

# THE CEMETERY OF SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO

Farm St. Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504  
Office: 1200 Mendon Rd. Woonsocket, RI 02895  
(401) 762-1100



# Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

## Section 1

### CATHOLIC CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

1. St. Charles Catholic Cemetery located on Farm Street in Blackstone, MA is operated and owned by St. Joseph's Parish at 1200 Mendon Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895.
2. The caretaker shall have general supervision and control subject to the direction and approval of the Parish of St. Joseph.
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 and Saint Joseph Church office during regular office hours.

## 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.

### Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

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. Saint Joseph Church 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.
12. Law enforcement authorities and military personnel on official duty shall be the only persons allowed to possess weapons on Cemetery property.
13. The directory reserves the right to refuse admission to the cemetery as the rules, judgment, and tradition may indicate.

### 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. If space allows additional cremation burials may be purchased at the discretion of parish and cemetery staff for an additional fee.
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 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 or deacon must be present at the committal service.

## Rules & 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 the St Charles Cemetery Business Office (401-762-1100). Lot deeds are issued by St Charles Cemetery Business Office staff.
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 Rectory 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. Changes in ownership that require a new deed will incur a fee. No person shall be recognized as owner unless his or her name is on the Deed and Cemetery record, or they have proof that they are legal heirs.
7. When the right of interment in a cemetery grave/lot or niche is granted, St. Charles Cemetery grants a right of interment and withhold unto themselves the title or ownership of the cemetery property.

#### PRIVILEGES AND RESTRICTIONS FOR LOT OWNERS

1. Perpetual care of the Cemetery and all grounds-keeping duties will be assumed by Cemetery caretaker 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

## Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

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. Planting 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. The caretaker 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.

## 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"x32" in size and flush with the ground.
4. Monument sizes must be as follows:
  - 2'x1' – one grave lot
  - 3'x2' – two grave lot
  - 3'x2' – three grave lot
  - 6'x2' – four grave or larger lot

## Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

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 caretaker. Monument request forms available on our website or by calling the office.
9. Saint Joseph Church 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 lean 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 monuments/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.
14. All memorial/foundation work, placement, or removal of any memorial or monument shall take place only with the permission of the grave/lot owners or all the heirs at law.
15. Upon delivery of a monument, ground flush marker, vases, etc, to a cemetery or repair work to be done on same, the monument dealer or his employee must first visit the office of the cemetery where the work is to be done. He must verify plans and permission with the cemetery representative or his delegate before beginning the intended work.
16. Christian Symbol Requirement: As a Catholic cemetery under the patronage of a saint who lived in the faith and hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ, every monument or headstone should include a Christian symbol—such as a crucifix, cross, image of Our Lord, Our Lady, an angel, or a saint. This honors the sacred nature of the grounds and serves as a lasting witness to the Catholic faith for all who visit in prayer for generations to come.

In cases where financial hardship limits the inscription to the name only, the inclusion of a Christian symbol may be respectfully omitted. However, if any decorative elements or symbols are included on the headstone, it is fitting and appropriate that at least one of them be a Christian symbol, in keeping with the sacred purpose and identity of the cemetery.

## Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

### SECTION 6

#### INTERMENTS

The directory may accept a request for interment only with the written permission of the recorded owner. However, upon the demise of the owners, the written permission of one or more of the surviving heirs (depending upon the relationship with the deceased to the recorded owner) may be necessary to grant the Right of Interment to another heir at law at the time of death unless written instructions of the owners to the contrary are on file in the Cemetery office.

### SECTION 7

#### SEQUENCE OF INHERITANCE HEIRS AT LAW

St. Charles cemetery retains full ownership of all cemetery properties. The purchaser of any cemetery property is purchasing the right to interment in said grave/niche. The purchaser does not in any way own the property and must comply with the Rules and Regulations of St. Charles Cemetery.

With the demise of the owner of a grave/lot/niche, the right of interment shall devolve to the appropriate level of heirship equally. When the Right of Interment in a cemetery grave/lot/niche is granted, St. Charles cemetery withholds unto themselves the title of ownership of the cemetery property.

#### *WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS*

If the grave/lot/niche owner filed written instructions at the cemetery office as to which member or members of their families shall succeed to the right of interment of said grave/lot/niche, said instructions will be accepted by the director and will be followed if, in the judgment of said director, such instructions are definite, reasonable, and practical, according to the rules and regulations of St. Charles Cemetery subject however, to a vested right of interment of the surviving owner's spouse.

