

# Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Cemetery Rules

St. Mary's Marytown Cemetery was created as a final resting place for the faithful departed of our parish. It is our sacred duty to preserve this resting place. Families of the deceased are asked to assist in maintaining the beauty and integrity of these holy grounds.

## Rules and Regulations

The Parish Cemetery Committee, as a subcommittee of the Parish Finance Council, is immediately responsible for the operation and management of the cemetery. Any questions regarding the operation of the cemetery or for arranging burials shall be directed to Sexton Wilmer Mueller at 898-4156 or 894-3939. No monument shall be erected or placed on a site with first having obtained a permit from the Parish Cemetery Committee. St. Mary's cemetery is open for visitation from dawn to dusk. No person shall enter the cemetery after dark. In winter, normally the cemetery roads will not be plowed unless there is a burial. You will be responsible for any damage caused by your vehicle. The cemetery accepts no responsibility for damage to your vehicle. ATV's and snowmobiles are not allowed in the cemetery at any time. Dogs are not allowed.

## Burials

1. Burials are permitted year round.
2. Burials require a minimum of 48 hours' notice (more time required for winter burial) for the opening of a grave. No person is allowed to open a grave without permission of the Parish Cemetery Committee Sexton. Funeral Directors will seek guidance from the Sexton.
3. Sealed burial containers are required for buried adult caskets. The purpose of this type burial container is to maintain the integrity of the ground above it. A permanent container is also required for all cremains and infants.
4. 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.
5. All burials, except cremains or infant burials, must be in a steel, concrete or polystyrene (hard plastic) burial container.
6. One grave lot may be used for up to three cremation burials with one above-ground headstone. Two flush markers are permitted. One grave lot may be used for a traditional burial with casket and up to two cremation burials. Cremation urns must be non-biodegradable.
7. One grave lot may be used for two baby burials providing the burial container size does not exceed 18 inches by 36 inches. One above ground and one flush marker or two flush markers are permitted.
8. All burials (including urns) must be done under the direction of the Cemetery Committee.

## 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. Those desiring this option 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 Mary Cemetery permits a modified "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 non-sealing grave liner is required to prevent soil from caving in on the body causing landscape concerns for cemetery maintenance staff. The grave liner 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 or Markers**

1. All monuments, headstones or markers require a foundation. The cement foundation shall be a minimum of six (6) inch gravel or sand base beneath it. Said foundation shall extend five (5) inches in length and width on all sides on the base of the stone and be flush with the ground. All monuments, headstones and markers must conform to specifications on reverse side.
2. Wooden, metal or plastic crosses and other art forms are not permitted as a substitute for monuments.
3. Monuments may be installed immediately after burial. A monument or permanent marker must be installed within a year after burial.
4. All markers must be installed under the direction of the Cemetery Committee.

## **Cemetery Decorating**

1. Spring, Summer and Autumn decorations may be placed on graves beginning with the first Sunday in May. All decorations are to be removed by family or friends by the second Sunday in October.
2. Winter decorations may be placed after November 15 and must be removed by April 1st to facilitate the Spring Cemetery Clean-Up. Winter decorations are limited to one artificial wreath that is not more than 30 inches in diameter per monument.
3. Flags and potted plants are permitted on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day. Families may decorate on the birthdays or anniversaries of their loved ones.
4. Cone shaped vases with artificial flowers will be permitted. No artificial flowers may be placed directly in the ground because of the hazard of wire stems getting into power mowers.
5. No flowers or shrubs of any kind may be planted in the burial area. No curbing or fencing may be placed around graves.
6. Decorations of the kind that are placed directly on the concrete base of the monument (not on the turf) are permitted, as long as they are not breakable (glass, crockery, etc.); do not have the possibility of staining the monument; and remain in presentable condition.
7. Solar powered lights are limited to one and must be anchored into the concrete base of the monument.
8. Cemetery maintenance workers have the authority to remove decorations that hinder the maintenance of any grave. Decorations will be removed when they do not conform to size, material or other limitations listed above or they become unsightly, rusted, withered, etc.
9. Please place used items in the barrels provided. Thank you.

# **Guidelines for Grave Sizes & Markers**

## **Saint Mary Cemetery Graves Sizes**

- 1 grave is 48 inches wide
- 2 graves are 96 inches wide
- 3 graves are 144 inches wide

## **Saint Mary Cemetery Grave Marker Size & Placement Specifications**

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| A. Maximum overall height of marker permissible                         | 34 inches |
| B. Maximum width of footing permissible (1 burial space)                | 42 inches |
| C. Maximum width of footing permissible (2 burial spaces)               | 72 inches |
| D. Maximum width of footing permissible (3 burial spaces)               | 78 inches |
| E. Minimum thickness of footing permissible without steel reinforcement | 6 inches  |
| Minimum thickness of footing permissible with steel reinforcement       | 3 inches  |