

# All Saints Catholic Cemeteries

*The Campuses of St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, St. Paul and St. Martin*

**Rules and Regulations-Revised August 18, 2020**

## **Rules to be abided by**

Anyone interested in obtaining burial rights must read and abide by these rules and regulations and do so by signing a copy of this document (page 2) for retention for both the individual and church records. It is our hope that by having this information it will better allow you and your loved ones to grieve with hope at your time of loss.

## **Definition of Terms**

- A burial plot, also known as a grave, is defined as an area of ground intended for the burial of one individual for full body or two individuals for cremains. In order for two individuals to be buried in a single plot the following criteria must be satisfied: plots must be purchased and pre-planned, both individuals must be named at the time of purchase, both individuals must agree to be cremated, cremains must be buried side by side and not on top of each other. This applies to plots purchased after October 1, 2019.
- Cremains is the term used for the cremated remains of a human person.
- Spouses are defined as a man and women united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- All Saints Cemeteries are properly consecrated as sacred places in accordance with Canon Law 1210, which provides “only those things which serve the exercise or promotion of worship, piety, and religion are to be admitted into a sacred place; anything that is not in accord with the holiness of the place is “forbidden”.
- A registered parish member is (1) on the Parish Roster and (2) also contributes financially and with the giving of their time and talent. A non-registered person is someone who does not meet the two mentioned criteria.

## **General Rules**

- A full body burial requires the use of a vault.
- The burial of cremains does require a burial container but does not require the use of a vault, but it is strongly recommended.
- Cremains are to be buried in the ground and treated with the same respect as a full body burial.
- Before the initiation of any burial plot preparation, or setting of a headstone, the parish office must be contacted so that the proper placement can be marked by members of the cemetery board.
- The cemetery board, with the approval of the parish council and the pastor, reserves the right to add or change regulations.

## **Plot Rules**

- Burial right costs:
  - Single cemetery plot \$500 – registered parish member, spouse and dependent children.
  - Single cemetery plot \$1,000 – non registered person.
  - Checks are to be made out to All Saints Parish.
- Acquiring a plot means the right to be buried (burial rights), but the individual or family members of the person being buried do not own the ground; the ground is the property of All Saints Catholic Church.
- The right to burial in each plot belong to the individual who purchased them. They may be transferred to immediate heirs or decedents, with written notice given to the parish office, but they may not be resold. All sales take place through the Parish Office.
- Purchased rights can be donated back to All Saints if they are not to be used or a refund of the purchased price may be given by the parish upon written request.
- Rights are purchased with the intent of being used. Acquiring plots to block off areas is not the intent of our parish community cemetery; unused plots are contrary to our small parish cemetery concept.
- If multiple plots are acquired, (more than two) family members must be buried from left to right filling in every space, leaving room for spouses. This is to prevent single plots from being unused.
- Plots can be chosen from rows currently open for sale. The opening of new rows is determined by the cemetery board.
- All Saints is responsible for the maintaining of the plot after burial. It may take six months to one year for the completion of fill dirt and seeding.

## **Grave Markers-Headstone Rules**

- Single grave monument-less than 42 inches long, 22 inches wide and 60 inches tall.
- Double grave monument-less than 84 inches long, 22 inches wide and 60 inches tall.
- Plot owners are responsible for the purchasing of headstones.
- This is a Roman Catholic Parish Cemetery; grave markers should reflect and honor this.
- Headstones should be in a traditional shape and style. Headstones in the shape of non-traditional or secular symbols are

not permitted. Non-traditional shapes include but are not limited to benches, couches, trees, animals, children's toys, logos.

- Headstones are not permitted to have secular (non-Christian) images.

- Guidelines for engraved images on the tombstones:

**Religious images that are allowed:** cross, dove, rosary, bible, praying hands, Sacred Heart, Immaculate Heart, miraculous medal, image of a saint, biblical passage, heart, marriage bands/rings

**Images of God's Creation that are allowed:** a head shot of the deceased, flowers, trees, plant life, animal life, farm land. A Medallion or image to show the deceased was a Veteran or public servant (fire fighter, police, medical professional, EMT) is permitted.

**Images that are not allowed:** secular (non-Christian) images including but are not limited to logos, brand names, motorized vehicles (such as tractors, race cars, boats), guns, knives, weapons, hobbies, sport memorabilia, references to alcohol or drugs

- All final headstone designs and layouts must be sent to the parish office and approved by the subcommittee of the cemetery board which consists of one board member from each historic campus, and if needed consultation with the pastor and parish council, prior to final order placement and purchasing of said monuments from a monument company.**

- Monument companies must have their monuments and footer/foundation installation approved in advance by the cemetery committee or their designee. Any monument and footer/foundation installed without approval is subject to removal at the cost of the monument company.**

- For any headstone that spans combined plots, with the exception of spouses, approval from the cemetery board, and if needed the parish council and the pastor, is required.

- Headstones damaged by time or weather are to be repaired by immediate family. If there are no living family members that are parish members, the parish cemetery board may repair the headstone at the cost of the parish.

- Headstones are to be set within six (6) months of burial. After attempting to notify the family, the cemetery board, with the approval of the parish council, reserves the right to place a simple grave marker after eighteen (18) months of the burial. (The name of the deceased, the date of birth, and the date of death will be on the marker).

- The cemetery board, with the approval of the parish council and the pastor, has the right to refuse any stone that does not meet the intentions of these rules.

- Headstones must have a concrete foundation, level to the ground, at least twenty-six (26) inches in depth, reinforced with rebar and with the base measuring four (4) inches wider than the base of the monument on all sides.

- The foundation and headstone must be lined up with the other monuments in its proper row.

- The cost of opening and closing of the grave is not included in the purchasing of the plot.

- No foot markers/stones are permitted with the exception of military, flat, bronze markers.

- Mausoleums are not permitted in our cemeteries.

### Decoration Rules

- During the mowing season (April 1-November 1) it is required that flowers, lights, statues or mementoes be placed on the headstone or a hanger directly adjacent to the headstone. All articles should be marked with names so that they can be replaced if blown or knocked off. No items/flowers are permitted on the grass during the mowing season. Any items/flowers on the grass after April 10 will be discarded without the consent of the owner.

- The cemetery board has the right of refusal to any object placed on a grave and have the right to remove said object if deemed inappropriate.

- Artificial flowers may be placed on the ground in front of headstones starting November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> and again two days before Memorial Day through four days after that time.

- No live plants, trees or shrubs may be planted.

- Christmas blankets are not permitted.

- Anything left on the burial plot after a funeral, other than the grave marker/headstone must be removed after ten (10) days, or it will be discarded by the parish cemetery board.

- Rods to hold flowers, also known as "shepherd hooks," may be used but **must** be oriented over the headstone out of the mowing area, so that harm is not done to those who maintain the cemetery lawn.

- Benches, stone borders, fences and footstones are not permitted on plots at any time.

### Visitation Rules

- Visitation hours are from sunrise to sunset. Visitation outside these hours is strictly forbidden.

### Information Requests

- A donation of \$25 is suggested for the requesting of genealogy or burial records.

I have read the cemetery rules and regulations and promise to abide by them, so help me God

Signature of Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Seller: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_