ST. PATRICK
Catholic Church

Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Revised January 27, 2025

St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery
19921 Nightingale St. NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011-9243

Date: 1/27/2025
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INTRODUCTION

For the mutual protection and benefit of burial plot and niche owners, the following Rules and Regulations have been adopted by St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery, located at 19921 Nightingale Street Northwest, Oak Grove, MN 55011-9243. All Right to Burial owners, either burial plot or niche, and visitors within the Cemetery, shall be subject to said Rules and Regulations, and subject further to such other Rules and Regulations, amendments, or alterations as needed.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document, the following terms shall have the following definitions, unless stated otherwise:

- "**Plot**" or "**Burial Place**" shall be used interchangeably and shall apply with like effect to one or more adjoining burial plots.
- "**Niche**" is used for burial spaces within a columbarium.
- "**Interment**" shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by burial. Remains may be full-body or cremated remains.
- "**Monument**" shall include a vertical monument (headstone) or flat monument (headstone).
    a. A vertical monument is above ground and is placed at the head of the burial plot.
    b. A flat monument is level with the ground and is placed at the foot of the burial plot.
- "**Cemetery Authority**" shall mean the Pastor, Business Administrator, Cemetery Coordinator, or the Cemetery Committee as appointed by the Pastor.
- "**Care**" shall apply to the entire cemetery provided by either a permanent care fund or by the St. Patrick Catholic Church.
- "**Right to Burial**" means the owner has purchased only the "Right to Burial" in a specific burial plot or niche location, as described in the Purchase Agreement for a burial plot or a niche. St. Patrick Cemetery retains physical ownership of all burial plots and niches in the cemetery.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The St Patrick Catholic Cemetery, Oak Grove, MN is operated in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota; the Rules and Regulations of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, MN; and the Rules and Regulations of the St. Patrick Catholic Church, Oak

Grove, MN. 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 Cemetery Authority may deem objectionable to the best interests of St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery.

St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, 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 herein provided.

- 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.
- No unauthorized vehicles may be operated or driven in St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery unless the consent of the Pastor or Other Cemetery Authority has been obtained.
- Pet owners must keep their pets on a leash and clean up after visits to the cemetery.
- Alcohol is not permitted within the cemetery.

RIGHT TO BURIAL FOR BURIAL PLOT OWNERS OR NICHE OWNERS

Right to Burial grants burial plot owners or niche owners the right of interment in their burial plots or niches only. The Cemetery Authority of St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery reserves the right to refuse the interment of anyone who was not at the time of death the owner of the burial plot without permission of the owner of the burial plot.

A Trust Deed can be completed by the owner of a burial plot where the owner specifies who is to be buried in that specific burial plot or niche, if it is someone other than the owner.

No burial plot or niche shall be used for any purpose other than burial of the human dead.

CORRECTION OF ERRORS

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

CARE OF BURIAL PLOT AND NICHES

The Cemetery Authority will give such care as cutting the grass and general preservation of the grounds. The Cemetery Authority will provide reasonable care and maintenance for the columbaria and associated niches.

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

INTERNMENTS

No interment of a body or cremation will be made in a burial plot or niche that is not paid in full without the permission of the Pastor or Cemetery Authority.

A. FULL BODY, IN-GROUND BURIAL

1. The Funeral Director, upon arrival at the cemetery, must present a Burial Permit from the Department of Health.
2. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the cemetery, no funeral director, nor his embalmer, assistant, employee or agent, shall be permitted to open the casket without the consent of the next of kin or legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
3. No interment of a body or remains shall be made unless properly contained in a casket and placed inside a concrete vault.
4. *Multiple burials*: one full-body burial and one cremation burial, each contained within a concrete vault, is permitted in any single burial plot, with the exception below.
5. *Multiple burials:* A set of cremated remains in a cremation urn may be placed inside the casket of a full body prior to burial for burial in the same plot. Cremated remains cannot be added to a casket after it is completely buried. Cemetery records must show that 2 burials occurred in this single burial plot and that the authorization letter was received.

B. CREMATED REMAINS, IN-GROUND BURIAL

1. The person bringing the cremated remains to the cemetery must present a Certificate of Cremation to the Cemetery Authority.
2. Once a container containing cremated remains is within the confines of the cemetery, the container shall not be opened without the consent of the next

of kin or legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

3. No interment of cremated remains may be made unless the remains are contained in an appropriate urn and placed inside a concrete cremation vault.

