**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

 **This booklet of Rules and Regulations is made available to all lot owners at St. Joseph Cemetery. Its purpose is to clarify management policy regarding the maintenance of cemetery grounds so that the beauty of the grounds are preserved, and so that peace and good order may reign without infringing on the rights and privileges of any lot owner.**

 **The cemetery management reserves the right from time to time to amend the rules and regulations according to changing conditions. The amended rules apply to all deeds; even those issued prior to the adoption of the new rules.**

 **All Rules and Regulations must be respected. Visitors will be invited to leave the grounds when the Rules and Regulations are not observed.**

 **The cemetery management cares not only for the grounds and buildings, but also regulates funeral services, and the flow of traffic. Management responsibility relates to all persons on the cemetery grounds, whether employees, plot owners or visitors.**

 **St. Joseph Cemetery is a Catholic cemetery administered by a Director. Since the foundation of the Cemetery in 1894, the director has been a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.**

 **The cemetery is open every day from sunrise to sunset and is not liable for personal valuables left on the cemetery grounds.**

 **Flowers placed on the display racks are a tribute by family and friends of the deceased and should not be disturbed or removed except by management.**

**Any objects or decorations, except fresh flowers and potted plants, may be removed without** **notice, especially if deemed improper, offensive or detrimental to the good appearance of the cemetery.**

 **Vigil lights are not allowed.**

**SPECIAL PRIVILEGES**

 **During the Memorial Day season, flowers may be placed on the lot. However they are removed after one week. Planting in the soil in not permitted, nor can the sod be disturbed.**

 **During the winter season (December 1 to March 1), appropriate decorations are permitted at gravesite.**

 **Lot owners wishing to retain their decorations must remove them prior to removal by cemetery staff on posted date.**

**BURIAL LOTS**

 **When a lot is purchased, lot owners acquire the right of burial only.**

 **The purchase price includes an amount applied to the care of the lot, part of which is invested in the Perpetual Care Fund for the future care of the cemetery.**

 **The lot owner is responsible for all repairs and upkeep of the monument. The cemetery is not responsible for the condition of a monument or memorial, even when damaged by vandals.**

 **A transfer of a lot from one owner to another may not be made without the expressed consent of cemetery management. Application forms are available at the cemetery office.**

 **On death of a lot owner, heirs-at-law succeed to the same rights and restrictions. A lot is indivisible; if there is more than one heir, one representative will be designated by the heirs within six months and the cemetery notified in writing.**

 **If a lot owner dies intestate, or no provision is made in a last will as to the disposition of the lot upon death, interest on the lot will descend in accordance with the provision of the laws of the State of Massachusetts.**

 **Lot owners will notify the cemetery office of any change of address.**

**BURIAL LOTS: CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

**The treatment of the grounds as well as the erection of monuments are subject to the supervision and approval of the cemetery management and to the future rules and regulations established to maintain the good appearance of the cemetery.**

* **Concrete burial containers are required to prevent grave settlement.**
* **A special charge is levied on Saturday burials.**
* **The right of burial is subject to prior payment of all charges.**
* **On all lots sold before May 1, 1928, the Perpetual Care dues must be paid prior to the opening of the grave.**
* **A double burial in a single lot cannot be guaranteed except in very select areas where double dept lots are available for purchase.**
* **Removal of a body from one lot to another is subject to special fees.**
* **No burial is allowed on MEMORIAL DAY.**

**An outdoor Mass is celebrated on Memorial Day at 10:00 a.m.**

**MONUMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS**

 **Monuments are allowed in certain sections and on certain specified lots according to the plans kept at the cemetery office.**

 **Where there are restrictions, the restrictions appear on the lot easement.**

 **Foundations for all monuments are prepared by the cemetery employees only.**

**Where a monument is not allowed, a granite grave marker may be placed flush with the ground.**

 **A monument is not allowed on a lot designated as a flat marker lot.**

**Only one monument or flat marker is allowed on each lot.**

 **The size of the monument or grave marker and the quality of the material (granite only) must conform to the regulations of the cemetery. Additional information may be obtained at the cemetery office.**

 **Veteran markers are allowed on both monument and flat marker lots, in addition to family memorials. Flat granite only is allowed.**

 **Some monuments in the older parts of the cemetery are without foundations, these are unsightly and even dangerous. In such cases, a proper foundation will be installed by the cemetery and the cost billed to the owners of the lot. The cooperation of lot owners is requested.**

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**SHRUBS**

 **The minimum monument lot size for plantings is 9’ by 10’, that is, a three grave lot. Only plantings of two upright yews are allowed on these monument lots. Urns or flowering shrubs of any type are never allowed.**

 **The plantings must be done by cemetery employees or by an approved nursery, and only after explicit permission obtained from the cemetery office. A fee is charged for this service.**

 **No plantings are allowed on flat marker lots of any size or in section VB W X Y or Z.**

 **The cemetery is not responsible for stolen shrubbery, or shrubbery damaged in a storm or by equipment during the opening of a grave. All shrubbery exceeding the height of a monument will be removed without notice.**

**Decorating shrubs or trees is not allowed. Any decorations will be removed without notice.**