

# *Catholic Cemetery of the Church of the Sacred Heart*

106 3rd Ave NE, PO Box 155  
Freeport MN 56331  
PH: 320-836-2143

**Disclosure of Ownership:** The church of the Sacred Heart Cemetery is owned by the Church of the Sacred Heart, Freeport Minnesota

*"Grant that our brothers and sisters may sleep here in peace until you awaken them to glory,  
For you are the resurrection and the life."*

Taken from Order of Christian Funerals

## **Rules and Regulations for The Church of the Sacred Heart**

Effective 5/1/2019

The Church of the Sacred Heart aspires to have a sacred space for your loved ones to rest. We want all who visit to experience a prayerful space that intensifies your faith. To ensure the best care for your loved ones, and to maintain your Catholic cemetery in a presentable and respectful manner, the following guidelines have been established.

### **General Cemetery Rules**

- The Church of the Sacred Heart Cemeteries are intended for the burial of the parishioners of the Church of Sacred Heart who are entitled to Christian burial according to the rules and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church
- Non-Parishioner burials are allowed.
- With the purchase of a grave, the purchaser receives only the right of burial, not the actual physical property as in a real estate transaction. Burial in said grave is granted to the designated person only. Transfer of graves must be made through the facilities manager.
- Grave plots will only be sold in pairs to husband and wife, except when their child dies, three may be purchased.
- A concrete vault or a concrete grave box is required for ALL full body burials.
- A concrete or plastic urn vault is required for all biodegradable urns.
- No grave, crypt, or niche will be opened until payment is made in full.
- One ground burial and one cremation may be on the same grave. The burial must come first and cremated remains second. Cremation burials on top of a previous ground burial are required to be in a marble or granite urn no larger than 8" high to allow for 14" of top soil.
- Two cremations may be buried on the same grave. A monument of the dimensions for a single grave will be allowed.
- Commingling, scattering, and/or dividing of cremains is not permitted per Roman Catholic Church Doctrine. Cremated remains are to be interred, in their entirety; in niches or graves only.
- No interments will occur on Sundays and the following religious and federal holidays, Nativity (Christmas), the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (New Year's Day), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th), All Saints (November 1st), the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), The Easter Triduum, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day or Thanksgiving Day.
- Firearms are not allowed in the cemetery except by military escort accompanying a veteran's funeral or in attendance at a memorial service.
- Pets are not allowed in the cemetery, except service dogs.
- No snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and other types of recreational vehicles are allowed on cemetery grounds.
- No advertising or soliciting of any kind is allowed in the cemetery.
- No dumping of any kind on cemetery grounds; violators will be prosecuted.
- The cemetery staff reserves the right to remove anything that is deemed inappropriate, unsafe, or unnecessary at any time.
- No alcohol or intoxicated persons are to be on cemetery property or in attendance at a graveside service.

## Monuments

- All lots must be paid in full before a monument can be placed and/or final dates added to the existing monument.
- Headstone placement needs to happen within 6 months-year from reserving lot.
- A rendering is to be submitted to the facilities manager prior to manufacture.
- All monuments are to be set by the monument company.
- A temporary marker will be permitted up to one year.
- A monument can be no taller than 42". For a single grave the monument can be no wider than 36". For a double grave the monument can be no wider than 78". The depth of the monument will not exceed 24".
- All monuments must blend in with the surrounding monuments.
- The last name must appear on the front side of the monuments.
- For name and dates to appear on a monument, the person must be buried on the grave and have burial rights to the grave.
- Non-religious symbols must be approved prior to the monuments manufacture.
- To avoid any hardship, consult with the facilities manager prior to ordering any monument.
- GI markers are allowed, and will be placed by facility manager.
- The facilities manager is to be notified before any monument work is performed.
- The maintenance of any monument is the responsibility of the monument permit holder; not the Church of the Sacred Heart or its employees.

