

## **ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CEMTERY**

### **GRAVE DECORATIONS GUIDELINES**

It is a good and holy thing to honor the graves and crypts of our loved ones with flowers and decorations. While we realize that there are many different ideas as to what are beautiful and appropriate decorations, the following guidelines have been established for the common good so that the beauty of our cemetery can be maintained. These guidelines try to strike an appropriate balance between the necessary regard for the safety of the cemetery staff and visitors and the needs of the families whose loved ones are buried in our cemetery.

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

1. Fresh cut and artificial flowers placed in floral containers attached to the monument are always welcome decorations. Floral "saddles" may be placed on top of upright monuments. Lot owners should be aware of the fact that artificial flowers tend to fade and disintegrate over time due to the effects of weather. The cemetery reserves the right to remove and/or dispose of any floral decorations (fresh cut and/or artificial) when they become wilted, discolored, damaged or unsightly. It is also not permissible to stick artificial flowers in the ground in front of or in the area around headstones or monuments. All flowers must be placed in and attached firmly to permanently installed flower vases. Permanently installed flower vases must be approved by the superintendent and installed by either cemetery employees or an approved monument dealer.
2. Flowers, trees, and other plants may not be planted on the grave site.
3. Flowers brought to the cemetery following a funeral will be removed from the grave three days following the burial. Any person wishing to retain floral designs or decorations must remove them within 48 hours following the funeral service.
4. Stepping stones and benches are not permitted on the lots.
5. Wooden fences, trellises, headboards, or any other enclosures around lots or graves are not permitted.
6. If any monument, structure, object or inscription placed in or upon any monument or structure on any lot which shall be determined to be offensive, improper, or injurious to the surrounding lots or grounds, it shall be the right and duty of the Superintendent or Board of Directors to correct the object or remove it from the monument and/or lot.
7. It is not permissible to hang items in trees, and/or shrubbery near grave sites, including but not limited to bird feeders, bird houses, balloons, whirly gigs, wind chimes, solar lights, wooden signs, banners, or other decorations. The Superintendent maintains the authority to remove and disposal of such items
8. Items placed in or on the ground, or on monuments, including but not limited to: shepherd's hooks, statues, glass objects/containers, rocks, shells, toys, stuffed animals, solar lights, balloons, wreaths, wooden or metal crosses, candles, or other ornamental objects are strictly prohibited. The Superintendent maintains the authority to remove any object from the Cemetery that does not comply with these regulations. Removed items can be retrieved from the Cemetery maintenance department. All removed items will be disposed of after 60 days.
9. While every effort will be made to care for decorations, the cemetery regrets that it cannot be responsible for any grave decorations which are lost, stolen, or damaged.
10. Receptacles for waste materials are located at convenient locations in the Cemetery. Disposal of rubbish on the drives or any part of the grounds is prohibited.

## **REGULATIONS DURING MOWING SEASON**

### **MARCH 1 – OCTOBER 31**

- 1. MARCH 1 – MARCH 15.** All decorations placed on the grave over the winter will be removed and discarded in preparation for the growing season. Lot owners should retrieve any items they wish to keep before this date. **Lot owners are asked not to place any decorations during this time.**
2. During mowing season, no decorations are allowed to be placed on the ground. All decorations must be placed in vases attached to monument or approved in-ground vases.
3. Any item found on the ground, lot, or grave which interferes with mowing and trimming of the cemetery grounds will be removed without notice.
4. All floral decorations must be placed on the monument in a permanently installed vase.

## **REGULATIONS DURING NON-MOWING SEASON-**

### **NOVEMBER 1 – MARCH 1.**

1. Grave blankets or grave coverings are permitted; however, they may not be secured with metal stakes driven into the ground.
2. Artificial wreaths less than 30 inches high placed on stands are permitted.

## **HOLIDAYS/SPECIAL OCCASIONS EASTER, MEMORIAL DAY,**

### **MOTHER'S DAY, FATHER'S DAY**

1. In addition to artificial and fresh flowers, the following may be placed on grave sites three days prior to the holiday until three days following the holiday: potted plants, wreaths, and American flags.

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## **MAUSOLEUM DECORATION POLICY**

1. Only artificial flowers are allowed in the mausoleum. They may be placed only in authorized vases permanently attached to the crypt or niche.
2. Use of tape, wires or glue to attach items to the front of the crypt or niche is strictly prohibited.
3. Nothing can be placed on the floors inside the mausoleum or on the sidewalks outside the mausoleum. Decorations placed in these locations will be removed.
4. A device is kept inside the mausoleum to assist you with decoration of upper level crypts.
5. All decorations on the exterior of the mausoleum will be removed when they become unsightly.

## **GARDEN OF THE LAMBS DECORATION GUIDELINES**

The Garden of the Lambs is a special section of the cemetery that is set aside for early pregnancy losses. Because of the special nature of these graves and with due regard to the families whose love ones are buried here, the cemetery has allowed families to place flowers and decorations on the grave markers of their loved ones. However, the cemetery reserves the right to remove any items from this area if and when they become broken, faded, or discolored.