

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CEMETERY
2528 Baker Road
Dexter MI 48130

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS

I. General Guidelines

1. Catholics, whether active or inactive, and non-Catholic members of Catholic families may be buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. In the spirit of Christian unity, exceptions can be made on a case by case basis by the pastor.
2. Visitation hours are observed between 6am and 10pm. Visitors enter the cemetery at their own risk.
3. All visitors to the cemetery are to show common respect and courtesy, honoring the sacred ground and final resting place of the faithful departed.
4. Graves may be used for the burial of human remains only.
5. Each *Burial Rights* holder is responsible for notifying the cemetery of any change of address. Notices sent to a Burial Rights holder at the last address on cemetery records shall be deemed to have been received when in the ordinary course of post it would have reached the holder at the most current address in the cemetery records.
6. Only by the following means may the grave holder resell, transfer or exchange a grave:
 - **Burial rights may only be resold to St. Joseph Cemetery** at the original purchase price, with proof of ownership (i.e., Rights of Burial certificate.)
 - All transfers of burial rights must be made through St. Joseph Cemetery at the St. Joseph Parish office, with proof of ownership (i.e., Rights of Burial certificate.)

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- In the event of the death of the Burial Rights holder, St. Joseph Cemetery will record the successor in ownership of any unused graves as the new Burial Rights holder upon the written application of the Personal Representative of the deceased Burial Rights holder. No new deed will be issued.
 - In the event the Burial Rights are recorded in the names of more than one person, the person(s) so named shall be deemed to be joint tenant(s) of the same with full rights of survivorship and the interest of the deceased person shall pass to the other joint owner(s) automatically.
7. Vandalism in the cemetery shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The parish office is to be contacted first. Parish personnel will then notify the police and the family of damage or desecration of graves or monuments. Those found responsible for any damage are liable for the cost of repairs to or replacement of the monument or grounds damaged. St. Joseph Cemetery is not responsible for the replacement of monuments or memorials destroyed by vandalism. The cost of repair or replacement is the responsibility of the grave owner if the costs to repair the vandalism are not recovered. In the event the family cannot be located St. Joseph Cemetery may, but is not required to, assume financial responsibility.
8. Financial responsibility for damage caused by acts of nature or age of monuments will be determined at the discretion of the cemetery. Damage cause by maintenance personnel employed by the cemetery will be covered by St. Joseph Cemetery.

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It is recommended that owners confirm coverage of headstones with their homeowner insurance carrier.

9. St. Joseph Cemetery / Parish is responsible for all general cemetery maintenance and improvements, including but not limited to roadways, common grounds landscaping, etc.
10. Cars are to be parked courteously so that other cars can pass easily.
11. No alcoholic beverage, marijuana, or illegal drugs shall be consumed on the cemetery property.
12. Any new rule that St. Joseph Cemetery adopts will become effective immediately and must be complied with.

II. Gravesite and Interment Provisions

1. Burials in one grave are limited to a maximum of one interment (casket burial with vault) and one inurnment (burial of cremains), or two inurnments, or one adult interment and one infant/small child interment, or two infant/toddler interments if vault size will permit. In the event the grave marker contains niche(s) with cremains, the above provisions for in-ground burials remain in effect.
2. Vaults are required for all interments with the exception of "green burials" [see section III.]
3. Vaults are not required for inurnments.
4. In the event of an interment after an inurnment, the cremains will be removed, the casket buried, and the cremains reinterred.

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5. The first burial of cremains in a gravesite will be 2' from the head of the grave, the second, 6' from the head of the grave.

III. Memorials

1. To allow for settling of the ground no headstones may be placed within six months of burial.
2. In consideration of permanence and overall cemetery appearance, grave holders are encouraged to use first-grade materials, high quality craftsmanship, and good taste in design and construction of memorials.
3. The grave holder or memorial dealer must notify cemetery administration before any memorial work is done in the cemetery. All monuments must be placed by authorized personnel only.
4. Grave site improvements may not impede upon nearby graves. Decorations and improvements that are not in compliance with cemetery guidelines must be corrected by the grave owner. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any memorial work deemed inappropriate, and to pass the cost of removal on to the grave owner or heirs.
5. Headstones are to be centered on the west end of gravesite(s) in Blocks 6, 7, and 8.

Maximum sizes are as follows:

- Single grave (42" total width of grave) – 30"L x 12"W
- Two graves (84" total width of graves) – 60"L x 12"W
- Three graves (126" total width of graves) – 90"L x 12"W
- Four graves (168" total width of graves) – 120"L x 12"W

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6. Footstones are to be flush with the ground. Cemetery personnel will pour foundations unless other arrangements are made with St. Joseph Cemetery.
7. Bronze military plaques are to be either mounted on a foundation flush with the ground or mounted on a headstone.

IV. Green Burials

1. A “green burial” is the natural burial of an unembalmed body, laid to rest in a shroud or biodegradable coffin.
2. Green burials are permitted in St. Joseph Cemetery.

V. Grave Care and Maintenance

1. The parish leadership has the right to regulate the method of decoration of graves so that the overall beauty of the cemetery may be maintained.
 - Flowers may not extend out more than 12” from the front or back of monument in blocks 1 through 6. In blocks 7 and 8, flowers may not extend more than 12” from the east side of the monument.
 - Grave holders are not permitted to plant trees, shrubs, evergreens, rose bushes, or invasive plants.
 - Please contact the cemetery office with any concerns on this.
2. No person other than cemetery maintenance staff shall pick or destroy any flowers, either wild or domestic, nor shall they destroy or disturb any tree or shrub.

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3. The cemetery maintenance staff is not responsible for maintaining the plantings around individual graves.
4. Winter decorations will be permitted from December 1 – April 1. Winter decorations not removed by the mid-May clean up day will be removed at that time.
5. No curbing, fencing, hedging, borders, or enclosures shall be allowed on any grave, nor shall brick, cinder, sand, cement, gravel or wood be allowed on any grave. If so erected, the cemetery has the right to remove it. Decorations will be removed from the grave when they are damaged, soiled, unsightly, or impede on neighboring graves.
6. Neither cemetery personnel nor St. Joseph Parish are responsible for the loss or theft of grave decorations.