



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATED

A Ministry of the Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

Decorations Policy



Catholic cemeteries are holy places of prayer and remembrance.

The Church honors the custom of families and visitors to express love and devotion for departed loved ones by the decoration of graves.

However, decorations must not create a safety hazard, impede proper maintenance, infringe on other graves, diminish the Catholic character of the cemetery, or offend others. For these reasons, Catholic Cemeteries Associated of the Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph employs regulations for the common good and regular cleaning of the cemetery.

These regulations are for the mutual protection of all individuals and families. They intend to help sanctify the memories of those buried within the cemeteries and to create an environment which awakens faith and brings consolation. These rules assist in protecting the cemeteries, creating and preserving their beauty, while ensuring that the interest of all concerned are addressed equally.

We thank you for your understanding and for your personal assistance to keep our cemeteries beautiful.

May God bless you and your family.

- Catholic Cemeteries Associated

04/14/25

Cemetery Grounds

Fresh and Artificial Flowers

Fresh and artificial flowers are permitted year-round provided they are in good condition and placed in a cemetery-approved vase. Flowers that are dead, faded or out of season will be removed and discarded at the discretion of cemetery personnel.

Vases (cemetery approved)

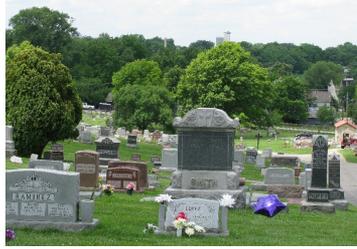
Flowers must be placed in vases approved by and installed by Catholic Cemeteries personnel. Vases may be purchased through the cemetery offices. Other types of flower containers are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to: glass vases, crockery jars, clay pots or plastic vases of any kind. An exception is made in accordance with the ***Holiday Decorations Schedule***.

United States Flags

Small U.S. flags are permitted year-round provided that they are in good condition and in a cemetery-approved vase. An exception is made for Veterans and Memorial Day when one small flag per veteran may be inserted into the ground at the head of a gravesite up to 7 days prior to the holiday. All flags inserted into the ground will be removed 3 days after the holiday. Removed flags will be handled in accordance with the Public Law 94-344, Federal Flag Code —



Guidelines for Display of the Flag.



Standing Decorations

Standing decorations of any kind are not permitted. A standing decoration is any item placed onto the gravesite or memorial. This includes, but is not limited to, potted plants, balloons, pinwheels, candles, toys, stuffed animals, wind chimes, food or beverage items, shepherd's hooks, banners, photos, handmade items, birdhouses, rocks, crosses, any items containing wire and/or glass or any other similar items.. Adhering items to a memorial is not permitted. No decorations are to be placed at or on a bench, tree, bush, fence, statue, etc., at any time of the year. If you are unsure whether an item is compliant with this policy, please contact the cemetery office before placing the item at a gravesite.

Planting and Landscaping

Planting flowers, shrubs, trees, etc., at a gravesite or anywhere on the cemetery grounds is not permitted. This includes altering the state of or creating a landscape bed with mulch, fence, bricks, pavers, etc.

Funeral Flowers

Funeral flowers will be left on the grave for one week following the graveside service.

Mausoleums and Columbaria



Fresh Flowers

Fresh Flowers are not permitted on the interior of the mausoleums at any time and are subject to immediate removal. They are not permitted at any exterior mausoleum crypt, niche or columbarium with the exception identified in the ***Holiday Decorations Schedule***.

Artificial Flowers

Artificial flowers are permitted on all indoor or outdoor mausoleum crypts, niches and columbarium in cemetery-approved vases. Vases may be purchased through the cemetery offices. An exception is made in accordance with the ***Holiday Decorations Schedule***.

Items on the Ground or in the Walkways

It is not permitted for items to be left on the ground or in the walkways at any indoor or outdoor mausoleum crypt, niche or columbarium. This includes all flowers, both fresh and artificial, and all standing decorations regardless of whether or not they are obstructing an interior or exterior walkway. (See ***Standing Decorations*** in the ***Cemetery Grounds*** section of this policy.) An exception is made in accordance with the ***Holiday Decorations Schedule***.

Crypt and Niche Fronts

Attaching items to any mausoleum crypt, niche or columbarium is not permitted. The use of glue, tape and other adhesives may cause damage to the crypt and niche front surfaces. Options for personalizing a crypt or niche front are available through the cemetery offices. An exception is made in accordance with the ***Holiday Decorations Schedule*** with the use of scotch tape only.



Mausoleums Benches

Benches inside of the mausoleum may have items placed in them as long as it fits within the bench confines.

Benches outside of the mausoleum may contain nothing that will plug the drain hole, such as dirt.

All benches will be cleared of all items and cleaned on April 1st and November 1st.



Please remove any items you wish to keep prior to those dates.

Holiday Decorations Schedule

Holiday decorations are permitted up to 7 days prior to the holidays listed below. They will be removed and discarded 3 days after the holiday. Items containing glass are not permitted. Items at gravesites must be placed on the top of the lawn

- ◆ Valentine's Day
- ◆ Independence Day
- ◆ Easter
- ◆ Father's Day
- ◆ St. Patrick's Day
- ◆ Mother's Day

marker or on top of the base of the upright memorial so as not to interfere with regular ground maintenance. Holiday items inserted into the ground must be as close to the memorial as possible.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas decorations and flowers are permitted to be placed the week prior to Thanksgiving. They will be removed and discarded starting March 1st.

Monthly Decorations Removal Schedule

- ◆ Catholic Cemeteries Associated reserves the right to remove and discard any items that are not compliant with the **Decorations Policy** at any time without notice. For this reason, Catholic Cemeteries Associated recommends not leaving any items of significant emotional or financial value.
- ◆ Catholic Cemeteries Associated is not responsible for the care, maintenance or condition of items left at the cemetery and is not obligated to pay for or replace any items that are removed, broken, stolen, etc.
- ◆ Any items that do not have a clear home (due to wind or other factors) will be discarded.
- ◆ Any items family members or individuals wish to keep must be retrieved according to the timeline outlined in the **Decorations Policy**.
- ◆ Any Items hindering access to or encroaching upon other gravesites, crypts, niches or columbaria will supersede any exceptions stated in this policy and are subject to immediate removal.

For more information, contact the main office for Catholic Cemeteries Associated located at:

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
7601 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64138
(816) 353-1900