

Rules and Bylaws of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery

MANAGEMENT:

1. The Cemetery Board shall consist of three officers: by diocesan law the Manager is the Pastor; a President and Secretary/Treasurer.
2. In parochial cemeteries, the Pastor is constituted the Manager, with full authority to determine the rights of burial and the rules and regulations of the cemetery (Statute 152). The Pastor may appoint a lay member as his personal representative.
3. All provisions of the Civil Law and Church Law are an obligation of the Cemetery Board.

MEMBERSHIP:

1. All members of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation over 21 years of age are required to be members of the Association and will be assessed \$10.00 annually for the perpetual upkeep of the cemetery.
2. Any member whose dues have not been paid for five (5) years will receive a notice of negligence in payment. Upon death, if no cemetery dues have been paid, he/she will be considered a non-parishioner and incur a fee of \$1,000.00 for burial.
3. Non-parishioners will be charged \$1,000.00 per regular grave. Non-parishioner cremated remains in approved container buried on an existing plot will be charged \$300.00. Non-parishioners are defined as immediate family members of dues paying parishioners. Third generation family members fall outside this limitation. Unrelated non-parishioners will not be allowed to be buried at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.
4. Exceptions may be granted by the Pastor/Manager in advance of death after consulting with the Cemetery Board.
5. All persons who live outside the parish, but are still members, may continue their membership.
6. Any member who leaves the parish due to retirement, old age, sickness, or any similar reason may keep their membership by:
 - A. Continuing to pay their annual dues, or
 - B. Paying lifetime perpetual care of \$100.00.
7. Any non-resident former parishioner may bury an infant for a charge of \$20.00.
8. Dues are to be paid using the envelope in the church offering packet; to be paid January-March.

ORDER OF BURIAL:

1. The cost of a grave is \$20 if the cemetery dues have been paid to date. Fees are to be paid to the Caretaker of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and deposited in the Cemetery Fund.
2. A grave space will be determined in the order in which members die, unless a space is reserved.

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3. A grave space may be reserved by the surviving spouse of the deceased who has been buried in the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery. The place next to his/her spouse must have the reserve fee paid before the next grave space is taken.
4. Lots previously sold will be honored.
5. Anyone who wishes to reserve a double lot for spouses will be charged \$75.00, which lot must be in rotation with the last grave purchased. A grave head stone must be erected within one year of purchase.
6. After internment of a body, a grave headstone must be erected within one year.
7. Fees and dues as stated in the Rules transfer burial rights but do not constitute ownership. Property "title" remains in the possession of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation.
8. No grave may be opened until the Pastor has certified that the deceased has a right to re-burial in the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.
9. The Pastor/Manager has the right to require full payment of all fees before granting permission to "open a grave".
10. Opening and closing of a grave will be the responsibility of the relatives. They may receive any help that is needed. Use of any heavy equipment must have the permission of the Cemetery Board. NO grave may be opened until it has been marked at the exact spot by the Cemetery Board.
11. No work of any kind may be done on the cemetery property except with the approval of the Cemetery Board and must be performed under its direction.
12. No planting of any kind will be permitted on the graves or any other part of the cemetery property.
13. The Cemetery Board/Caretaker may remove any wilted or faded decorations.
14. Graves may be decorated with cut flowers and wreaths on Memorial Day and All Souls Day only. At all other times decorations must be placed on the grave marker.
15. Items may be placed on grave stones/markers. NO glass is allowed on cemetery grounds.
16. An approved vault is required for all burials.
17. Cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use of a worthy container. Only a vault box is allowed. The cremated remains shall be buried in a regular grave. No more than two cremation vaults per grave plot are allowed or one casket and one cremation vault. The practice of scattering cremated remains is not allowed at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery. A grave with cremated remains shall have a suitable headstone.
18. Mausoleums and stone grave coverings are not allowed at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.
19. Any services or ceremony not conducted by the local Pastor shall be approved by the local Pastor.
20. Any case not foreseen by these Rules will be decided by the Pastor/Manager after consulting with the Cemetery Board.