

Rules and Regulations

St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery



A.) Introduction:

For the mutual protection and benefit of grave owners, the following Rules and Regulations have been adopted by St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery and the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle. All grave owners and visitors within the cemetery 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 by the cemetery board and the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

B.) Definitions:

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 the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by burial.

The term "memorial" shall include a monument or marker.

A monument is above ground and is placed at the head of the grave.

A marker is level with the ground and is placed in cement at the head or foot of the grave.

The term "management" shall comprise the persons constituting the cemetery board duly appointed by the Pastor of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

The term "care" shall apply to the entire cemetery provided by either a permanent care fund or by the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

The term "inurnment" shall mean the permanent disposition of the cremated remains of a deceased person by burial.

C.) General Rules and Regulations:

St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery is owned and operated by the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota and the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. It reserves the right to refuse admission to the cemetery and to refuse the use of any of the cemetery's property 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 member 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 the cemetery unless the consent of the Pastor has been obtained.

At this time, there is no fee for marking the graves for burial or for placement of the monument or marker.

D.) 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.

It is mandatory to have a marker for the gravesite once a person is interred or inurned within 12 months.

The cemetery disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from the 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.

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

E.) Correction of Errors:

The cemetery reserves 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.

F.) Care of Graves:

The cemetery 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 the cemetery shall in no case mean maintenance, repair or replacement of any vase, basket, memorial, flowers or other objects placed upon a grave.

BURIALS

G.) Interments:

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

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 the 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.

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

H.) Inurnments:

The inurnment or burial of a cremated remains must be contained in a suitable container.

No inurnment will be made in a grave not paid-in-full.

Once a container containing the cremated remains of a body is within the confines of the cemetery, the container shall not be opened without the consent of the next of kin or the legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Inurnment of one person's cremated remains is permitted in a grave where one body has been buried. Inurnment of two person's cremated remains is permitted in one grave if no body has been buried in that grave.

I.) Grave Decorations:

Natural decorations such as potted plants in an approved plant stand, cut flowers, and evergreen wreaths are permitted. Silk flowers are also permitted, but will be removed and discarded after their useful lifespan or if they are not maintained.

It is not permissible to plant anything on the lot, nor to use any other forms of artificial decorations without permission of the management. The cemetery management has the right to remove any or all decoration when deemed necessary.

Items Never Permitted: Unattended food/beverages and containers, glass containers, small stones/rocks or other items on memorials. These items can cause damage to equipment and individuals during grass mowing.

J.) Planting on Graves:

No flowers are allowed to be planted in the ground. The cemetery reserves the right to remove all floral designs, flowers, shrubs or trees from the cemetery when deemed necessary.

K.) Memorial Work:

No memorials may be placed on any grave that is not paid-in-full.

Lot owners may erect proper memorial work on their respective lots subject to the approval of the management. All monuments and markers shall be set on foundations built of concrete.

All memorials shall be constructed of natural stone. No artificial stone of any kind is permitted.

Memorials may be placed only in the designated areas.

No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, border or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any grave and no walks of brick, cinders, tile, terra cotta, sand, cement, gravel or wood shall be allowed on any grave. St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery 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 Roman Catholic Church. Hence no memorial work of any kind will be allowed unless there is represented or engraved thereon a cross, or other Christian symbols 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.

Workman employed in placing, or erecting memorials, and other structures or materials shall operate as independent contractors or representatives of a monument company, but must do so under permission of the cemetery management.

The right is reserved by the pastor to refuse to permit such work, unless the grounds are thoroughly settled and in good condition.

No memorials may be delivered or installed between November 1st and April 15th without permission from cemetery management.

St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery 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, injury or property
- or when the monument dealer has been guilty of misrepresentation
- or when any reasonable request on the part of the pastor has been 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 strictly prohibited except the standard bronze insignia provided for the graves of veterans.

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

L.) Markers:

At each grave one single wide marker is permitted or on two adjacent graves a double wide marker is permitted.

The bottom of the marker at the end of the grave shall be nine feet from the top of the grave. The marker may not extend into the grave of another owner.

A marker shall be readable from the foot of the grave and shall be set in a **concrete base**.

Graves must have a monument or marker **within a year of burial**.

M.) Monuments:

Any monuments shall rest on a concrete base. The foundation shall extend four inches beyond the perimeter of the base and not extend into the grave of another owner.

N.) Transfer of Title:

Written consent from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle is required for any sale, transfer, or assignment of lots.

The Church of St. Thomas the Apostle will buy back unused lots at the original cost of those lots.

Title to graves descend by will, trust agreement, or the statutes of the State of Minnesota.