#### *ABSENCE OF WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS*

If valid or sufficient written instructions concerning right of interment was not previously filed at the Cemetery office, or if valid and sufficient instructions are in conflict with a later will and the grave/niche owners have filed instructions in said will, specifying name of cemetery, location, sections, and number of grave/lot, duly admitted to probate in a court having jurisdiction thereof, subject however to a vested right of interment of a surviving owner's spouse, such instructions shall control, provided they are not in conflict with the St. Charles Cemetery Rules and Regulations then in force and providing the St. Charles Cemetery office is provided with the same.

In the absence of valid and sufficient written instructions filed at said office by the grave/lot/niche owners or a duly probated will, the rights of interment shall devolve upon those entitled to succeed thereto by the following laws of succession.

The surviving spouse of the owner has a prior right of one burial space in the grave/lot/niche. This right may be voluntarily forfeited at any time, otherwise it will terminate upon death or remarriage.

## Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

The interment rights in the remainder of the grave/lot/niche are inherited from the interstate owners in the following manner:

1. To all the children of the owners. The spouses of the owner's children or spouses of heirs at law have a right of interment or entombment only with the signed permission of all surviving children of the owners or heirs at law. If the spouse remarries they lose their right of interment.
2. If all of the children of the owners are deceased then the grandchildren of the owners inherit a right of interment.
3. If all the grandchildren of the owners are deceased then either the mother or father or the owners inherit a right of interment.
4. If all of the first three classifications are deceased then the living brothers and sisters inherit a right of interment .
5. If all the brothers or sisters of the owners are deceased then the nephews and nieces of the owners inherit a right of interment.
6. If all the nephews and nieces of the owners are deceased then the grandparents of the owners inherit a right of interment.
7. If all the grandparents of the owners are deceased then the uncles and aunts of the owners shall inherit a right of interment.

Only the original owners may assign or transfer the right of interment in a grave/lot/niche until his/her demise at which time all necessary heirs must sign the appropriate affidavits.

Each transfer must have the approval of the director. Each qualified heir shares equally and jointly in the interment rights while vacant graves remain the grave/lot/niche. Their individual right cannot be determined except at the time of their demise which gives them the right if they qualify in the sequence of inheritance. Any qualified heir may release their right at any time, however they cannot assign or transfer this right to any person except to the other qualifying surviving heirs at law jointly.

When all graves are occupied the surviving heirs forfeit their rights of interment in said grave/lot.

## SECTION 8

### CONDUCT IN CEMETERY

Visitors – Visitors within the cemetery shall use only the designated roads and walks unless it is necessary to walk on the grave lawn to gain access to their own grave/lot. The management expressly disclaims liability for any liability for any injuries sustained by anyone violating this rule.

Visitor or grave/lot owners are not permitted to lounge on any of the cemetery grounds, graves, or monuments or in any of the buildings.

Trespassers – Only the grave/lot owners, relatives or friends are permitted on the premises of a cemetery grave/lot. Any other person thereon shall be considered a trespasser. Idling, loafing, loitering, or any boisterous demonstrations within the cemetery or any of its buildings prohibited. The disposal of rubbish on roads, driveways, paths, walks, or any part of the grounds or in the cemetery building is prohibited. Picnicking within the cemetery is prohibited.



## Rules & Regulations for St. Charles's Cemetery

Motor Vehicles – Automobiles, funeral hearse, trucks and all motor vehicles must be kept under control at all times and at no time shall such vehicles drive within the cemetery at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour. Automobiles are not allowed to park or come to a full stop of an open grave unless such automobiles are in attendance at a funeral. It is prohibited to park or leave any motor vehicle on any road or driveway within the cemetery or parked in such a position as to prevent other vehicles from passing. If so parked, the management will remove said vehicles.

Bicycles and Motorcycles – The management may refuse admission of bicycles or motorcycles in the cemetery.

Flowers and Shrubs – Grave/lot owners or visitor shall not take any flowers which do not belong to them, break any branches, remove, damage, or cut any tree, plant or shrub.

Signs and Advertising – No signs, notices, or advertising of any kind shall be allowed within the cemetery except those placed by management.

Improper Assemblages – The management reserves the right to forbid and prevent assemblages which it deems improper.

Children – Children under 16 years of age are not permitted within the cemetery grounds unless accompanied by a responsible adult/

Pets – No pets are allowed on cemetery grounds.

ANY AND ALL VIOLATORS OF THE ABOVE, IS SUBJECT TO THE DISPATCH OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

## SECTION 9

### IN GENERAL

The statement of any employee is not binding upon the management if such statement contradicts these Rules and Regulations.

