

Our Lady of the Prairie



Catholic Church and School
Belle Plaine, MN

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CEMETERIES
OF
OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE CHURCH
Revised: July 01, 2016

Introduction:

For the mutual protection and benefit of grave owners, the following RULES AND REGULATIONS have been adopted by Our Lady of the Prairie Church Cemeteries (Sacred Heart Cemetery and Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery) located in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. All grave owners and visitors within the Cemeteries and all graves sold shall be subject to said RULES AND REGULATIONS, and subject further to such other RULES AND REGULATIONS, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted time to time.

Definitions:

The term “**management**” shall comprise the persons constituting Our Lady of the Prairie Cemetery Committee duly appointed by the Pastoral Council in conjunction with the Pastor.

The term “**care**” shall apply to the entire Cemetery provided by either a permanent care fund or by Our Lady of the Prairie Church.

The terms “**Lot**”, “**Plot**” or “**Burial place**” shall be used interchangeably and shall apply with like effect to one or more adjoining graves.

The term “**interment**” shall mean that permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by burial.

The term “**inurnment**” shall mean the permanent disposition of the cremains (cremated remains) of a deceased person by burial.

The term “**memorial**” shall include a monument or marker.

A monument is above ground.

A marker is level with the ground.

1. General Rules and Regulations:

Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries are owned and operated in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota and the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries reserves the right to refuse admission to the Cemeteries and to refuse the use of any of the Cemetery’s facilities at any time, to any person or persons whom the Management may deem objectionable to the best interests of the Cemetery.

The Cemetery is intended for the burial of Catholics and members of their families who are entitled to Christian burial according to the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. Any question of the burial of a non-Catholic member of a lot owner’s family or of any person not entitled to Christian burial shall be decided by the Pastor.

Religious ceremonies other than those of the Roman Catholic Church are not permitted in Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries unless the consent of the Pastor has been obtained.

2. Lot and Lot Owners:

No grave will be sold in common ownership or joint ownership. Title must stand in one name.

No grave shall be used for any other purpose than for the burial of the human dead.

All plots numbered higher than (Sacred Heart Cemetery Block 126) and (Sts Peter and Paul Cemetery Lot 191) will be sold in consecutive order.

No plots may be reserved without full payment.

Grave owners are granted only the right of interment in their graves. The Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries reserve the right to refuse or permit the interment of anyone who was not at the time of death the owner of the grave or a relative of the owner by blood or marriage.

Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries disclaim all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, explosions, insurrections, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

All graves will be dug (opened and/or closed) by the person or persons designated by Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries. All costs related to the opening and closing of all graves are the full responsibility of the grave owner.

Prior to the opening and/or closing of any grave, said grave will be marked (measured and staked) by a member of the cemetery staff. All costs related to the marking of graves are the full responsibility of the grave owner.

3. Correction of Errors:

Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries reserve and shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterments or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property.

4. Care of Graves:

Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries will give such care as it can, the care to consist of cutting the grass and general preservation of the grounds.

The general care assumed by Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries shall in no case mean maintenance, repair or replacement of any vase, basket, memorial, flowers or other objects placed upon a grave.

5. Interments:

No interment of a body will be made in a grave which is not fully paid.

The Funeral Director, upon arrival at the Cemetery, must present and provide a Disposition Permit from the local Health Office.

Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the Cemetery, no funeral director nor his embalmer, assistant, employee or agent shall be permitted to open the casket, or to touch the body without consent of the next of kin or of the legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except in the case of a parent and infant or two infants buried in one casket. Special care must be taken to properly mark the grave with the individual's names when 2 bodies such as a parent and infant or 2 infants are interred in the same grave.

No interment of a body may be made unless the remains are contained in a casket and vault.

In the case of a second inurnment in an existing burial site, an additional fee will be incurred to cover the cost of restoration of the grave site. All costs related to this restoration are the full responsibility of the grave owner.

6. Inurnments:

No inurnment will be made in a grave which is not fully paid.

The inurnment or burial of a set of cremated remains must be placed in a suitable container and vault and is allowed under certain conditions which must be approved by the Pastor.

The person bringing the cremated remains to the cemetery upon arrival at the Cemetery, must present and provide both a Disposition Permit from the local health office and a Certificate of Cremation from the business completing said cremation to the cemetery representative who is present.

Once the container holding the cremated remains of a body is within the confines of the cemetery, no funeral director nor his assistant, employee or agent shall be permitted to open the container, or to touch the cremains without consent of the next of kin or of the legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Inurnment of a set of cremated remains into a grave where a body has been buried or of two sets of cremated remains in one grave is permitted. When this occurs special care must be taken to properly mark the graves with the individuals' names.

