

Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery Rules & Regulations



“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4



Welcome

Mt. Carmel Cemetery, located in Cadillac, Michigan, is owned and operated by St. Ann Catholic Church of the Diocese of Gaylord. As such, it is a sacred resting place. These sacred grounds are blessed by the Church and dedicated as a place of prayer and dignity for our faithfully departed.

We ask for your cooperation by visiting your loved ones in a reverent and respectful way. Please abide the following rules and regulations enacted to protect and preserve the decorum and dignity of our cemetery. God Bless.

Management Rights

Good Stewardship of cemetery land and the work of burying the dead, maintaining the graves and today's legal, statutory and regulatory environment requires that Mt. Carmel Cemetery develop policies and procedures to guide day-to-day activities. Thus, we reserve certain rights and privileges exclusively to Mt. Carmel which are listed below:

- » The Right to re plat
- » The Right to Reclassify and Restrict
- » The Right to Ingress and Egress
- » The Right of Easement
- » The Right to Substitute (with just case)
- » The Right of Exceptions in the Rules
- » The Right of Rule Making
- » The Right to Amend Rules

“In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection. The rite of committal is an expression of the communion that exists between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven: the deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face.”
(Rite of Christian Burials #206).

General Requirements

Arrangements for Interments: We request that the Cemetery Sexton is notified in advance for all interments to give the cemetery ample time to prepare the burial /entombment space.

Supervision of Funerals: All funerals will be subject to and comply with the direction of cemetery personnel while they are within the cemetery.

Permit required: A Michigan Department of Community Health Burial Transit Permit is required for all burials within the cemetery.

Viewing prohibited: The casket may not be opened at any time within the cemetery without the express permission (and in presence) of the Cemetery Manager.

Right of Scheduling: We reserve the right to designate the hour and manner in which internments, dis-interments and removals will or will not be permitted.

Delayed Burials: The cemetery will in no way be liable for any delay in the interment of a body, where a protest has been made, where the rules and regulations have not been complied with, when weather conditions hinder the burial or where such burial is prohibited.

Outer Burial Container Required: It is required that all cremain burials have a container constructed of a permanent material.

Vault Liability: Cemetery Personnel will not be held liable for any damages or injuries resulting from burial containers thereof when they set or seal said containers or maintain the same.

What is a Burial Right?

The purchase of Burial Rights in a Catholic cemetery is not ownership in the sense of real estate, but an easement or license for the use of graves, crypts, and niches for the interment of human remains. Cemetery sections, contiguous sites, grave sites, walkways, and roads are established by plan. This plan provides for proper access for the public and for the efficient cemetery operations. All sites are identified and marked before burial rights and privileges are granted. The purchases of these rights also include funding for the future care of all graves.

- » **Access to plots.** Plot of lot holders, their heirs and descendants have a right to the access the graves during hours which the cemetery is open to the public by the shortest route from the roadway or walkway to the grave.
- » **Usage of plots restricted.** No lot, grave, crypt or any other spaces within Mt. Carmel Cemetery will be used for the any other purpose than for the burial of human remains.
- » **Right to memorialize.** The right of burial in a cemetery lot carries the right to provide an approved memorial to identify the buried.



Grave Decorating

Grave decorations are important to us. We recognize that for many decorating a grave shows respect, sorrow over the lost and allow a moment for cherished thoughts. Some decorations when placed in contact with cemetery equipment, pose a danger not only to cemetery workers, but to the visitors and memorials around them. Other decorations actually hinder our ability to effectively keep the cemetery clean, mowed, and trimmed. We thank you in advance for not placing the following items in our cemetery.

The burial of your loved ones with dignity, and the ongoing care of their graves are the main mission of Mt. Carmel cemetery. It is quite natural to want to leave tangible evidence of devotion to the lot of a loved one. However, there are incidents when decorations become damaged or missing. These incidents are not deliberate nor show a lack of compassion for the deceased. We regret that we cannot guarantee to safeguard the grave decorations from damage or disappearance, or accept the responsibility their damage or loss.

Grave Decorations: permitted and not permitted during spring and summer growing seasons. (April 1 thru October 1).

