

February 1, 2016

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ST. PATRICK CEMETERY, KENNETT SQUARE, PA

1. Please read your certificate. It is a carefully worded document. Subject to the rules and regulations of the Roman Catholic Church, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and the parish of St. Patrick, purchasers of the grave sites **acquire solely the privilege** of the burial of human remains. The cemetery property **continues to be owned** by St. Patrick Church and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

2. Any Roman Catholic currently registered in this parish, or any adult Catholic receiving the express permission of the Pastor, is eligible to be a certificate-holder. Financial arrangements for the purchase of a certificate together with the required perpetual care may be made with the cemetery office. When death occurs, the original certificate must be shown to the funeral director prior to any arrangements being authorized by the cemetery office. The interment must be done in accordance with the rules and regulations of the parish cemetery and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and with the consent of the holder, all privileges of the certificate shall pass to the family as follows:

a. to those listed in instructions filed with the parish cemetery office by the certificate-holder;

b. in the absence of any written instructions, burial privileges devolve upon those entitled by civil law.

2.1 A burial in a Catholic cemetery is always considered a religious act. Baptized Roman Catholics who have lived their faith are entitled to interment in a Catholic cemetery. In most cases, a non-Catholic spouse may also be buried with the Catholic spouse in a Catholic cemetery. Funeral directors, wishing to bury someone who was not currently registered at St. Patrick at the time of death, will have to obtain "Burial Lines" from the proper parish and file them with the cemetery office. "Burial Lines" - a certificate to establish right to Christian burial - is issued from a parish office and signed by the pastor. Parishioners of St. Patrick will not need to obtain this.

3. All purchases of burial privileges are to be conducted through the parish cemetery office. There is no authorization to buy or sell such privileges through private channels. The certificate-holder certainly has no authorization to do this. Certificate-holders who wish to return unused grave sites to the parish may:

a. Issue written instructions granting burial privileges to those named by the certificate-holder; approval by the pastor is necessary.

b. Make a donation of the unused site to the parish cemetery.

- c. Return the unused site to the parish cemetery for a refund of the original cost paid; there must be no capital gains on transfer of sites from the certificate-holder to the parish, or from the certificate-holder to any private individual.
4. It shall be the duty of the certificate-holder and his/her heirs to notify the parish cemetery office of any change of address of the certificate-holder and his/her heirs.
5. **Space assigned for interment is limited to:**
 - a. **one adult casket per grave;**
 - b. **one adult casket and one infant casket per grave;**
 - c. **one adult casket and two urns of cremated remains per grave;**
 - d. **two infant caskets per grave;**
 - e. **one infant casket and two urns of cremated remains;**
 - f. **four urns of cremated remains per grave;**

The casket for each deceased person (except for a casket less than 25 inches long) must be buried in an appropriate size concrete vault. This restriction prevents troublesome subsistence of the grave surface.

6. Except for the graves in the Infant Section (refer to #7), all graves measure nine feet between the “foot” end (nearest the principal walkway) and the “head” end, with a width of forty inches. **Bronze plaques or stone markers may be located at the “foot” end and must be flush with the ground level.** If a raised foot marker already exists, permission may be granted for a matching marker. Monuments erected above the ground level are permitted only at the “head” end of the grave. No monument may extend higher than thirty-six inches above the ground level. Monument width is generally that of the grave. Contractors for all grave markers or monuments must **submit a line sketch along with the required fee** to obtain a monument permit from the cemetery office before concluding a contract with the certificate-holder. Monuments may be placed only after a burial has taken place and not before.

6.1 In St. Patrick Cemetery the monuments and their ornamentation **must** reflect the Roman Catholic religious tradition. A **prominent engraved cross or crucifix** is always required. It must not be insignificant compared to any other ornamentation. Verses from Sacred Scripture as approved from any text of a Roman Catholic Bible are always appropriate. Secular motifs, engravings, and quotations **are not permitted** on the monuments. All inscriptions are subject to approval by the pastor.

6.2 Monuments belong to the family that paid to erect them. Your **home owners insurance policy** covers the cost of repairs do to damage from falling trees, automobile collision, grass mowers, etc. that may occur over the years.

