

OVERVIEW OF CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Diocese of Rockville Centre

*Catholic Cemeteries of the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Rockville Centre, Inc.*

Diocesan Cemeteries:

**Cemetery of the Holy Rood • Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Queen of All Saints Cemetery • Queen of Peace Cemetery**

Managed Services for Parish Cemeteries:

**St. Boniface Parish Cemetery • St. Francis de Sales Parish Cemetery
St. John the Evangelist Parish Cemetery • St. John of God Parish Cemetery
St. Patrick Parish Cemetery (Old Brookville)**

*For more information, visit our website:
www.holyroodcemetery.org*

Revised July 2017

CERTIFICATE HOLDERS & VISITORS:

For the mutual protection of Certificate holders and the Cemeteries and all who visit our cemeteries, the General Rules and Regulations have been adopted by Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Many families wish to decorate their loved one's burial place as an expression of their love and caring. The cemetery attempts to balance these desires with practical concerns of appearance and maintenance. While not everyone will agree with all the rules, we ask your understanding that by adhering to them you contribute to our common goal: a well-kept and safe cemetery.

Cemetery *regulations* are a necessity to provide order, neatness and efficiency in operations. Without them, the appearance of the Cemetery would greatly suffer. We have made attempts to inform Certificate holders and visitors of these rules with posted notices. Some basic information on the General Rules and Regulations are discussed and appear in the signed rules and regulations at the time of cemetery arrangements for each Certificate of Right of Burial or plot/crypt/contract. Our complete rules and regulations are posted on our website at www.holyroodcemetery.org, and printed copies of these rules are available for inspection at the cemetery office. Each of these acts serves to alert visitors of these *Rules and Regulations*.

As Catholic Cemeteries are sacred in nature, visitors are reminded that activities such as jogging, bike riding, skateboarding, roller blading, picnicking, and similar activities are not permitted. With the exception of service animals, pets are not permitted on cemetery grounds.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

All persons are reminded that Catholic Cemeteries have been consecrated or dedicated by the Church and designated for the interment of the dead. The observance of all that is proper and respectful is expected of everyone.

The cemetery's management is committed to the goal that all our Cemeteries are well maintained and image the Church's respect for the dignity of each individual human person. *Rules and Regulations* play a most important part in the beautification and preservation of the sacred resting place of the faithful departed. They are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care and permanent maintenance. The placement of items, whether floral or of some other type, is strictly regulated for the common good of all gravesites, crypts, and niches.

No placed item, whether floral or otherwise, is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery makes every effort to enforce rules and regulations uniformly and with compassion.

We acknowledge and regret instances that appear contrary to these efforts. In compiling the regulations and in considering revisions, we try to strike a balance between the natural desire of family members to decorate individual gravesites, crypts, niches, and the overriding obligation to maintain the appearance of the cemetery with the resources at our disposal.

VISITING HOURS

The Cemetery shall be open for visitors from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. every day of the year, including holidays. The cemetery chapels and mausoleum buildings commence closing at 4:30 P.M. All visitors must leave the grounds promptly at 5:00 P.M. When visiting the Cemetery, all are cautioned to drive slowly. Please park your cars on the road. Please do not park on the grass. *Do not leave your car keys, pocketbooks or valuables in your car.* The cemetery will assume no responsibility.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON. Offices are closed on Sundays and the major holidays throughout the year. A list of the holiday closings is available at the cemetery office and at www.holyroodcemetery.org.

MEMORIALIZATION

The placement of memorialization within Catholic Cemeteries involves a number of considerations for which *Rules and Regulations* are appropriate. First and foremost, it must be remembered that Catholic Cemeteries are consecrated or dedicated by the Roman Catholic Church and are therefore religious in nature. By their existence, Catholic Cemeteries make a faith statement. Any memorial of any type placed within Catholic Cemeteries will be evaluated in this context. Second, it is the desire of both the family and Catholic Cemeteries that any memorialization placed be of such quality that it will not deteriorate over time and present a future situation of further expense to a family or difficulty to the Cemetery. Third, while the memorial is meant to identify and honor an individual or family, designs and inscriptions must be within the parameters of baptismal dignity and must further acknowledge this dignity in a commonly identified religious symbol. Fourth, because of the number and different types of relationships between families, the Cemeteries, and the Monument Dealers, Rules and Regulations insure that all are treated fairly, and a spirit of mutual cooperation is fostered.

