

Rules and Bylaws of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery

ARTICLE ONE – MANAGEMENT

1. The Cemetery Board shall consist of three members.
2. In a parochial cemetery, the Pastor is constituted the Manager, with full authority to determine the rights of burial and the rules and regulations of the cemetery.
3. All provisions of the Civil Law and Church Law are an obligation of the Cemetery Board.
4. Any emergency not foreseen by these Regulations shall be decided by the Cemetery Board.

ARTICLE TWO – MEMBERSHIP

1. All registered members of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation over 21 years of age are expected to be members of the St. Mary's Cemetery Association.
2. Annual dues for continuing membership in St. Mary's Cemetery are \$20.00 annually for each parishioner 21 years of age or older. Dues are expected to be paid in the first quarter (January – March) of the year.
3. Any member whose dues have not been paid for five (5) years will be considered a non-member. Refer to Article – Non-Members of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery below.
 - A. If a previous member is 5 years past due, they can have the opportunity to catch-up by paying 2 times the current rate (stated in above in Article Two - #2) for each year, up to five years, past due.
4. Long time members of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church who leave the parish due to retirement, old age, change of employment, or sickness may keep their membership in St. Mary's Cemetery Association and benefit from all the privileges. Members may keep their membership by either of the following:
 - A. Continue to pay Annual Dues of \$20.00 / person.
 - B. Pay a lifetime perpetual care fee of \$200 / person.
5. Regular payment of annual dues entitles you to burial in the Cemetery.
6. The payment of dues and fees noted above entitles Association members to burial rights ONLY. Property rights and title remain in the possession of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

ARTICLE THREE – NON-MEMBERS

1. Non-members will be charged \$2,500 for each grave.
2. Those of 21 years of age and under will be charged \$300.
3. Burial of cremation ashes of former members of the parish may be added to a parent's grave, with approval of the immediate family. Example: A son or daughter moves away from home and stops paying annual dues to the Cemetery Association. The cremation ashes of the son/daughter can be buried on top of the parent's grave, in an approved burial container. The charge for such a burial is \$300.

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4. Cremation ashes of unrelated, non-members will not be allowed to be buried on top of an existing grave at the Cemetery.
5. Exceptions to the above policy may be permitted with the approval of the Cemetery Board.

ARTICLE FOUR – PRIVILEGES

1. Members will be charged \$250 for each grave (\$500/couple). This is non-refundable.
2. A grave space may be reserved next to an immediate relative buried at the Cemetery. (Example a person may reserve a spot next to a deceased son/daughter/spouse).
3. Fees are to be paid to “Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church” and delivered to the Caretaker of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery. Money shall be deposited in the Cemetery Fund. This fee does not include the cost of the footer.
4. A grave space will be determined in the order in which members die unless a space is reserved.
5. Lots previously sold will be honored.
6. A grave head stone MUST be erected within one year of purchase.
7. Grave head stone footers will be installed by the Cemetery committee. The plot owner is responsible for the cost of the footer.
8. One grave plot can accommodate one of the following: one casket, one casket + one cremation urn, or two cremation urns. Two caskets will not be permitted.
9. No pets are to be buried.

ARTICLE FIVE - MAINTENANCE

1. 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.
2. Opening and closing of a grave will be the responsibility of the relatives. They may receive any help that is needed. **NO** grave may be opened until it has been marked at the exact spot by the Cemetery Board or Cemetery Caretaker.
3. Use of any heavy equipment must have the permission of the Cemetery Board. No heavy power equipment of any kind is permitted on cemetery property when the ground is wet and/or soggy.
4. No planting (trees / bushes) of any kind will be permitted on the graves or any other part of the cemetery property.
5. 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 only.
6. The Cemetery Board/Caretaker has the right to remove any wilted or faded decorations.
7. Glass containers are prohibited.

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ARTICLE SIX - MARKERS

1. A grave head stone MUST be erected within one year of purchase of the plot.
2. It is the duty of the pastor/manager to observe church law in reference to monuments and markers and forbid any marker that may be contrary to Catholic teaching and good taste.
3. Any memorial or marker, or inscription to be placed on a grave that is determined by the Pastor/Manager to be offensive or not within the teachings of the Catholic Church and is deemed inappropriate for a Catholic cemetery, the Pastor/Manager reserves the right to deny or forbid its use (e.g. same sex couples may not share a grave marker or memorial and no mention of spouses, significant other or marriage dates is permitted).
4. All markers or memorials are to be approved by the Pastor/Manager or Cemetery Board before installation.
5. A single base of headstone may be no longer than 44". A double base of headstone may be no longer than 100". A triple headstone may be no longer than 150". The maximum width is 14". The maximum height is 56".
6. With the exception of veterans, only one headstone may be placed on any grave. Veterans may place an additional stone or plaque indicating their service to their country. If plaque is mounted to foundation total length of monument is reduced by length of plaque plus 44".
7. Once a headstone is placed on a lot it may not be removed without the permission of the pastor/manager and Cemetery Board. If permission is granted, the footer may not be removed and the lot(s) will be considered abandoned. There will not be a refund for the abandoned lot(s). The person removing the headstone assumes all liability for damage done to the cemetery or to another headstone.
8. All adult graves must have some type of concrete or steel vault.
9. To show respect, all burials with bodies must be in a coffin.
10. Mausoleums and stone grave coverings are not allowed at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.
11. Temporary markers shall be removed one year from the date of burial.

ARTICLE SEVEN - CEREMONY

1. Any service or ceremony not conducted by the local pastor shall have the prior approval of the local pastor.

ARTICLE EIGHT—CREMATION

1. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes. Only vault boxes are permitted.
2. The cremated remains shall be buried in a regular grave; no more than two sets of cremated remains are allowed for each grave lot.
3. The practice of scattering cremated remains is not allowed at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.

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4. A grave with cremated remains shall have a suitable headstone.

ARTICLE NINE—DISINTERMENT

1. Only the pastor / Cemetery Board can permit the opening of the grave.
2. No disinterment or removal of a body shall be allowed except for good reason, and then only with the permission of the cemetery authorities and only with written authorization of next of kin in accordance with proper legal procedure.
3. The cemetery authorities shall assume no liability for damage to any casket, outer container or marker incurred while making disinterment or removal.
4. The expense of disinterment shall be the sole responsibility of the next of kin.

ARTICLE TEN—EFFECTIVE DATE

1. These regulations become effective July 1, 2026.
2. These Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery Regulations were revised and approved by the pastor, Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S.