

## *Partner Parish of St John the Baptist and St. Joseph Cemetery Rules*

- Visiting hours of the cemeteries are from sunrise to sunset.
- All gravesites are to be completely free of any POTTED artificial or live plants and other decorations (unless the decorations are on top of the stone or in pots attached to the stones), twice during the year so a thorough clean-up can take place.
- Planting of annual flowers in approved planting area only. Flowers planted in front of the tombstone must be surrounded by an area in which the soil has been tilled, and this area should not exceed 12 inches from the FRONT of the tombstone and NO WIDER than the length of the stone.
- No planting or decorations are to appear behind the stone or beside the monument.
- There are to be no such items as Christmas trees, non-religious statues, stuffed animals, balloons, cards, birdfeeders, shepherd hooks, hanging baskets, banners, wind chimes, etc. placed on the gravesite. All religious statues must be within the 12 inch of tilled earth in front of the tombstone, or on the tombstone itself.
- Other than the 12 inches in front of memorials and the width of memorials, all cemetery *maintenance is the responsibility of the cemetery* or contractors hired by the cemetery. (i.e., plot owners are not permitted to cut any grass on the cemetery property. The cemetery is not insured for these activities).
- Cut or artificial flowers are permitted in the approved planting area only (i.e., up to 12 inches in front of memorial and no wider than the memorial). Artificial flowers, flower holders, wire stand holders from wreaths, plastics, papers, dirt, weeds, etc. are to be taken home and discarded. These should not be thrown into the areas surrounding the cemetery or at the edge of the road.
- Christmas decorations and wreaths may be placed at the head of graves from November 1 through February. Floral blankets are not permitted. All artificial flowers and Christmas decorations will be removed beginning March 1.
- Flags and flag holders are permitted in the approved planting area. (i.e., up to 12 inches in front of memorial and no wider than the memorial).
- No vegetable plants, trees (artificial or live), bushes, or shrubbery are to be planted at any gravesites.

- Permanent shrubs, trees, bushes, and perennial and potted plants are prohibited on gravesites, since they become overgrown and can extend over adjacent graves. They also create maintenance obstacles for the movement of equipment through the cemetery.
- Any decorations, real or artificial, that are unkempt will be removed from the gravesite (including tilled earth overrun by weeds).
- Decorative stones, marble chips, glass, plastic, or paper objects, toys, etc., are prohibited as they present a safety hazard. Equipment can toss these items (or broken pieces thereof) and the men operating the grass-cutting equipment, as well as visitors, could be injured. These can also damage headstones or scratch bronze markers. Please note: Temporary plastic objects hurt the ecology, as well as add cost to the cemetery for the disposal of these items. No added wires, wooden stakes, or rocks may be used to secure your decorations. All edging must be level with the ground.
- Fencing, borders or edging (including wood, iron, concrete, bricks, rope, or wire) are prohibited as they create a maintenance hazard. These items make it difficult for grass-cutting equipment to pass freely between the headstones and over the graves. Furthermore, when these items are covered by snow and are not visible, they can be damaged by the equipment, or they can cause damage to the equipment's tires, and flush markers can be scratched.
- Perpetual Care includes initial topsoil and seeding, along with mowing and trimming of gravesite. Adding grass seed and/or topsoil to graves is the responsibility of lot holders or family of lot holder.
- Footers for tombstones will be set only by the Contracted Cemetery Caretaker. No monument company is permitted to install footers.
- Foundations are *not* to be installed by family members.
- Pets, trail vehicles, and loitering are prohibited in the cemetery.
- Littering and dumping are prohibited in the cemetery.
- The cemetery or parish will not be held responsible for any items stolen or broken.
- The cemetery assumes no responsibility for anything placed at the grave or crypt site.

**REMEMBER: LOT HOLDERS DO NOT OWN THE GROUND; THEY HAVE PURCHASED THE RIGHT TO BE INTERRED THERE.** If the lot holder passes away, the lots are transferred to the executor of the estate. The lot holder or executor may give lots, by written consent only, to other members of the family. Letters giving written consent for other members to be buried on the lot must be submitted to the Parish Office.