

RULES, POLICIES & GUIDELINES FOR
ST. PATRICK'S & ST. MARY'S CEMETERIES
19711 N. DIXON RD/P.O.BOX 295 SOMERSET, TEXAS 78069

Rules, policies & guidelines are to be observed by all family and visitors of those interred at both cemeteries. When Privilege Rights of Burial is purchased the only entitlement is the Rights of Burial. The land is managed and maintained by St. Mary's Catholic Church for the Archdioceses of San Antonio solely through donations and sale of Burial Rights. The burial plot is 4'X9' or 4'X10' depending on available room. Headstones and memorials must **not exceed** the designated plot area.

1. All burials at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's cemeteries must be arranged through the church. Please contact the church office for arrangements.
2. There are State of Texas laws and guidelines to follow for burial including single and double Graves and for urn placements. Please contact the church office for information.
3. The Cemetery Committee will locate & mark the gravesite for burial and urn placement. Contact the church office when this service is needed.
4. Memorial benches are **NOT PERMITTED**.
5. For safety and maintenance reasons wrought iron, stakes, fences, pavers, glass containers, rock, bricks, wires, landscape timber and concrete slabs around graves, creating curbing or grave Markings can restrict maintenance or cause damage to people or property. They are strictly prohibited.
6. Stands for hanging baskets and floral arrangements are **prohibited**. Crosses and flowers must be placed close to headstone. Placing flowers or other items in middle of grave area will prevent maintenance of area and will be removed without notice.
7. Memorials, statues, vases, floral and other arrangements placed on graves are property of the Family; the cemetery assumes **no liability for loss or damage**.
8. Trenching around graves is **not permitted** and sod may not be removed from gravesite to define the grave space.
9. Mounding of dirt, sod or grass is not permitted (graves settle with time). It will be filled by cemetery maintenance. Grass is placed where needed by maintenance crew **ONLY**.
10. Planting of shrubs, trees or bushes on grave area are **not permitted**. **Any planting will be removed without notices**. Any existing plants interfering with maintenance will be removed.
11. Items such as stone, crushed rock, pine bark, mulch of any type, gravel, lava rock, shells, crystal glass, concrete slabs, live or artificial plants used on grave as cover can restrict maintenance or cause damage to people or property and are strictly prohibited.
12. Only decorations that reflect the spiritual nature of Christian death are permitted. Please be advised that all others will be removed without notification. **Seasonal decorations must be removed after 2 weeks** or cemetery committee will have them removed. Alcohol containers, glass bottles, cans or beer tops and/or any other paraphernalia are **NOT PERMITTED**. They will be removed.
13. No permanent flag poles are permitted. These rules, policies and guidelines may be amended or changed at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee. **Displaying or flying a discolored or tattered U.S. flag is disrespectful**. Please replace with a new flag if you need help putting it up, call the office and we can get someone to assist you.
14. Placing items on the cemetery fence is strictly prohibited. Items will be removed without notification.
15. We recommend that a headstone be placed for your love one within a year. Call office for more information (830) 701-3123.

HELP INFORMATION

1. Weather Conditions: Funerals take precedence over all work on the cemetery premise. Occasionally, bad weather (rain, sleet, etc.) will make the preparation more difficult. Care is taken to prevent disturbances, but heavy equipment sometimes will disrupt gravesite locations. In these cases, repairs to sites are made as soon as weather and soil conditions permit.
 2. Watering/irrigation: No water is available at either St. Mary's or St. Patrick's cemeteries. You may provide your own water in jugs or containers for your existing plants. Please, **DO NOT leave** the containers, empty or otherwise, take containers with you. Trash barrels are not available. Take trash and dispose properly. **PLANTING of any type of plants is PROHIBITED.**
 3. Our cemeteries are over 120 years old. Many wooden markers have rotted and were not replaced. A red cross was placed by cemetery committee to mark an existing grave. Bricks are placed with deed number to mark a plot where Privilege Rights of Burial are already paid for. **RED crosses and BRICKS are property of St. Mary's Parish DO NOT REMOVE.**
- IMPORTANT:** All flowers and decorations placed in ground cemetery vases and monument will be permitted to remain provided the flowers are still serviceable (at the discretion of cemetery personnel). Families must remove items they would like to keep prior to maintenance.

MEMORIAL REGULATIONS

1. A temporary ID marker is provided by Funeral Home at time of burial. Keep in mind that some funeral home makers are on paper. Families are encouraged to purchase a permanent Memorial (Headstone) within a year of burial. It is important the dealer you are purchasing memorial from, follow all the rules and regulations as specified. Please, notify the church office with the date and time memorial will be set so we can have the drive through gates open for delivery.
2. Headstone must be placed within the grave area and must not exceed total of 48", base included. One headstone per grave. EXCEPTION, if an urn is placed on top of a love one then an additional FLAT headstone can be placed over the urn area.
3. In URN area, a FLAT headstone is required and cannot be bigger than 18"X18".
4. In URN area one urn per urn space. Ashes cannot be mixed together each person must have their own URN area. It is Canon Law of The Roman Catholic Church.
5. When replacing a headstone, the old headstone must be removed from the cemetery. Two headstones are not allowed on grave area. Contact our office for further assistance.
6. ***Privilege Rights of Burial must be paid in full at time of purchase. There are no installment plans.
7. Questions pertaining to St. Patrick's or St. Mary's Cemeteries: Office hours for cemetery Monday 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P.M. To make an appointment call (830) 701-3123 leave a message.
8. Cemetery hours: Everyday including holidays **open 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.** walk-in gates at both cemeteries. Drive through gates open for funerals and for placing of headstones must call the office (830) 701-3123 for arrangements.

**REMINDER: CEMETERIES ARE MAINTAINED AND ARE PROPERTY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH.
WHAT YOU PURCHASED IS PRIVILEGE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.**