

Rules and Regulations

For

St. Charles Cemetery

116 Farm Street

Blackstone, Massachusetts



St. Charles Borromeo Parish

St. Charles Rectory

323 Rathbun Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

November 8, 2017

Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

Section 1

CATHOLIC CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. St. Charles Catholic Cemetery located at 116 Farm Street in Blackstone, MA is operated and owned by the Parish of St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles Rectory at 323 Rathbun Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895, RI.
2. The caretaker shall have general supervision and control subject to the direction and approval of the Parish of St. Charles Borromeo.
3. Because of continuing changes in customs, practices, economic conditions, and products, St. Charles Cemetery may, and hereby expressly reserves, the right at any time or times, with or without notice to Deed holders, to adopt new *Rule, Regulation* and/or article, section, paragraph and/or sentence in these *Rules and Regulations*. St. Charles Cemetery further reserves the right to modify and change all prices referred to herein without notice.
4. The Rules and Regulations do apply to the St. Stanislaus section of St. Charles Cemetery.
5. A copy of the current and dated Rules and Regulations and current price lists will be available for inspection at St. Charles Cemetery's office during regular office hours.

Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

Section 2

VISITOR RULES

1. Cemetery visitors will be allowed in the Cemetery from sunrise to dusk. Any person(s) found loitering in the grounds during closed hours will be subject to arrest.
2. All visitors are reminded that the Cemetery is considered to be sacred ground for the dead, and that a strict observance of all proprieties due such a place will be required.
3. Any persons disturbing the tranquility of the Cemetery by noise or other improper conduct will be asked to leave the grounds or be subject to arrest.
4. All alcoholic beverages and consumption of such (with the exception of sacramental wine for the celebration of Mass) are prohibited at all times.
5. No motor vehicles other than street legal vehicles will be allowed in the Cemetery at any time. *Skateboarding, rollerblading, roller skating, and other recreational wheeled activities are also not allowed.*
6. No animals or pets will be allowed in the Cemetery at any time unless used by the visually impaired.
7. No picnics, parties, or other similar gatherings will be allowed in the Cemetery at any time.
8. All motor vehicles operated in the Cemetery must *observe* the posted 10 miles per hour speed limit.
9. No motor vehicles will be allowed off designated roadways at any time with the exception of the Cemetery officials, monument setters and vault company employees.
10. The Parish of St. Charles or its employees assume no liability for property damage or of persons' physical or mental suffering arising out of the performance of its normal operations, or for loss by vandalism or other acts beyond its reasonable control.
11. The throwing of rubbish on driveways or planted areas is strictly prohibited. There are receptacles located around the Cemetery for that purpose.
12. Law enforcement authorities and military personnel on official duty shall be the only persons allowed to possess weapons on Cemetery property.

Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

Section 3

BURIAL RULES

1. No cremains shall be scattered on any lot or Cemetery property at any time.
2. Interment, including cremations, will not be allowed unless in a cement vault.
3. No interment shall take place without a burial permit and proper papers in place with all laws having been complied with.
4. Cremains are to be buried only by Cemetery staff.
5. Two adult interments must be in two grave lot (side by side). In a four grave lot two adult interments (one on top of another) will be permitted if available and only in designated sections. An infant child or cremains will be allowed at the foot end of an adult grave. Not more than four (4) cremated remains are permitted in a two grave space.
6. Fresh floral arrangements and floral pieces will be removed after three days or sooner if they become unsightly.
7. If any structure, display or inscription placed on any lot is deemed by the caretaker or parish to be offensive, improper, or injurious to the appearance of the lot or grounds, the caretaker shall have the right to enter such lot and remove such offensive or improper objects.
8. The caretaker must be notified at least 12-hours before of any interment.
9. Disinterment of a body will not be made without proper authority in accordance with the laws of the State of Massachusetts. The caretaker must be notified prior to disinterment and is responsible for the disinterment.
10. Any additional costs for services for winter burials are incurred by the responsible party and/or the funeral home.
11. A Priest and/or Deacon must be present at the committal service.

A Priest and/or Deacon must be present at the committal service.

Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

Section 4

LOTS AND LOT SALES

1. All business pertaining to the selling of lots shall be done at St. Charles Cemetery (508-883-6838). Lot Deeds are issued by St. Charles Parish Office.
2. The caretaker is responsible for the assignment of lots within the Cemetery and directions to said lots.
3. No lot shall be used for any other purpose than the burial of the human dead and the placing of appropriate markers as memorials.
4. Persons desiring to purchase a lot or grave shall call the Cemetery office.
5. A lot or grave must be paid in full at the time of purchase.
6. The transfer of lots or parts thereof to another party must be reported to the Parish office before said party will be allowed to use the transferred property. No person shall be recognized as owner unless his or her name is on the Rectory records or they have proof that they are legal heirs.