4. The maximum dimensions of a cremation urn are:

Length (left to right)	Width (front to back)	Height
11.5”	8”	10”

5. *Multiple burials:* interment of two cremated remains into a single burial plot is permitted. The first cremated remains shall be buried one foot from the foot end of the burial plot. The second cremated remains shall be buried six feet from the foot end of the burial plot. Both shall be centered on either side of the burial plot. The cemetery records must indicate that two cremated remains are buried in the same burial plot, as well as their respective location at the foot end or head end of the burial plot.

    - Interment of cremated remains is permitted into a burial plot where a full body has been buried in a casket and outer concrete container. The concrete cremation vault with the cremated remains shall be placed directly on top of the outer concrete container and near the head-end of the burial plot. The Cemetery’s records must indicate that cremated remains are buried in the same burial plot.
    - *Special exception:* a burial of either cremated remains or an infant is permitted as a second burial in a deceased owner’s burial plot if the owner’s surviving spouse and the eldest child grant permission. If there is no surviving spouse, all the surviving children of the deceased Right to Burial owner must grant permission through a notarized letter. If there is no surviving spouse or children, the administrator of the estate or the next of kin may grant permission through a notarized letter.

C. CREMATED REMAINS, COLUMBARIUM BURIAL

Each columbarium has 40 single niches and 40 double niches. One person’s cremains may be placed in a single niche, or two person’s cremains may be placed in a double niche.

1. The person bringing the cremated remains to the cemetery must present a Certificate of Cremation to the Cemetery Authority.

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

3. No interment of cremated remains may be made unless the remains are contained in an appropriate urn.
4. The maximum dimensions of a cremation urn are:

Length (left to right)	Width (front to back)	Height
10”	10”	10”

5. A single urn with cremated remains may be interred in a single niche. The cemetery records will indicate that these cremated remains are interred in the single niche.
6. Two cremation urns with cremated remains may be interred in a double niche. Typically, the first cremated remains will be placed to the rear of the double niche, and the second cremated remains will be placed at the front of the double niche. The cemetery records will indicate that two cremated remains are interred in the same double niche.

D. MISCARRIED BABY, IN-GROUND BURIAL

1. Once a casket or baby cradle containing the miscarried baby is within the confines of the cemetery, the container shall not be opened without the consent of the next of kin or legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
2. No interment of a miscarried baby may be made unless the remains are contained in a concrete vault.
3. Interment of up to three miscarried babies of the same mother and father is allowed in one miscarried baby burial plot. The cemetery records will indicate the number of miscarried baby burials within a single plot.
4. St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery will provide burial space for any miscarried baby at no cost to the miscarried baby’s family.

DISINTERMENT

The Pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church or the Cemetery Authority may authorize disinterment of a full body, cremated remains, or miscarried baby remains.

CEMETERY DECORATIONS

Natural decorations such as potted plants, cut flowers, and evergreen wreaths are preferred; however, natural-looking artificial flowers are permitted. All decorations must be off the ground and secured in an approved plant stand, which can be purchased from St. Patrick Cemetery.

In an effort to keep this sacred space beautiful, the Cemetery Authority reserves the right to remove items that become weathered, unsightly, or unseasonal.

Christmas arrangements are permitted from Thanksgiving to Candlemas (February 2). Items remaining after February 2 will be donated or discarded.

For safety reasons, ***no glass or ceramic decorations are allowed*** in the cemetery.

No decorations are permitted on any columbarium niches or miscarried baby burial plots.

A. SPRING AND FALL CLEANUP

The first week of May and the last week of October each year is the cemetery's spring and fall cleanup. Artificial flowers faded by the sun should be replaced. Live plants should be removed before the winter frost. Secure all planters to the plant stand with zip ties or weigh them down with rocks to prevent them from being blown away. Drill holes in the bottom of planters to prevent standing water from accumulating.

PLANTING ON BURIAL PLOTS

No planting of shrubs, flowers, trees, etc. is allowed.

MONUMENT HEADSTONES AND FOOTSTONES

All monument designs, including Upright Monument Headstones, Flat Marker Footstones, and Bench Monuments, must be **reviewed** and **approved** by the Cemetery Authority before the monument is made. See *Monument Approval Process*. St. Patrick Cemetery Authority has the right and responsibility to review and approve special situations/requests or any exceptions to the specifications listed below,

- No monument may be placed on any burial plot that is not fully paid.
- All monuments shall be natural granite or marble, with the exception of bronze veterans monuments from the VA Department. No artificial stone of any kind is permitted.
- Monuments may be placed only in designated areas.
- No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders, or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any burial plot. No walks of brick, cinders, tile, terra cotta, sand, cement, or wood shall be allowed on any burial plot. The Cemetery Authority reserves the right to remove the same if so erected or placed.
- Crosses, statues, or other burial plot markers of wood, iron, cement, or any like material are strictly prohibited, except the standard bronze insignia provided for the burial plots of veterans.

