

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CEMETERY | Onekama, Michigan**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

For the mutual protection and benefit of easement-holders, the following **Rules and Regulations** have been adopted by St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery located in Onekama, Michigan. All grave easement-holders and visitors within the Cemetery and all graves sold shall be subject to said **Rules and Regulations**, and subject further to such other **Rules and Regulations**, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted from time to time.

**DEFINITIONS**

The terms **“lot,” “plot,” or “burial place”** shall be used interchangeably and shall apply with like effect to one or more adjoining graves.

The term **“interment”** shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by burial.

The term **“memorial”** shall include a **monument** or a **marker**. A monument is defined as an above-ground vertical construction typically placed at the head of the grave to identify one or more individuals. A marker is level with the ground and can be placed either at the head or the foot of the grave.

The term **“management”** shall comprise the pastor, pastoral administrator, parish business manager, or others duly appointed to administer the parish cemetery.

The term **“care”** shall apply to the entire Cemetery provided either by an Endowment Care Fund or by St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The term **“inurnment”** shall mean the permanent disposition of the cremated remains of a deceased person by burial.

**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery is owned and operated in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the rules and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church and the Diocese of Gaylord. It reserves the right to refuse admission to the Cemetery and to refuse the use of any of the Cemetery’s facilities at any time, to any person or persons whom the Management may deem objectionable to the best interest of the Cemetery.

The Cemetery is intended for the burial of Catholics and members of their families who are entitled to Christian burial according to the rules and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Any question of the burial of a non-Catholic member of a lot holder's family, or of any person not entitled to Christian burial, shall be decided by the Pastor.

Religious ceremonies other than those of the Roman Catholic Church are not permitted in the Cemetery unless the consent of the Pastor has been obtained.

**LOT AND LOT OWNERS**

No grave will be sold in common ownership or joint ownership. Title must stand in one name. Each family is to be limited to four plots per family. The cost of a burial plot will be five hundred dollars (\$500). No grave shall be used for any other purpose than for the burial of the human dead.

The Cemetery disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, explosions, insurrections, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as here in provided.

Grave holders are granted only the right of interment in their graves. The Cemetery reserves the right to refuse to permit the interment of anyone who was not at the time of the death the holder of the grave or a relative by blood or marriage.

## **CORRECTION OF ERRORS**

The Cemetery reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterments or removals, or in the description, transfer, or conveyance of any interment property.

## **CARE OF GRAVES**

The Cemetery shall give such care as it can, the care to consist of cutting the grass and general preservation of the grounds.

The general care assumed by the Cemetery shall in no case mean maintenance, repair, or replacement of any vase, basket, memorial, flowers or other objects placed upon a grave.

A separate document, approved by the St. Joseph Cemetery Board, entitled, "St. Joseph Cemetery Maintenance Guidelines," specifies additional required guidelines for all individuals to follow in order to promote the natural beauty of the cemetery and the safety of our visitors and caretakers.

## **BURIALS**

The Diocesan Statutes forbid funerals on Sundays, except in cases of absolute necessity.

No interment of a body will be made in any grave which is not fully paid.

The Funeral Director, upon arrival at the Cemetery, must present a burial permit from the local Health Office. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the Cemetery, no funeral director nor embalmer, assistant, employee or agent shall be permitted to open the casket, or to touch the body without consent of the next of kin or of the legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except in the case of a parent and infant or two infants buried in one casket. Special care must be taken to properly mark the grave with the individual names when two bodies such as a parent and infant or two infants are interred in the same grave.

No interment of a body may be made unless the remains are contained in a casket and vault/liner.

## **INURNMENTS**

The inurnment or burial of a container [urn] of cremated remains must take place with the use of an outer container [vault/liner].

No inurnment will be made in a grave not fully paid for.

The person bringing the cremated remains to the cemetery must provide a Certificate of Cremation [Burial Permit] to the cemetery representative present for the inurnment.

Once a container of cremated human remains is within the confines of the Cemetery, the container shall not be opened without the consent of the next of kin or of the legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Interment of the cremated remains of one person into a grave where a body has been buried, or of two sets of cremated remains in one grave, is permitted with proper notification and the payment of appropriate inurnment rights. When this occurs, special care must also be taken to properly mark the graves with the individual names.