## Flowers

- Flowers placed on the grave at the time of burial will remain up to two weeks, but may be removed due to weather, another burial in the immediate area, and/or the discretion of cemetery staff.
- No flowers are to be planted on any grave. Potted or cut flowers may be set on any grave at the allowable dates but must be removed within a week. Thereafter, the cemetery staff will dispose of all flowers and their containers.
- No decorative arrangements are to be permanently affixed to the top of monuments.
- Monument vases are encouraged.
- Monument vases are for floral arrangements only, solar lights and crosses are acceptable, no flags (except United States Flags), wreathes, etc.. Styrofoam liners are permitted to anchor artificial flowers into the vase, no dirt, rocks or other materials are permitted.
- There is to be no planting of any trees, shrubs, or flowers at any time other than by cemetery staff.
- No artificial trees will be permitted.
- No glass, ceramic or clay pots/vases/containers are permitted in the cemetery. Non-breakable containers accepted but must be set on the cement ribbon.
- No balloons are permitted in the cemetery.
- No food or alcoholic beverages and their containers are to be left anywhere within the cemetery.
- All flowers and objects not glued or cemented to the monuments need to be removed by the day after All Souls Day. Anything left will be removed and saved for a few weeks for those who wish to pick them up before discarding. Over the winter, items not glued or cemented to the tombstones often blow off and get buried in the snow, ending up tangled in the snow blower when clearing a path to a grave.
- Our goal is to have the cemetery easy to maintain, clean and neat.

## Mausoleum and Columbarium

- Engraving on crypt and niche covers needs to be preapproved.
- Veterans markers are permitted and to be installed by facility manager.

## Exhumation

- A body may be exhumed from its grave and placed in a different grave, when there has been an exchange or purchase for that purpose. A body cannot be removed to be buried elsewhere without written documentation from the Minnesota Department of Health and the ordinary of the Diocese of Saint Cloud. These types of exhumation must be made by cemetery employees after receiving the proper permits. Payment of such works is due immediately upon completion.

- Unless authority in writing is filed with the facilities manager no exhumation will be made or permitted except,
  - (a) When the Church of the Sacred Heart is directed to by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the facilities manager.
  - (b) When the coroner directs the exhumation, for the purpose of holding an inquest, and has filed with the Church of the Sacred Heart, facilities manager a signed authorization to release the body to the coroner or their lawful agents. In such case the exhumation must be made by the coroner or their lawful agents: cemetery staff will not be permitted to assist the coroner or their agents.
- The Church of the Sacred Heart and its employees will exercise the utmost care in making an exhumation, but assumes no liability for damage to any vault, casket, urn or monument. Any damage made during exhumation is at the expense of the party requesting the removal.
- Cremated remains are not to be disinterred unless they are being moved to another niche or ground burial. If the cremains are being moved to another cemetery, no work will be performed until the proper paperwork is filed with the Church of the Sacred Heart facilities manager from the new cemetery of burial.

### **Perpetual Care**

- Perpetual care includes the cutting and watering of the grass at reasonable intervals, raking and cleaning of the grounds. It shall also mean the maintaining and general preservation of the lots, grounds, walks, roadways, boundaries, and structure, to the end that said grounds remain and be reasonably cared for as cemetery grounds permanently. Such permanent care shall in no instance mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial marker or structure of any kind erected upon a lot or lots. Nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marker or monument damaged or destroyed from whatever cause; such as vandalism, theft, invasions, insurrections, riots, strikes, or order of military, or otherwise.
- Graves will be filled after burial and may need to be done 2 or 3 times before seeding of grass is done.

### **Disclaimers**

The Church of the Sacred Heart reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that are made regarding the cemetery. These errors may pertain to, but are not limited to the following; interments, or exhumation, or in description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property, either by cancelling such conveyance and substituting property of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of such purchase. In the event that such errors shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Church of the Sacred Heart reserves, and shall have the right to remove and transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

The Church of the Sacred Heart disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage beyond its reasonable control. The Church of the Sacred Heart reserves the right at any time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind or add to these rules and regulations of any party thereof, or to adopt any new rules or regulations with the respect to its cemeteries or anything pertaining thereto.

It shall be the duty of the lot/plot holder to notify the parish office of any change in his/her post office address. Notice sent to a lot/plot holder at the last address the parish office's records shall be considered sufficient and proper legal notification.

Church of the Sacred Heart Cemetery Committee