

St. John the Baptist Parish Cemetery Rules

Burials

1. Burials will normally not take place from December 1 through March 31. A burial requested under exceptional circumstances will be subject to all additional costs, over and above the usual rate, including costs to repair damage to cemetery landscape.
2. All burials (including cremation urns) must be done under the direction of the cemetery custodian.
3. One grave lot may be used for up to three cremation burials with one above ground headstone. One grave lot may be used for a traditional burial with casket and up to two cremation burials. Cremation urns must be non-biodegradable.
4. All burials, except cremains or infant burials, must be in a steel, concrete or polystyrene (hard plastic) burial container.
5. The cemetery shall in no way be liable for any container, receptacle or urn of cremated remains placed in any lot. A small steel, concrete or polystyrene (hard plastic) burial container is recommended for interment of cremated remains. The scattering of cremated remains over a family lot is prohibited.

Green Burials

1. A “green” or “natural” burial is a highly personal alternative to a conventional burial. The body is placed directly in touch with the soil. Members desiring this option are those who may say, “Just put me in the ground.” Those desiring a “green” or “natural” burial need to discuss this with loved ones and their preferred funeral director in advance so their wishes are granted at the time of death. Decisions on embalming, type of caskets, and time line for the funeral need to be addressed before death.
2. Saint John the Baptist Cemetery permits a “green” or “natural” burial within these guidelines:
 - a. Due to the short time line needed between death and a natural burial, notice is needed so that the excavation contractor can be notified and available.
 - b. We do not require a specific casket or type of wood. Burial in a shroud is permitted.
 - c. A burial container over but not under the body is required, to prevent soil from caving in on the body causing landscape concerns for cemetery maintenance staff. The burial container is also needed for those rare cases where a future exhumation order of the body is received.
 - d. Boulders, large stones, or trees and shrubs may not be used as memorial markers.

Monuments, Headstones, Markers

1. All headstones and monuments and markers must be installed under the direction of the cemetery custodian.
2. All monuments must be installed with a concrete base. Wooden or plastic crosses are not permitted as a substitute for a monument.
3. After a lot(s) have been purchased, a monument may be installed.

Cemetery Decorating

1. One flag per veteran may be placed on graves conforming to the rules for the public display of flags.
2. No flowers or shrubs of any kind may be planted in the burial area. No curbing or fencing may be placed around graves.
3. Plants and cut or artificial flowers are permitted on the monument or the base in a pot, vase or holder. No decorations will be permitted in the ground. It is advisable to put identifying gravesite label on artificial flowers.
4. Decorations must be removed by December 1 and can be replaced after April 1.
5. Cemetery maintenance workers have the authority to remove decorations that hinder the maintenance of any grave. Decorations will be removed when they become unsightly, rusted, withered, etc.
6. Solar lights, vigil lights, statuary and breakable items are not permitted and will be discarded.

Driving in the Cemetery

1. Driving in the cemetery is not permitted. Violators will be prosecuted. You will be responsible for any damage caused by your vehicle. The cemetery accepts no responsibility for damage to your vehicle.
2. ATV 's or snowmobiles are not allowed in the cemetery at any time, with the exception of the cemetery custodian and vehicles pertaining to burials.

For information concerning a burial, lot or monument, contact Joseph Steffes, cemetery custodian. 920-795-4709

Approved by St. John the Baptist Parish Council March 2014 & Modified in May of 2017