Finally, as an aid to assisting all who seek to locate graves in the Cemetery, Catholic Cemeteries requires the placement of the Section, Range, Lot identification on every monument or memorial. The purpose of these *rules* is to achieve long-lasting, safe, and dignified religiously appropriate cemetery monuments; to prevent abuses with regard to size, design, and theme; and to foster a spirit of mutual cooperation between the cemeteries and monument dealers.

The authorities of Catholic Cemeteries reserve the right at all times to approve and prescribe the kind, size, design, symbolism, craftsmanship, quality and material of monuments and markers placed or to be placed in these cemeteries. Enforcement of these regulations does not mean that the cemetery guarantees any memorials. Any deficiencies in quality or installation remain the responsibility of the independent contractor you choose.

The complete set of Monument (Memorialization) Rules and Regulations appear in a separate document sent directly to monument and inscription companies. These Regulations are subject to amendment, clarification, or addition as deemed appropriate by Cemetery Management. Families may inspect a copy at the cemetery office or obtain a copy at our website www.holyroodcemetery.org.

PLANTING AND DECORATING REGULATIONS

All gravesites: While Catholic Cemeteries encourages participation in the care of grave spaces, for the protection of the cemetery, the employees, and visitors, all work performed by mechanical equipment or power tools of any kind is strictly prohibited. Hand trimming around memorials, weeding, and hand trimming of permitted shrubbery at your family plot are all permitted, recommended and encouraged activities. Application of any fertilizer, pesticide or other chemical by anyone other than authorized cemetery employees or cemetery authorized outside contractors is strictly prohibited. No lot shall be raised above the established grade. No shells, stones, or pebbles may be used to decorate graves or lots. No glass jars, bottles, tin cans, crockery or earthenware pots are permitted. No ornamental tree, bush, or large shrubbery that is part of the overall cemetery landscape may be used for any form of grave decoration at any time. In general, fresh cut flowers, regardless of the season, are always welcome. Cut flowers are permitted when placed in an approved container in the planting area. "Out of sight" flush flower vases may be used for this purpose. Flowers must be removed when dead, and vases inverted when not in use. General clean-up of all sections takes place periodically throughout the year. During these times, all grave planting and decorating violations are subject to removal. **The placement of all items are regulated for the common good of all owners.** No placed item is permanent to the site. Potted plants are permitted to be placed on graves for the Holy Days and Holidays but will be removed one week after the day of celebration, unless removed from pots and planted in the ground, where permitted.

Flags for decoration must not exceed 12 x 16 inches. No more than two flags are permitted on any one plot; **one must be an American flag.** Faded, soiled or torn flags will be removed at the sole discretion of the Cemetery officials.

Certain decorations are prohibited in order to protect the safety of field employees and visitors. The list of prohibited decorations includes, but is **not limited to**, wooden crosses, pin-wheels, banners, glass jars, toys, statuettes, shells, stones, pebbles, vigil lights, balloons, marble chips, planters, edging and bric-a-brac of any description. Prohibited items are not permitted either in planting area or placed on or affixed to monuments. Please note that mylar balloons will stain the monument. Any article of this nature placed on plots or monuments will be removed without notice.

Christmas decorations in the form of a wreath or blanket may be placed on the gravesites. These items, as well as all other Christmas decorations, will be removed beginning January 15th. Artificial flowers will be permitted **ONLY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS**, that is November 1st until one week after Easter.

Because the cemetery is open to the public, with thousands of visitors each year, **the cemetery cannot guarantee plants and decorations from DAMAGE, THEFT, or DISAPPEARANCE.** The cemetery will **not be responsible** for plant or shrub damage caused by wildlife. Please be aware that when items are blown about by wind/weather, field employees have no choice but to dispose of them as it is not possible to determine the specific site of the item.

The cemetery reserves the right to remove any decoration without notice when deemed as unsightly or out of season in accordance with the cemetery's planting and decorating rules and regulations.

Single and Double Graves: Only annual flowers may be planted within a semi-circle of 18" in front of the monument. Plants such as geraniums, marigolds, begonias and ageratum are especially well-suited for this purpose. They require minimum care and maintain their beauty all season long. No shrubs or bushes, vines, perennials, climbers, hedging or growing boundaries are permitted. Any such planting will be removed. For flush marker graves, no permanent plantings are permitted. Fresh flowers only may be placed in bouquet holders during the growing months (April through October). Artificial bouquets may be used **only** during the winter months (November 1st until one week after Easter).