7. Infants may be in a full sized grave along with an adult or another infant or two urns of cremated remains (see #5 above). Infants may also be interred in the special sections reserved for them. These graves measure 2x3 feet (thirty graves per 9x20 lot). All

markers must be flush with the ground level. Upright markers prevent proper maintenance due to lack of space for equipment.

8. The following points related to certificate holders use of the grave lot need to be observed:

- a. No enclosures of any kind may be placed around a grave site. This includes any obstruction which may impede grounds maintenance.
- b. Planting of trees or shrubs is not permitted.
- c. Fresh, cut flowers are welcome, but will be disposed of by staff when wilted.
- d. Bark, mulch, pebbles, and their equivalent are not allowed on the lot. Glass containers or candles are not allowed.
- e. If small annual flower plants are used at the monument end of the grave, the Certificate-holder and others do so at their own risk.
- f. Flower plants **may not extend farther than eight inches from the monument's face.** It may not be possible for grounds maintenance to avoid cutting such flowers. Also planting **may not extend wider than the monument.**
- g. Artificial flower, wired decorations, and Christmas mounds may be used from All Souls Day (Nov. 2) but such decorations are subject to removal by the cemetery staff with the approach of spring.
- h. After or during the Christmas Season, the removal of live or artificial decorations may sometimes be necessary to make grave digging or cemetery maintenance possible or easier.
- i. Monuments may not be embellished with statuary, urns or other easily broken projections from the stone.
- j. **Vigil lights holding real wax candles may be used. Solar or battery operated lights may not be used.**
- k. No other kinds of flags but Veteran's flags may be used on the grave lot.
- l. Silk flowers, personal mementos of the deceased, and other decorative items may **not be placed in or on the grass** in the path of movers and trimmers. If decorations – seasonal or otherwise – left on monuments become broken or missing, the cemetery office reminds certificate-holders and others that such things are placed on graves at the **certificate-holder's own risk. Cemetery maintenance will remove the items and hold them in the cemetery garage.**

- m. Do not drive vehicles on the grass.

9. Certificate-holders may expect to pay fees for the following services (if needed or judged needed by the cemetery staff and office):

- a. A one-time perpetual care fee is included at the time of certificate purchase.
- b. A grave opening charge for each interment, according to the fee schedule current at the time. For each future burial in a purchased lot an additional burial fee will be charged according to the fee at the time.
- c. An air compressor or pneumatic ground breaker may be needed if the ground is frozen.
- d. Rocks, tree roots, etc. found when the grave is being opened may necessitate additions to grave diggers' fee.
- e. As required, a monument may have to be moved (and returned) to enable access to a grave.
- f. Labor costs for grave diggers include a surcharge for Saturday interments; this is noted on the fee schedule currently in force.
- g. A vault fee, according to #5 above, is to be expected. This is handled through the funeral director's office.
- h. The funeral director may advise a tent and other accessories for use during the burial service. This will be handled through the funeral director's office.

10. Following an interment, each grave will be leveled and seeded by the cemetery staff. A period of some weeks or months (depending on the season and weather) often goes by before the settling of the soil after which this work can begin.

11. In making excavations, the cemetery staff has the right to temporarily use the adjoining lot to set up tools and such equipment as are necessary to do the work.

12. Cemetery fees are required to be paid **before** the orders for interment preparations are issued by the cemetery office. Payment for the plot is due at the time of selection. If not received after seven (7) days, selection will be canceled.

13. Dogs may not be walked on or off a leash in the cemetery. Further, it should be understood that the Catholic Church views a cemetery as sacred ground, having the

same status as a church building. The cemetery is not a recreational area. However, walking on the cemetery roads is permitted.

14. Caution is required when walking on the cemetery grounds. Natural conditions often result in uneven terrain. Please watch where you are walking.

15. Please secure all valuables. Do not leave your car unlocked when you are away from it. The cemetery is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

16. Certificate-holders please make sure your current address is on file in the cemetery office.

17. These regulations are subject to change at any time, as deemed necessary by any or all of the following: The Cemetery Office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Parish Cemetery Committee, the Pastor of St. Patrick Church.

**Approved at a committee meeting,
Revision: February 1, 2016**

**Reverend Christopher B. Rogers
Pastor**