

St. Mary Catholic Cemetery Rules and Regulations

As a sacred place, a Catholic cemetery is a place that serves the faithful and witnesses the Good News of Jesus Christ and the hope we share in the resurrection to the entire world. It is a place where the signs and symbols of our Catholic faith are displayed with reverence and pride. Down the centuries, the Church has honored the burial of the dead as a Corporal Work of Mercy. Wherever a Christian community formed, sacred ground was set aside where the remains of the dead would await the resurrection of the body on the Last Day. These resting places gave witness to the Communion of Saints, which joins the faithful on earth with all “those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.” (Sacramentary, Eucharistic Prayer No.1)

Today our cemeteries are these sacred burial grounds. They differ from secular cemeteries because they are places where the Church gives witness to her beliefs and teachings surrounding death and resurrection. There the faithful departed rest among others who share their faith in this life.

In the very earliest days, Mother church found it necessary to make rules and regulations which would protect these sacred places and the relics laid therein. She could not and would not allow anything within the holy precincts which would desecrate them, lessen their beauty, or bring dishonor on the dead.

To insure the sacred character of the cemeteries operated by the Cemetery Committee of St. Mary Catholic Church-Dover in accord with the mind and traditional practice of the Church and to establish and maintain good order, the following rules and regulations are in effect.

Article I

Admission to St. Mary Catholic Cemetery

A. Purchase of burial rights will be granted to:

Members

- **Currently registered at St. Mary Catholic Church-Dover for one year prior to purchase.**
- **Currently registered at St. Robert Bellarmine for one year prior to purchase at an additional cost as indicated on Addendum A.**

Non-Members

- **Members of the wider community have been served by St. Mary Catholic Cemetery as part of our dedicated ministry of consolation. We receive non-Catholic spouses, children, parents, other relatives and friends of Catholics.**

B. Fee for interment is based on member status at the time of burial.

C. The purchase price of a lot shall be set by the committee. (See Addendum A for current fee schedule).

D. When owners of lots desire to sell the lots or sell graves from their lots, the option to repurchase the lot must be made first to St. Mary Catholic Cemetery. Transfer of ownership of lots must be made through St. Mary's Cemetery. When lots are repurchased by St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, the price will be no more than the original purchase price.

Article II

Lot Details

A. One (1) conventional interment per lot is allowed, except in the case of an infant or cremation, where (4) additional cremains without vaults will be permitted.

B. Conventional in-ground burials must be in a cement liner or vault.

C. No more than four (4) vaulted cremains per lot are allowed.

D. Cremation burials will be scheduled as frost levels dictate, at the sexton's discretion.

E. Interment of cremains must first be reported to the Cemetery Committee for proper recording.

F. St. Mary's Cemetery Committee reserves, and shall have, the right to correct errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterment, or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property.

G. 25% of the purchase price of the lot will be placed in perpetual care.

Article III

Facility Maintenance

- A. All graves must be kept level with the ground. Mounds over graves are not permitted.**
- B. Fences, hedges and enclosures of lots are prohibited. If any trees or shrubs situated in any part of the cemetery whose roots or branches become detrimental to the adjacent lots or alleys, or prejudicial to the appearance of the grounds, or dangerous or inconvenient to passers-by, the Cemetery Committee shall have the right to remove the said trees or shrubs or such part thereof as may be required.**
- C. Holders containing flowers or other decoration will be removed as the flowers fade and wither and the right is reserved by the Cemetery Committee to make such removal. Also, any winter wreaths left on graves after April 1 will be removed by the Cemetery Board.**
- D. Planting of flowers is permitted along the length and within one foot of the monument or marker. Planting of trees, shrubs, and rose bushes etc. by the lot owner is prohibited.**
- E. Final grading and seeding of lots will be done only in the spring and fall.**
- 3-F All markers and memorials, at the discretion and approval of the sexton, must have a cement foundation and provide a 4" wash on all sides. The depth must be 18" for a grave marker and 30" in depth for a monument.**
- G. The Cemetery Committee has the authority to remove any objectionable objects that may have been placed on gravesites contrary to regulation of said Committee. No objects (other than placement of flowers or perennial plants) may be placed on the grave site. Glass containers are not permitted.**
- H. The Cemetery Committee is not responsible for theft or damage to anything placed on graves or lots.**
- I. St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery is open from dawn to dusk.**
- J. All complaints shall be directed to the Cemetery Committee.**

Addendum A

Fee Schedule:

Member

- **Lot** **\$400**
- **St. Robert Bellarmine Investment Fee** **\$100**
- **Open/Close** **\$600**
- **Sexton Fee** **\$50**
- **Cremaains Inurnment** **\$150/\$300 with vault**

Non-member

- **Lot** **\$800**
- **Open/close** **\$700**
- **Sexton Fee** **\$50**
- **Cremaains Inurnment** **\$250/\$500 with vault**

*Approved: St. Mary's Cemetery Committee January 22, 2009
St. Mary's Finance Committee February 11, 2009*