

Articles placed in the graveyard for the summer season must be removed before winter sets in. Articles not removed, will be removed by authority of the Cemetery Committee.

No new shrubs or trees allowed. Those presently in the cemetery must be neatly trimmed.

CEMETERY FUND

We do not have an account set aside for the cemetery, but all donations go into general church finances of the church with an individual record kept of what is donated.

We suggest this policy be reviewed annually and (if necessary) amended to clearly state the intentions/guidelines of the St. Augustine's, St. Mary's and Pioneer Cemeteries.

Date: Oct. 13, 2009



St. Augustine, St. Mary's of the People and Pioneer Cemetery Policies and Procedures

"I am not dying; I am entering life." -- St. Therese of Lisieux

A SACRED SPACE

A Roman Catholic Cemetery reflects our religious beliefs concerning the faithful departed. Burial in a consecrated ground is a sign of our baptismal commitment and gives witness, even in death, to our faith in Christ's resurrection. "The dead are in the hands of God: no torment can touch them" (Wisdom 3.1). The mortal remains of our loved ones await the resurrection of the body on the last day. We assist the dead spiritually through our prayers; most especially through assisting at Mass where we link all of our concerns and cares to the life giving Passion of Jesus Christ. For the dead, the worries and problems of this world are over. Our departed family members no longer require any physical items to give them comfort or assurance of our love.

In Church Law a Catholic cemetery is a *sacred place*. "In a sacred place only those things are to be permitted which serve to exercise or promote worship, piety, and religion. Anything out of harmony with the holiness of the place is forbidden" (Canon 1210). Accordingly, the outward appearance of the cemetery should reflect simplicity and restraint.

This Policy Manual is presented to inform both Parishioners and non-parishioners of the operations and maintenance of our individual Cemeteries. If you require further information, please contact the Parish Office at 963-2245.

Our objective is to maintain a cemetery that we can all be proud of and we hope the Cemetery Policy Manual contains clear, concise and helpful information to aid everyone in understanding the Policy.

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RECORDS

Graves and plots are recorded. A plotted map is available by contacting the Parish House if you need further assistance.

Specific information on those buried in the Cemetery is available in the Parish House.

Records will be updated as required.



RESERVED PLOTS

Plot selection is determined by the Caretaker of the Plot Maps.

Special consideration will be given to extra plots when requested by parents.

OPENING/CLOSING GRAVESITE

The Funeral home contacts the caretaker and the contactor to open and close each grave when needed.

We do not have a Vault available so other arrangements should be made with the funeral home.

BURIAL COSTS

There is no burial cost associated with the plot in any of our cemeteries, but a donation to the Church is appreciated. This policy will be reviewed yearly and changes will be decided by the Cemetery Committee and Pastor.

HEADSTONE / MONUMENTS

One marker per grave is in force – or one per plot when desired.

Each marker must be placed at the head of the grave.

Quality made, privately constructed markers/crosses are permitted but should be approved by the committee.

The person in charge of plotting the cemetery will be in charge of placement of all markers.

All costs associated with installation and maintenance of markers is the responsibility of the plot owner.

Families will be informed by the committee if the markers have fallen into poor repair.

Markers not maintained in satisfactory condition will be dealt with by the Cemetery Committee – on the advice of the Property & Finance Committee.

Families are asked to inform the Parish House of any intention to install a grave marker.

The person in charge of plotting the graveyard will need to confirm the placement of the marker.

The installer will be responsible for having the proper foundation / cement base prepared for the headstone / marker. (gravel + cement base)

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Grass cutting of the cemeteries falls under the regular maintenance of the church grounds.

Articles placed in the cemetery by families to decorate the gravesite are acceptable, **BUT** these are to be maintained regularly by the families or they may be removed. Articles removed will be the decision (at the sole discretion) of the Cemetery Committee.

Items that impede grass cutting will be removed at the discretion of the lawn maintenance personnel.

The parish is not liable for decorative articles lost, damaged or removed from the cemetery.