7. Cemetery Decorations:

Natural decorations such as potted plants in an approved plant stand, cut flowers and evergreen wreaths are permitted. Artificial decorations such as silk flowers are also permitted. It is not permissible to plant anything on or adjacent to the lot, nor to use any other forms of artificial decorations without permission of the management. The cemetery reserves the right to remove all floral designs, flowers, shrubs or trees from the cemetery as soon as they become unsightly, dangerous and/or diseased.

8. Memorial Work:

No memorial may be placed on any grave that is not fully paid.

Lot owners may erect proper memorial work on their respective lots subject to the approval of Management. All memorials shall be constructed of natural stone. No artificial stone of any kind is permitted. All memorials should be readable from the foot of the grave.

Above ground monuments or memorials must be placed at the head of the grave.

No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any grave and no walks of brick, cinders, tile, terra cotta, sand, cement, gravel, wood or any other natural or artificial elements shall be allowed on any grave. Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries reserves the right to remove the same if so erected, planted or placed.

The most suitable ornament on a memorial in a Catholic Cemetery is the cross, which accordingly should be found on every memorial. Epitaphs and symbols on memorials should be in the spirit of the Catholic Christian Church. Hence no memorial work of any kind will be allowed unless there is represented or engraved thereon a cross, or other Christian symbol in keeping with the design and size of the memorial, except that, when a monument bears such symbol, it may be omitted from corresponding markers if desired.

All memorial work is to be completed by a reputable firm who is in the business of such work. The firm completing any memorial work within the cemetery must first seek out and gain approval of cemetery management.

Workmen employed in placing or erecting memorials and other structures or materials shall operate as independent contractors, but must do so under permission from the pastor. The right is reserved to the pastor to refuse to permit such work, unless the grounds are thoroughly settled and in good condition.

Prior to the installation of any memorial, the firm must contact Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries so the area of placement can be properly marked. All costs related to the marking of graves for this purpose are the full responsibility of the grave owner.

No Memorial may be delivered or installed between November 15 and April 15 without permission from the pastor.

Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries reserves the right to stop all work of any nature, whenever, in its opinion,

- proper preparations have not been made;
- or when tools and machinery are insufficient or defective;
- or when work is being executed in such a manner as to threaten life or property;
- or when the monument dealer has been guilty of misrepresentation;
- or when any reasonable request on the part of the pastor is disregarded;
- or when work is not being executed according to specifications;
- or when any person employed on the work violates any rule of the Cemetery.

Crosses, statues or other grave markers of wood, iron, cement or any like material are prohibited except the standard bronze insignia provided for the graves of veterans. Veterans markers must be set in concrete foundation or mounted to the memorial. For Veterans markers only, marking fees will be waived.

When any memorial work has been set in place, it shall not be removed without due process of law or written permission of Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries.

9. **Markers:**

At each grave one single wide marker is permitted or on two adjacent graves a double wide marker is permitted. The maximum width of the marker is determined by the lot size. The marker width shall not exceed one half of the lot width plus 10 inches. The marker must rest on a concrete foundation. The foundation must extend a minimum of four inches beyond the perimeter of the marker. The foundation length may not exceed 22 inches. The foundation may not exceed the lot size and may not extend into the grave of another owner. The owner of the lot, and not Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries, has the responsibility of installing and maintaining markers.

10. **Monuments:**

At each grave one single wide monument is permitted or on two adjacent graves a double wide monument is permitted. The maximum width of the monument is determined by the lot size. The monument width shall not exceed one half of the lot width plus 10 inches. The maximum height of the monument may not exceed 36 inches. The monument must rest on a concrete foundation. The foundation must extend a minimum of four inches beyond the perimeter of the monument. The foundation length may not exceed 24 inches. The foundation may not exceed the lot size and may not extend into the grave of another owner. The owner of the lot, and not Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries, has the responsibility of installing and maintaining monuments.

11. **Transfer of Title:**

Written consent from Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries is required for any transfer or assignment of lots. In addition, a fully executed and notarized letter needs to be filed with Our Lady of the Prairie Cemeteries confirming the transfer of title from the then-current owner.

If a lot is unused by a family member it may be donated back to Our Lady of the Prairie Church.

Provision by Statute: Where lots have not been used for fifty (50) years or longer for burial and no written notice of any interest in lots have been sent to the parish or any personal cleaning or upkeep of lots by owners or relatives, said lots are considered to be abandoned and can be re-sold.

Acknowledgement of receipt of Rules and Regulations Governing the Cemeteries of Our Lady of the Prairie Church:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____