These Rules and Regulations shall apply to all grave/lots/niches, ground flush markers, memorials or decorations of any type.

The director reserves the right, without notice, to make temporary exceptions, suspensions, or modifications in any of these Rules and Regulations when, in its judgment, the same is advisable and such temporary exception, suspension, or modification shall in no way be considered as affecting the general application of these Rules and Regulations.

In all matters not specifically expressed by these Rules and Regulations, the director reserves the right to make a determination which will be binding upon the grave/lot and mausoleum crypt owners and all parties concerned.

The director reserves the right at any time to change, amend, alter, rescind, or add to these Rules and Regulations or any part thereof or to adopt any new Rules and Regulations with respect to all Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries or anything pertaining thereto. Past precedence of rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, does not dictate the need for the same to be approved, accepted, or permitted.

# Saint Charles Cemetery

Farm St. Blackstone, MA  
1200 Mendon Rd. Woonsocket, RI 02895  
401-762-1100 | cemeterybusinessoffice@gmail.com

## Monument Permit

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Deed#: \_\_\_\_\_

Foundation Size: \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of the foundation is as follows: \$110/sq foot (i.e. A foundation that is 2 x 1 is \$220)

Has foundation cost been paid to cemetery? (circle one)    Y    N    Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby gives permission to \_\_\_\_\_ (monument company)  
for work on \_\_\_\_\_ (grave location) as described on this order form and  
agrees the St. Charles Cemetery shall have the right to remove said monument or marker if it does not  
conform to the rules and regulations of the Cemetery or to the description as set forth on this order.

Signed (legal owner of lot or grave): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For monument, headstone, or  
marker, make a sketch showing  
design material and complete  
dimensions.



The undersigned hereby agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of St. Charles Cemetery in completing the work described on this order and further agrees to be responsible for any damage which may be done by him or his employees at the cemetery: that the work will be completed exactly as described on this order and agrees to remove the monument or marker immediately if the actual monument or marker does not conform to the description on this order, or if it does not conform to the rules and regulations of St. Charles Cemetery.

Signature of Monument Company Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery office Use:	Monument Approval Date: _____
	Foundation Set Date: _____



# Saint Charles Cemetery

1200 Mendon Rd. ♦ Woonsocket, RI 02895 ♦ 401.762.1100 ♦ [cemeterybusinessoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cemeterybusinessoffice@gmail.com)

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## PRICE LIST

Effective 07/21/2025

### Grave Purchases

Single Grave	\$1,900
Cremation Only Lot	\$2,200
Double Grave (side by side)	\$3,000
Three (3) Grave Lot	\$3,900
Four (4) Grave Lot	\$5,300
Six (6) Grave Lot	\$7,800
Columbaria	\$950-\$1,250 (Please see cemetery representative for pricing)

### Interment Fees

Single Depth Casket Opening	\$1,500
Double Deep Casket Opening	\$1,600
In-Grave Cremation Burial	\$1,850 (cremation liner included)
Columbaria Inurnment	\$350

### Concrete Liners

30" Casket Concrete Liner	\$500
Double Deep Concrete Casket Liner	\$950
Outside Vault Assistance Fee	\$275

### Disinterments

Full sized casket	\$2,500
Cremation in full sized liner	\$2,500
Cremation in a concrete urn liner	\$700
Late Fee	
(Less than 12 working hours)	\$320
See Openings for re-interments within same cemetery.	

### Foundations

Individually poured foundations	\$110/sq ft
(24"x12" \$220, 30"x18" \$425)	
Placement of Bronze Veterans Marker	Additional \$45
<i>Veterans will receive a \$15 discount on foundations for veterans markers</i>	

### Miscellaneous

Saturday Fee	\$550
Saturday Late Arrival Fee (after 11:45am)	\$1000
Affidavit Fee	\$100 per affidavit
Snow removal for graveside service	\$200 (if deemed safe)
Priest Fee for graveside committal	\$200
Additional burial rights within an existing cemetery space (as space allows)	\$500
Monday Funerals booked after 10am on Friday	\$350
Recording Fee (mandatory for each burial)	\$100 per burial record
Genealogy Requests	\$35 for up to 3 records

*Interments will not take place on Sundays or the following holidays: New Years Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Victory Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day. If a holiday falls on a weekend, burials will not take place on the observed holiday. Please speak to cemetery representative if you are unsure which day is a diocesan observed holiday.*