold cremains are not permitted. For a single plot, the marker may not exceed the width of the plot. A single plot measures 3 feet 6 inches in width.
 - **Foundation:** All markers and monuments must be set upon a proper **concrete foundation** to ensure stability.
 - **Installation:** Monuments must be installed by a professional monument dealer under the supervision and approval of the cemetery management.
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IV. Rules for Decorations and Floral Tributes

To facilitate safe and effective grounds maintenance, decorations are strictly regulated.

- **Placement of Flowers:** Flowers (live or artificial) must be placed **inside a standing urn or a vase permanently attached to the monument**.
 - **Live Flowers:** The cemetery is **not responsible for the watering, tending, or maintenance of live flowers**. Any flowers that become wilted, unsightly, or damaged will be removed by cemetery staff.
 - **Prohibited Items:** The following items are **strictly prohibited** and will be removed without notice:
 - Glass, ceramic, or other easily breakable containers.
 - Fencing, curbing, barriers, edging, or enclosures of any kind around a grave.
 - The planting of any trees or shrubs directly into the ground.
 - Shepherd's hooks, metal stakes, statues, toys, or solar lights that are not secured to the monument.
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