- No memorial work of any kind will be allowed unless it is in the spirit of the Catholic Church tradition. A cross or a symbol of the cross is required on each memorial.
- Workers employed in placing or erecting memorials and other structures or materials shall operate as independent contractors but must do so under permission from the proper cemetery authorities. Each independent contractor must have insurance coverage. A current copy of the Certificate of Insurance must be on file with St. Patrick Catholic Church.
- No memorials may be installed between November 1 and April 15 without permission from the Cemetery Authority. The right is reserved to the Cemetery Authority to refuse to permit such work, unless the grounds are thoroughly settled and in good condition
- The Cemetery Authority reserves the right to stop all work of any nature whenever:
  - proper preparations have not been made,
  - tools and 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 Cemetery Authority is disregarded,
  - work is not being executed according to specifications,
  - any person employed on the work violates any rule of 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 the Cemetery Authority or family members.
- Monument makers should not put any labels or signs advertising their company on any monuments they place or set in this cemetery.
- No memorial work of any kind is permitted on a miscarried baby burial plot. The name of the miscarried baby may be added to the respective Row Monument at no cost to the miscarried baby's parents.
- St Patrick Cemetery does not require a monument to be placed on a purchased burial plot.

A. FLAT MONUMENT SPECIFICATIONS

A flat monument on a *single burial plot* shall have the following **maximum** dimension: 24" long (left to right), 12" wide (front to back), and not less than 4" in thickness.

A flat monument on *two adjacent burial plots* shall have the following **maximum** dimension: 42" long (left to right), 12" wide (front to back), and not less than 4" in thickness.

- A flat monument is set within 2 inches of the foot of the burial plot.

- When a flat bronze veteran's monument is used and is the second monument on a specific burial plot, it shall be placed directly above the first monument, towards the head of the burial plot.
- Each monument shall be set in a foundation of concrete. The foundation shall extend beyond the perimeter of the monument. The foundation shall be as thick as the marker. The foundation will be built and installed per the specifications of the subcontractor's contract.
- The bottom of the foundation with the monument shall be 2 inches from the foot of the burial plot. The foundation with the monument shall be centered (left to right) on a single burial plot or on adjoining burial plots. The foundation may not extend into the burial plot of another owner.
- A monument shall be readable from the foot of the burial plot.

B. SMALL UPRIGHT MONUMENT SPECIFICATIONS

A small upright monument on a single burial plot shall have the following **maximum** dimension: 30" long (left to right), 12" wide (front to back), and 24" high(top to bottom).

- A small upright monument is allowed on a single burial plot in a Monument Row.
- All upright monuments must be readable from the foot of the burial plot. No printing, engravings or emblems is permitted on the back side of an upright monument.
- Each small upright monument shall be set on a concrete foundation that extends beyond the perimeter of the monument. The foundation will be built and installed per the specifications of the subcontractor's contract.
- The top of the foundation shall be within two inches of the top (head) end of the burial plot. The foundation shall be centered (left to right) on a single burial plot and shall not extend beyond the burial plot.
- No names or designs are permitted on the backside of a monument.

C. LARGE UPRIGHT MONUMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Large upright monuments on two adjacent burial plot shall have the following **maximum** dimension: 42" long (left to right), 12" wide (front to back), and 36" high (top to bottom).

- A large upright monument is allowed on two adjacent burial plots in a Monument Row.

- All upright monuments must be readable from the foot of the burial plot. No printing, engravings or emblems is permitted on the back side of an upright monument.
- Each large upright monument shall be set on a concrete foundation that extends beyond the perimeter of the monument. The foundation will be built and installed per the specifications of the subcontractor's contract.
- The top of the foundation shall be within two inches of the top (head) end of the burial plot. The foundation shall be centered (left to right) on a single burial plot and shall not extend beyond the burial plot.
- No names or designs are permitted on the backside of a monument.

D. BENCH-STYLE MONUMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Bench-style monuments on two adjacent burial plots shall have the following **maximum** dimension: 42" long (left to right), 14" wide (front to back), and 36" high(top to bottom).

