



Blessed Trinity Catholic Parish

Saint Michael & Saint Patrick Catholic Cemeteries

Rules and Regulations

The parish cemetery is indeed a sacred place, marking the final resting place for the beloved deceased of our parish family. The policies and procedures are meant to be helpful and are based on extensive experience in Catholic cemetery ministry. Please help us maintain these sacred grounds by adhering to the following guidelines:

1. For the safety of our employees and visitors, metal stakes, fences, wire fasteners of any kind, glass containers, rods, such as flag holders (excluding rule number 5) and portable decorations (e.g. solar lights, lawn ornaments, etc.) that are not part of a monument, or a monuments base or marker, are not allowed. These tend to fall over and impede mowing and are a safety issue. Unless they are secured in the monument or its foundation, they will be removed and set aside in a safe place for you to retrieve.
2. Landscaping of any kind, including but not excluded to edging and/or stones placed within the gravesite are not allowed, as it is very difficult to mow and trim around, and will be removed.
3. Planting anything directly into the soil is prohibited. Flowering plants, shrubs, and small trees can quickly grow out of control, which makes mowing the lawn difficult. Overgrown trees can cause damage to the grave and monument, and are expensive to remove.
4. Flowering plants, either natural or artificial, in non-breakable containers are allowed, but must be placed on the monument or monument base so as not to interfere with mowing. Christmas decorations must be removed by May 15th and summer flowers by November 1st. Decorations not removed will be disposed of by cemetery staff.
5. No more than one (1) shepherd hook (each containing only one hook) OR one (1) plant holder is allowed in any lot, and then only in a lot containing an upright monument. Shepherd hooks or plant holders are to be placed directly next to the monument or its foundation. Only flowers or wreaths (live or artificial) may be hung on or from a shepherd hook or plant holder.
6. Digging (i.e., opening or closing a grave) and/or placing a monument on a lot is strictly forbidden without the express permission of the cemetery committee.
7. Approval of monument design must be obtained from the cemetery committee.
8. To reflect the sacredness of our grounds and our belief in the resurrection monuments should contain Christian symbols.
9. As stated in the cemetery contract, monuments are NOT the property of the parish or cemetery, but are owned by the grantee or grantee's heirs. Therefore, it is the responsibility of grantee or grantee's heirs to keep the monument in a safe and proper state of repair. In the event of damage, the monument shall be repaired at the expense of the grant or grantee's heirs. Any insurance coverage is the responsibility of the grantee or grantee's heirs.
10. Workers engaged in setting or maintaining monuments must obtain permission from the cemetery management before commencing work, and they shall be subject to its control. All other services about the lot requiring labor shall be performed by employees of the cemetery.
11. Prior to opening any grave site, the lot must be verified by the parish. Only authorized personnel, as approved by the parish pastor or his representative, are allowed to open/close the grave.
12. The *Order of Christian Funerals* will be followed. Committal services should, when possible, take place at the actual burial, entombment, or inurnment site unless pastoral reasons dictate otherwise. The pastor makes this determination. The pastor of Blessed Trinity Catholic Parish or a member of the Roman Catholic clergy is designated to perform the Rite of Committal. However, if a cleric is not available the pastor will appoint a suitable delegate.
13. Please do not drive or park on the lawn.
14. Accidents on cemetery property should be reported immediately.
15. These policies and procedures are subject to change. Modifications will be made when ministerial and operating needs suggest this is wise.
16. Parties seeking lot information or interested in purchasing a cemetery lot(s) must contact the parish office.

Thank you for respecting these regulations and helping preserve the beauty and dignity of Saint Patrick and Saint Michael Catholic Cemeteries.

"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them"