Three Grave Plots and larger: Shrubs and bushes are permitted to be planted on each side of the monument only on plots having three graves or more, i.e. three graves in width. To avoid constant trimming, slow-growing shrubs such as dwarf boxwood, Alberta Spruce, or Skyrocket dwarf junipers are recommended. Before planting any such shrubs the Cemetery office should be consulted in order to be sure that your planting will conform to the type of shrub permitted and to its maximum size. No shrub or bush is to exceed the following height restrictions, preferably **they should be kept four (4) to six (6) inches below the maximum size permitted.** The height restrictions are as follows: 3 feet for a lot that consists of three graves, 4 feet for a lot that consists of four graves, 5 feet for a lot that consists of five graves, 6 feet for a lot that consists of more than five graves. Shrubs and bushes are not to extend in front or behind the memorial in excess of 14" nor to encroach upon any other plot.

Only annual flowers may be planted in a semi-circle of 18" in front of the monument. Perennials, vines, climbers, hedging or rose bushes are not permitted. For rules on planting for twelve (12) grave plots or larger, please consult the Cemetery office.

Community Mausoleums & Columbariums:

Where floral tables are provided, bouquets of fresh flowers are permitted. Artificial bouquets are permitted from November 1st until one week after Easter. Arrangements will be removed when they become unsightly or out of season. In chapels and buildings where tables are not provided, the cemetery will provide floral arrangements as decoration. **At no time may articles or flowers be attached to crypt or niche covers, as damage could occur.** Responsibility for the proper maintenance of all lawns, trees, shrubbery and ornamental plantings surrounding community mausoleum and columbarium facilities rests with Cemetery Management. Community mausoleums and columbarium areas require acts of sharing of common areas including the walkways, benches, and floral stands. With many people buried in close proximity, the cemetery management must restrict visitors by limiting the size and the number of floral bouquets placed in these areas.

Wreaths, designs, pictures and other decorative or devotional objects are not permitted in community mausoleums and columbarium areas. All objects shall be removed that violate regulations or when, in the judgment of Cemetery Management, their appearance and condition warrant removal.

Excavating a Gravesite: While excavating a grave, the Cemetery exercises normal care with respect to private plantings, but we cannot be responsible for same when the planting is unavoidably damaged. While excavating a grave, it is unavoidable that the grass and planting beds of adjoining graves be disturbed. Although every effort will be made to repair the grounds as soon as possible, nature and weather conditions dictate that winter burials cannot be repaired until spring, and summer interments must wait until fall. Approved items placed at the gravesite should be clearly marked with the Section-Range-Lot Number to ensure return to the proper location.

CEMETERY MASSES

Everyone is encouraged to join us for Mass on **Memorial Day, All Souls Day, and on certain Saturdays throughout the year.** A list of the dates, locations, and times of Masses is available at www.holyroodcemetery.org and at the cemetery office.

MISSION STATEMENT OF CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

At the death of a Christian ... the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites. (OCF 4)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that the Catholic Cemetery, in the rich tradition of our faith, is a sacred place and the resting place of those who have died. Since in baptism the body was marked with the seal of the Trinity and became the temple of the Holy Spirit, Christians respect and honor the bodies of the dead and the places where they rest. (OCF 19)

WE ARE DEDICATED to the reverential care of the bodies of those who have died, who, even in death, remain part of the Catholic Church.

WE Believe in and are firmly committed to the teachings and the tradition of the Catholic Church with regard to the deceased and the sacredness of the cemeteries in which their bodies rest.

The community of faith proclaims that the grave or place of interment, once a sign of futility and despair, has been transformed by means of Christ's own death and resurrection into a sign of hope and promise. (OCF 209)

WE ARE COMMITTED to the care of the graves and crypts of those who have been entrusted to us.

WE WILL PROMOTE prayer in memory of the departed and for the healing of the living through the celebration of the Eucharist and other opportunities for prayer in the Catholic Tradition in the cemetery.

WE WILL CONSOLE the bereaved through words and works.

WE CONFIRM our responsibility for stewardship of the resources of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and our fulfillment of the Church's mission under the direction of the Bishop of Rockville Centre.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE our role as custodians of historical records, and will use methods and technology to assure their preservation.

Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed not ended. (Preface, Funeral Mass)

WE WILL REACH OUT to the community to promote Catholic teachings relating to suffering, death, burial and remembrance of those who have died.

WE WILL PROCLAIM through our words, work and example the sacredness of all life, respect for the body, and belief in the hope of resurrection.