

The Catholic Communities of St. Adalbert and St. Patrick Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Cemeteries, like homes and neighborhoods can be beautiful and attractive, or cluttered and untidy. This appearance depends in part on the cemetery regulations. Only by your cooperation and adherence to these rules and our strict enforcement of them can we attain our common goal, a beautiful cemetery.

The size and design of all memorial work must meet cemetery specifications. No monument or marker may be set on a plot or grave until cemetery charges are paid in full. A Cross, the symbol of our faith, must occupy a prominent place on every monument. All epitaphs and designs must be in harmony with the doctrines of the Catholic Church. Under no condition will inscriptions or emblems of non-Catholic societies be permitted on monuments or markers.

Articles such as glass jars, candles, water cans, votive lights, garden flags, wrought iron planters/holders, palm, balloons, chimes, figurines and mementos of any description are forbidden, and will be removed without notice.

Artificial decorations are not permitted during the growing season April 15 through November 1. Appropriate winter decorations are permitted during the period of November 1 through April 15. "The purpose of the regulation is two fold. First, while one artificial decoration can be attractive, collectively their appearance is quite the opposite creating a cluttered hodgepodge, which seriously distracts from the beauty of the section and the entire cemetery. Secondly, it was not intended that each grave should be permanently decorated. If that were so, the cost of cemetery maintenance and, therefore, cemetery lots would be prohibitive." *

Potted plants are permitted provided they are not dug into the soil. Cut flowers are always permitted when placed in appropriate containers, and both will be removed when their appearance warrants. The planting of flowers and shrubbery is not allowed.

Stone, raised grave markers, enclosures, fences, curbing, railings, raised corner posts and anything else that impedes mowing and trimming are forbidden.

Animals, other than service animals, should not be brought to the cemetery. People have used the cemetery as a walking area for dogs and have left messes, without regard to others.

"In the final analysis, the beauty of the cemetery is reflected in the overall maintenance that we give it. Unfortunately, there is an adverse relationship between the amount of care we can give and the amount of decorations that are permitted on the lots. Our regulations are designed to allow lot owners to decorate without placing an unfair financial burden on them." *

"It is difficult to adopt regulations and policies that will please everyone, but we have tried to be fair in allowing lot owners to decorate, yet keep the costs of our operations, as a result of this, within reason for everyone." *

"In recent years, more stringent environmental controls on dumping have placed a new and unforeseen burden on cemeteries. Virtually everything brought into the cemetery must be disposed of in a dumpster, adding a tremendous annual expense to the maintenance of our cemeteries. This does not even take into consideration the wages of employees for removal of decorations." *

The Cemetery Association is not responsible for any items placed on a grave site. Restricted items may be removed. Also, unfortunately items may be stolen because it is not a protected or patrolled environment. Some items, when broken, cause a hazard for workers and visitors in the cemetery.

No dumping allowed. Please place items you remove from grave near dumpster for disposal.

Rules are designed to keep the cemetery a place of beauty, peace and prayer and are subject to change in the best interest of the cemetery. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our cemetery a serene and Godly place of repose for our loved ones.

Also, remember that Mass is celebrated daily for the deceased. Perhaps a donation to a charitable organization in memory of your loved one would provide what decorations cannot.

* Excerpted from a letter sent from the Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford