

**St. Joseph Parish
Pewamo, MI**

**Mt. Calvary-St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
Policy Manual**

I. About Mt. Calvary-St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

- Mt. Calvary-St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery is operated by the Cemetery Committee at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pewamo, Michigan. It is a not-for-profit organization operating under the authority of the Diocese of Grand Rapids.
- For a Catholic, burial in a Catholic cemetery is a final act of faith, a public witness to one's membership in a community of faith, to one's belief in the resurrection of the body and everlasting life. The Catholic cemetery is a sacred place set aside by the Church for the burial of the faithful and it reflects the Church's teaching and traditions. The Catholic cemetery is an extension of the parish community where those who have worshipped together in life now rest together in peace, awaiting Christ's return in glory.
- Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery is dedicated to the perpetual care and maintenance of its properties. ***All money we receive is invested back into the organization for maintenance and development of cemetery property. A percentage of funds from all purchases is set aside strictly for perpetual care.***

II. Purpose & Intent

- These policies are written to assist the Cemetery Committee in the efficient operation and management of the cemetery.
- The intent of the Cemetery Committee is to ensure that the cemetery remains an appropriate place for prayers for the souls of the faithful departed and a place of consolation for the living.
- The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to make changes or improvements as needed.

III. Grave and Lot Ownership

- Neither graves nor lots may be sold or assigned without the written consent of St. Joseph Catholic Church.
- St. Joseph Catholic Church reserves the exclusive right to repurchase graves and lots at the price therefore paid by new purchaser.
- The use of a grave or a lot is for the grave/lot holder or his/her relatives for the right of burial only.
- The grave/lot holder may not resell, transfer, or exchange a lot, except by Catholic Cemetery Guidelines.
- The grave and lot remains property of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

IV. Usage Rules

- All policies and rules apply to anyone who has entered the cemetery grounds for any purpose.
- All funerals, upon entering the cemetery, shall be under the exclusive authority of the Cemetery Committee.
- No person will be permitted to do any work in the cemetery without permission of the Cemetery Committee.

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- Any work not completed in compliance with cemetery rules will be corrected at the lot owner's expense.
- Visitors shall drive vehicles only on established drives only.
- Trash should be disposed of in the proper receptacles only.
- Alcoholic beverages shall not be consumed in or brought onto cemetery property for any reason.

V. Types of Burials

- Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery allows traditional burial or burial of cremains only.
- We will bury one full-body and one cremation, or two cremations in a single grave. Please see fees section for cost of interment of second deceased.
- Catholics, Non-Catholic spouses or relatives of Catholics who purchase the right of burial in a Catholic cemetery can also be buried there. Catholic cemeteries have a long tradition of dedicated service to the Catholic community including non-Catholic's spouses, children, parents, and other relatives. Christians with a connection to the Catholic community may also be buried in the Catholic cemeteries.
- It is recognized that those who die from the act of suicide deserve understanding and compassion. The deceased may have been suffering from a serious psychological issue or overwhelming fear and confusion. Therefore, the Church offers funeral and burial rites for those who have died as a result of suicide. The American edition of the Catholic ritual includes prayers for this specific situation.

VI. About Cremation

- Cremation is the reduction of the body of a deceased person to recoverable bone fragments through a process that combines intense heat and evaporation. After cooling, the fragments are pulverized. These fragments usually weigh 4 to 10 pounds.
- It is not necessary to obtain permission from a priest in order to be cremated, but it may be helpful to discuss your questions and decisions with your priest or parish counselor.
- Catholics may be cremated as long as doing so does not reflect a denial of the Church's teaching on the resurrection of the body. If you are interested in cremation as an option for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office.

VII. Memorials, Monuments and Grave Decorations

- The lot holder or monument dealer must obtain a permit from St. Joseph Catholic Church before any work is done in the cemetery. If a permit is not issued, the monument may be removed at the lot owner's expense.
- All memorials must be of first-class materials and properly crafted. The Cemetery Committee may remove unsatisfactory work.
- The Cemetery Committee may reject any plan, design, or wording which, in their opinion, does not fit for any reason.
- Decorations will be removed from the grave when they are damaged, soiled, or do not conform to the rules.
- Objectionable flags are not allowed in the cemetery. If flags become soiled or damaged, the Cemetery Committee will remove them.
- Artificial wreaths and evergreen grave coverings may be kept on the grave between November and March.

- No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders or enclosures shall be allowed on any lot no walkways of brick, cinder, sand, cement, gravel or wood shall be allowed on any lot, and if so erected, the Cemetery Committee has the right to remove them at the expense of the owner.
- Lot holders may not plant trees, shrubs, evergreens, rose bushes or vines.
- The sod over graves and around monuments shall not be disturbed at any time for any reason.
- The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to regulate the method of decoration of lots so that uniform beauty may be maintained in the cemetery.
- Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery is not responsible for vases, floral pieces, or any other personal property left in the cemetery.

VIII. Monument Specifications

- All monuments must be set on a concrete foundation which is approved and constructed according to the specifications of the Cemetery Committee and its policies.
- A monument is highly recommended on all graves with the minimum size being 12" x 12" x 4".
- *Monument Specifications: The maximum size of a monument is governed by the size of a grave on which it is to be placed and is determined as follows:
 - i. 72" wide for a double marker
 - ii. 36" wide for a single marker
- **All foundations must have a 3-inch border.**
- All lawn level monuments are to be installed flush with the ground and must have finished (sawn) sides and bottoms, and pencil round edges.
- Monuments are to be set on the space designed by the management. The Cemetery Committee holds the right to correct any error made in placement of a monument.
- The care of the uniform appearance in the cemetery necessitates keeping tall and narrow (vertical type) monuments some distance from the main roadway surrounding each section. The lower and wider (horizontal type) style monuments may be placed on any of the monument lots. Prior to placement of the upright monument please contact the Cemetery Committee for specifications and regulations.
- Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery no longer allows placement of family monuments.

IX. Lot Sizes, Rates and Availability

- Lot Sizes
 - i. Full Lot, 8 sites: 14ft x 18ft
 - ii. Half Lot, 4 sites: 14ft x 9 ft
 - iii. Quarter Lot, 2 sites: 7ft x 9 ft
 - iv. Grave Opening: 40 in. x 100 in.
- Cost of Grave Sites
 - i. Parishioners: \$250
 - ii. Non-Parishioners: \$350
- Opening & Closing of Graves
 - i. Traditional Burial:
 1. \$600 (Payable through your funeral home)
 - ii. Cremation Burial:
 1. \$450
 2. Payable to St. Joseph Parish if no funeral home is used
 3. Payable through your funeral home, if one is used
- No charge for Chapel when used in coordination with a burial.