PRIVILEGES AND RESTRICTIONS FOR LOT OWNERS

1. Perpetual care of the Cemetery and all grounds-keeping duties will be assumed by Cemetery staff only.
2. No persons, except caretakers, will be allowed to disturb any grave marker or sod on any lot or grave.
3. All lot or grave owners wishing to make improvements must consult the caretakers before any improvements are made.
4. The Cemetery caretakers reserve the right to enter upon any lot for the purpose of trimming or removing any planting deemed dead, diseased or detrimental to any adjacent lot, monument, or driveway.
5. No coping, curbing, fencing, borders or enclosures or similar articles of any kind shall be allowed on the grave or plot, unless first approved by the Cemetery Management. The Cemetery Management reserves the right, without prior notice, to remove the same, now erected or hereafter planted or placed.
6. No lot shall be raised above the established grade.
7. No shells, stones, pebbles or mulch may be used to decorate graves or lots. No glass jars, bottles, tin cans, crockery or earthenware pots are permitted. No pin-wheels, banners, toys, small statues, votive lights, balloons, or bric-a-brac of any description are permitted either in planting area or placed on or affixed to monuments. Please note that

Mylar balloons will stain the monument. Any article of this nature placed on plots will be removed without notice. Any of these smaller items may be easily moved or windblown and present a hazard to maintenance crews and visitors.

8. No ornamental tree, bush, or large shrubbery that is part of the overall Cemetery landscape may be used for any form of grave decoration at any time.
9. No plantings and/or use of land behind the gravestone or on the side of the gravestone are allowed, as this is not part of the Deed.
10. Planted annual flowers or perennials are allowed in front of gravestone, but not to exceed 8 inches from front edge of gravestone. Pots are not allowed to be dug into the ground. Shrubby is not allowed.
11. Fresh or artificial flowers, regardless of the season, are always welcome. Cut flowers must be placed in the designated area in an approved container. Flowers will be removed prior to mowing, or sooner if, in the judgment of Cemetery Management, they become unsightly.
12. During the majority of the grass-growing season, mowing will typically take place on a weekly basis. General clean-up of all sections takes place periodically throughout the year. During these times, all grave planting and decorating violations are subject to removal. The placement of all items is regulated for the common good of all owners. No placed item is permanent to the site.
13. All flowers must be in a pot on a one stem urn stand; or attached to the monument, off the ground. No plant stands will be allowed: in front of; in back of; or on either side of any monument. No pots will be allowed dug into the ground.
14. No glass vases, tin cans, wooden crosses, wire stands, plastic containers, hooks, bird feeders, candles, lanterns or trellises or similar items are permitted.
15. Cemetery caretakers will not care and/or maintain plantings at gravesites. The caretaker reserves the right to discard any and all items whose conditions or appropriateness are deemed detrimental to proper decor and upkeep.

Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

Section 5

MONUMENT RULES

1. No monument, foundation, or marker will be allowed to be placed on the lot unless the grave site is paid in full.
2. Monuments, grave markers, and foundations will be set according to the rules specified in these regulations.
3. All permanent headstones must have at least a 6" margin around the base of said stone. The bottom base must be flush with the ground. All foot markers must be at least 20" x 32" in size and flush with the ground.
4. Monument sizes must be as follows:
 - 2' x 1' – one grave lot
 - 3' x 2' – two grave lot
 - 3' x 2' – three grave lot
 - 6' x 2' – four grave or larger lot
5. Veteran's markers (or flag holders) will be allowed only in front of a monument.
6. Stones or monuments once placed on their foundations shall not be removed except by permission of the Cemetery caretaker.
7. Persons engaged in placing vaults, monuments, or other structures are prohibited from attaching ropes, cables, or chains to trees, shrubs, or other structures within the Cemetery.
8. All monuments shall be of good grade marble, granite, or bronze materials built by reputable companies. No vertical joints will be permitted as part of the monument structure. All foundations for monuments and other structures must be of sufficient depth into the ground in order to support it. No monument or marker shall be erected until the foundation has been approved by the caretaker.
9. The Parish of St. Charles reserves the right to refuse permission for the erection of any monument work not in keeping with the good appearance of the grounds.
10. Workmen engaged in placing stones or monuments shall provide suitable boards on the ground for the truck to run over. Immediately after the job is finished, all boards, rubbish, stones, and excess dirt must be removed and the grounds left in a good, clean condition comparable to prior to when the work began at the grave site.
11. While reasonable care will be given to protect monuments and markers, the Parish of St. Charles will not be responsible for loss or damage to said markers or monuments erected within the Cemetery.
12. Only one monument/marker per plot.

13. If a larger (joint) monument/marker is centered in the middle of two plots, this is the only monument/marker allowed.