- A bench-style monument is allowed on two adjacent burial plots in a Monument Row.
- All upright monuments must be readable from the foot of the burial plot. No printing, engravings or emblems is permitted on the back side of an upright monument.
- Each bench-style monument shall be set on a concrete foundation that extends beyond the perimeter of the monument. The foundation will be built and installed per the specifications of the subcontractor's contract.
- The top of the foundation shall be installed within two inches of the top (head) end of the burial plot. The foundation shall be centered (left to right) on a single burial plot and shall not extend beyond the burial plot.

E. MILITARY MONUMENT SPECIFICATIONS

The overall size of the military upright monument is per Veteran's Administration specifications.

- Military monument flat markers of either bronze, granite, or marble are permitted. An upright military monument is permitted in a monument row.
- Each veteran's upright monument shall be set on a concrete foundation that extends beyond the perimeter of the monument. The foundation will be built and installed per the specifications of the subcontractor's contract.

- The top of the foundation shall be installed within two inches of the top (head) end of the burial plot. The foundation shall be centered (left to right) on a single burial plot and shall not extend beyond the burial plot.

F. COLUMBARIUM NAME PLAQUE SPECIFICATIONS

The name plaque attached to a niche has the last name, first name, year of birth, and year of death of who is, or will be, interred in said niche. The name plaque is the only memorial permitted on the columbarium niches.

Each name plaque has space for a small veteran's medallion.

A niche may be sold back to the cemetery for the original price of purchase, less the cost of the name plaque.

MONUMENT REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Each monument must be reviewed and approved by the Cemetery Authority prior to fabrication to ensure that it meets the requirements of St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery reserves the right to reject a finished monument if it does not comply with the approved design.

A. PROCESS

1. After meeting with the monument company to determine the monument design, the monument company sends the design with measurements to the St. Patrick Cemetery Authority for approval.
2. The Cemetery Authority reviews the design to ensure it meets the cemetery requirements.
3. Once the cemetery requirements are met, the Cemetery Authority fills out and submits to the monument company a completed Review and Approval Document (CEM 116-B, CEM 116-C, or CEM 116-D) authorizing fabrication to begin.
4. When the monument is near completion, the monument company contacts the Cemetery Authority to request a foundation be set in place prior to the monument's delivery and installation.

TRANSFER OF TITLE

No permitted transfer or assignment of any interment space or interest therein shall be valid until accepted in writing by St. Patrick Cemetery Authority and filed in the records of the parish cemetery. The St Patrick Cemetery Authority will process appropriate transfer documents and obtain appropriate signatures to complete the transfer.

St. Patrick's Cemetery Authority will buy back unused burial plot(s) or niches at the original purchase price of those burial plot(s) or niches and process a refund to the owner.

St. Patrick's Cemetery Authority will process trade-ins if an owner desires to trade in their current burial plot site or niche for another burial plot site or niche in St Patrick Catholic Cemetery.

Title to burial plot(s) descends by Will, Trust Agreement, or Statutes of the State of Minnesota.

SUPPORTING PROCEDURES OR PROCESSES

- CEM 104 Fee List
- CEM 105 Burial plot Sales Procedure
- CEM 106 Burial Procedure
- CEM 105-C Columbarium Niche Sales procedure
- CEM 116 Memorial Design Review and Approval Procedure
- CEM 126 Cremation Vault - Inside and Outside Dimensions
- St Patrick Catholic Church web site – www.st-patricks.org

REVISION HISTORY

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
BB	04-02-1997	Starting document.
BC	12-08-2008	Numerous changes throughout this document.
		For changes from REV BB, see archived copies of the old marked up Rev BB Rules and Regulations documents.
BC	12-08-2008	End of Revision “BC” changes.
BC	02-05-2009	Approved by the Pastor and the Cemetery Committee Chair.
	12-27-2010	No content changes. Only added header and footer for better control. Approved by Cemetery Committee Chair.
CC	01-18-2018	Added Miscarried Baby section, changes in monument width to 14 inches for bench monuments, changes to allow 2 plant stands on all markers, changes to allow single upright monuments on single burial plots, changes in paragraph 7.1.4, 7.1.5, 7.1.6 and changes in 7.2, added paragraph 3.4, and 12.1.4. Approved by Cemetery Committee and the Parish Administrator.
DD	05-1-2023	Incorporated the Columbarium and Niche cemetery operations and made some smaller changes.
EE	10-16-2024	Modified format. Added Monument Review & Approval Process.