## **CEMETERY DECORATIONS**

Safety and moderation are the two principles which govern the adornment of grave spaces. Because the cemetery is to be a place of dignity, any shabby worn, and faded artificial floral displays will be removed by the maintenance staff, who shall use their own good judgment in the matter.

## **PLANTING ON GRAVES**

The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any and all floral designs, flowers, shrubbery or trees from the Cemetery as soon as they become unsightly, dangerous, and/or diseased.

## **MEMORIAL WORK**

No memorial may be placed on any grave that is not fully paid. Lot holders may erect proper memorial work on their respective lots subject to the approval of Cemetery Management. All monuments shall be set on a foundation built of concrete and of size and depth prescribed in the following sections of these **Rules and Regulations**.

Memorials may be placed only in the designated areas. All memorials shall be constructed of natural stone. No artificial stone of any kind is permitted.

At least two [2] side-by-side adjoining graves are necessary for the erection of a monument. Only one central or family monument shall be allowed on a two-grave or three-grave combination which permits the construction of a monument.

No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any grave[s] and no walks of brick, cinders, tile, terra cotta, sand, cement, gravel or wood shall be allowed on any graves[s]. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove the same if so erected, planted or placed.

The most suitable ornament on a memorial in a Catholic cemetery is the cross, which accordingly, shall be found in a prominent position on every memorial. Epitaphs and symbols on memorials should be in the spirit of the Catholic Christian Church. Hence no memorial work of any kind will be allowed unless there is represented or engraved thereon a cross, or other Christian symbol in keeping with the design and size of the memorial, except that, when a monument bears such a symbol, it may be omitted from corresponding markers if desired.

Workmen employed in placing and erecting memorial and other structures or materials shall operate as independent contractors, but must do so under the permission of the pastor.

The right of the pastor to refuse to permit such work, unless the ground is settled and in good condition, is reserved. No memorial may be delivered or installed between November 1 and April 15 without the expressed permission of the pastor.

The Cemetery Management reserves the right to stop all work of any nature, whenever, in its opinion:

- proper preparations have not been made;
- tools or machinery are insufficient or defective;
- work is being executed in such a manner as to threaten life or property;
- the monument dealer has been guilty of misrepresentation;
- any reasonable request on the part of the pastor is disregarded;
- work is not being executed according to specifications;
- any person employed on the work violates any rule of the Cemetery.

Crosses, statues or other grave markers of wood, iron, cement or any like material are strictly prohibited, except the standard bronze insignia provided for the graves of veterans.

Federal government regulations concerning the use of the veteran marker will be strictly enforced. The flag protocol of the federal government will also be observed in the Cemetery.

When any memorial work has been set in place, it shall not be removed without due process of law or written permission of management.

## **MARKERS**

At each grave one single-wide marker is permitted or on two adjacent graves a double-wide marker is permitted. Single-wide markers shall be twenty-four inches long, twelve inches wide, and not less than four inches in thickness. Double-wide markers shall be forty-two inches long, twelve inches wide, and not less than six inches in thickness. The marker may not encroach on any other lot-holder's grave spaces. The marker shall be readable from the foot of the grave.

## **MONUMENTS**

The monument [die] shall rest on a base. The overall size of the monument and base shall be defined as follows:

Large monument: 24" to 42" long; 8" to 12" wide; and 13" to 36" high. Small monument: 24" to 42" long; 8" to 12" wide; and up to 12" high.

The monument and base shall rest upon a concrete foundation. The foundation shall extend 4" beyond the perimeter of the base. A large monument will have a foundation which is 48" deep; a small monument will have a foundation which is 24" deep. The foundation may not extend into the grave of any other lot-holder.

A monument shall be readable from the foot of the grave.

## **TRANSFER OF TITLE**

Written consent of the Church of St. Joseph is required for any sale, transfer, or assignment of lots. The Church of St. Joseph will buy back unused lots at the original cost of those lots. Title to graves descends by Will, Trust Agreement, or Statutes of the State of Michigan.