

## St. Stanislaus Cemetery

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St. Stanislaus Cemetery, which covers about 125 acres, was dedicated in 1924 by Bishop Thomas O'Leary, assisted by the Pastor at that time, Fr. Lawrence Cyman, OFM Conv. Catholic cemeteries are a long-standing ministry of the church. Cemeteries are intended to be religious in character. The church provides cemeteries to help people face the hard reality of death in the context of the promise of eternal life. Thus, Catholic cemeteries as ours are known as sacred ground, sometimes called: *God's Acre*.

Our Cemetery is a place of PRAYER and MEDITATION. In its peaceful and reverent silence are preached wordless sermons on the great truths of life. Many visit the Cemetery, walk through the Cemetery, finding it to be a place of peace, reflection, and as mentioned, a place of prayer.

### **RULES, REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES**

These rules, regulations, and guidelines are hereby revised to ensure that the cemetery is respected as a sacred space, well maintained, healing and inviting to bereaved families and friends; to protect the rights and the privileges of all families using the cemeteries and having loved ones buried within; to provide an environment that is safe and secure for those who visit the cemetery as well as those who oversee and care for the Cemetery. Your cooperation in complying with these rules will go a long way to preserving the beauty and dignity of Saint Stanislaus Cemetery.

**THE FUTURE:** As time goes on, cemeteries must expand their facilities, create new sections, add/expand roadways, and maintain all operations at a high and quality level. Very few know how costly these operations are, hence the necessity at times for price increases to meet the ever changing phases of our economy.

The *Certificate of the Right to Burial* grants the lot holder the right or privilege of burial. It does not confer the title or any other interest in or to the land itself. St. Stanislaus Basilica Parish reserves the right to specify the terms of the purchase and all interment rights in graves or lots.

In the event the owner wishes to return a grave or lot, only the original purchase price shall be reimbursed. Any return must be approved by St. Stanislaus Basilica Parish Administration.

NO stonework shall be allowed to be erected on any lot, until the purchase price plus other required fees have been paid in full. All monument dealers must notify cemetery officials before erecting any memorials.

*Historical rules and regulations, safety concerns, insurance regulations, Federal OSHA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws impact what is or is not permitted.*

**The following items are NOT PERMITTED at all: glass of any description, vases, watering cans, food tins, wood or iron cases, cardboard containers, votive lights, candles, ornaments or bric-a-brac, and will be removed without notice.**

**NOT PERMITTED ALSO** are hearts, Bibles, novelties, temporary crosses or grave markers, or granite/slate plates placed on ground in front of monuments.

**NOT PERMITTED are: statues, toys, balloons and artificial flowers (or artificial anything)**

Any and all of these items are subject for immediate removal and will be discarded. These items tend to disrupt the beauty and serenity of an area and have been a source for complaint from adjacent easement owners. Removal of these items is done without prior notification by the cemetery authority.

**Thus, NO coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around grave lots.**

There are five ways in which decorations are removed: regular maintenance; general cemetery cleanup; seasonal decorations after holidays; decorations not complying with rules; and wind or theft. **Safety is important. Items attached to wood or metal stakes are hazardous to visitors and workers. Glass is easily broken in the cemetery and becomes a hazard. These items will be removed as soon as they are seen.**

**NO ANIMALS/PETS** are allowed in the cemetery as they are a risk to other visitors. St. Francis, patron of pets, loves animals, but walking them at the cemetery may leave us with other issues.

**All grading, improvements, care and maintenance of the grave sites shall be done solely by the cemetery staff, unless permission has been otherwise granted by the cemetery authorities.**

**Potted plants that have been buried into the ground shall be removed without notice.**

**NO spreading of fertilizers, ashes or other materials that stimulate the growth of grass.**

**The placing of crushed stone, wood chips, mulch or shells on the grave sites or around monuments is strictly prohibited and will be removed by cemetery staff.**

**NO flowers, trees, rosebushes, shrubbery etc... may be planted in the cemetery without cemetery authority permission. NO planting of flowers in ground allowed without permission.**

**The cemetery assumes no responsibility for loss of any item or damage to flower pots or other containers and maintains the right to dispose of broken or unsightly containers at any time.**

Perpetual care pertains to the care and maintenance of graves and lots that is necessitated by natural growth and ordinary wear. Cemetery staff shall not be permitted to do any work for lot holders except by order of St. Stanislaus Basilica Parish Administration.

**American flags fly in the cemetery to honor those who have served in the armed forces of the United States. One small flag and its holder shall be allowed per grave of a veteran. Small flags are permitted seven days before and seven days after Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Because weather, dirt and grass cuttings deteriorate the national flag, the Quartermaster General has issued guidelines for the proper display of the flag that we follow.**

At times such as birthdays, anniversaries of marriage or death, the cemetery allows potted natural floral tributes to be placed at individual graves for up to five days.

**During grass-cutting season, a natural floral tribute (potted plant or cut flowers) is allowed in a lot/grave in a proper receptacle. Digging of any kind into the ground is not permitted.**

**During the Memorial Season (May 22 thru June 15) grave decorations are permitted as mentioned above. After June 15, these must be removed except for one allowed natural floral tribute.**

**From November 1 thru March 31 graves/lots may be decorated with winter/Christmas items (if a wreath is desired, natural, non-artificial wreaths are recommended). NO pots or urns permitted.**

**On special holidays such as Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day, special and natural floral decorations are permitted for seven days.**

In all matters that are not specifically covered by these rules and regulations, the Cemetery Staff, under the direction of the Administration of St. Stanislaus Basilica Parish, reserve the right to take reasonable actions. These actions and decisions shall be binding upon the lot holder and all parties involved. The cemetery authorities reserve the right to change, amend, repeal, or

rescind these rules and regulations at any time. They shall also have the right to adopt new rules with respect to the cemetery as is deemed necessary.

**Revised: 5/25/2020**