Permitted

- » **Shepherd hooks.** Only one shepherd hook with a hanging planter and live flowers may be placed at individual graves.
- » **Flower beds and potted plants.** Approved flower beds and potted plants may be planted only on the grave side of the marker. Unsightly, unapproved, or plants which interfere with the orderly mowing of the cemetery will be removed.
- » **Remembrance and solar lights.** Lights may be placed inside the flower bed border of the grave only.
- » **Wood or cedar chips.** Wood, cedar chips and similar biodegradable materials may be used to decorate the flower bed.
- » **Lawn decorations and statues.** Only if they are within a flowerbed border.
- » **Christmas decorations** (*Permitted during winter season November 1 – February 28*). The placing of grave blankets and wreaths are allowed during winter months. Afterward, they will be discarded as weather and soil conditions permit.

Not Permitted

- » **Artificial flowers.** Wires used to create these flowers can cause serious damage or injury if projected by the lawnmower.
- » **Perennial planting.** Perennial planting is discouraged. The activities in the cemeteries simply cannot protect permanent decorations from damage.
- » **Stones or rocks.** These items can cause serious injury to visitors and memorials when projected by a lawnmower.
- » **Glass, china or porcelain.** Glass, china, or porcelain of any kind present a serious safety hazard.
- » **Temporary pin-type vases.** Only vases approved by the cemetery, which can easily be placed flush to the ground when not in use, are allowed.
- » **Ramblers,** vine plants, ground cover and plants with thorns.
- » **Knickknacks,** toys, shells, metal designs, ornaments, clothing, jewelry or any other monetary or sentimental value should not be placed on the lot, near a memorial, or in the cemetery. We will not be responsible for the loss, damage, or theft.

Memorialization

In a Catholic cemetery, memorials have the purpose of acknowledging and honoring the dead and inspiring the living with the appropriate inscriptions which bespeak the faith and dedication of God and of those who pray for the living. For this reason, our cemetery encourages memorialization as long as it fits in conformity with cemetery standards and to the Catholic Church teachings and beliefs.

- » **Good taste rule.** Mt. Carmel Cemetery has the right to determine the appropriateness of any memorial placed in the cemetery. Items which are found offensive, improper or inappropriate for such a setting will be removed without prior notice by cemetery staff. All monuments and markers are subject to the rules and regulations of the cemetery, and to the Catholic Church teachings and beliefs and must be approved by cemetery management.
- » **Symbols on memorials.** It is strongly advisable that memorials have a permanent Catholic emblem on it. We will not allow any emblem, inscription, or insignia which is inconsistent with the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.
- » **Memorials purchased.** Memorials purchased from a vendor must still meet the criteria listed under the Good Taste Rule & Symbols on Memorials.
- » **Veteran markers.** The placement of a Veteran Marker along with a separate memorial is permissible per the rules set forth by the United States Veterans Administration.
- » **Size.** Memorials must conform with our Uniform Size Requirements.
- » **Installation.** Marker installation must be in accordance with cemetery rules and regulations.
- » **Raised lettering.** We will exercise all possible care to protect raised lettering carving, or ornaments on any memorial, but we are not responsible for damage or injury to them.
- » **Insurance recommended.** We advise purchasing insurance for memorials from the lot lessors, or owners of the memorial.
- » **Temporary markers.** Temporary grave markers will be removed by cemetery staff.
- » **Ownership of memorials.** All memorials are the private property of the purchaser. Repairs and upkeep of all memorials placed on cemetery lots are the responsibility of the plot or lot holder.
- » **Unightly or dilapidated memorials.** Should something become unsightly, dilapidated, or a menace to the safety of people visiting or working within the cemetery, we have the right to correct the condition or to remove those memorials.
- » **Memorial warrantee.** Any and all guarantees or warrantees from products purchased through the cemetery are provided by the manufacturer.



Memorial Flags

Flags are appropriate reminders of the service a deceased person has given to his/her country, community and to a particular Community-based Organization. In order to ensure the continued beautification of the cemetery, to allow for the unobstructed proper care and maintenance of the cemetery, and to ensure that all veterans and members of posts, lodges and other Community-based Organizations are honored in a fair and consistent manner, it is necessary for cemeteries to develop policies and procedures to assure that this will be done without offending anyone.

- » **Where can a flag be placed?** All flag and flag holders must be placed on the head of the grave, abutting the monument or marker.
- » **How many flags can be placed?** No more than one flag can be placed in one lot, regardless of the number of veterans, lodge members, etc., interred in the lot.
- » **What happens if the flag pole is not there when I return?** We cannot assume responsibility for the safekeeping of any flag, flag holder, or other emblem, even when set out within the approved times.
- » **What happens to a flag placed for a burial?** The flag will remain until the funeral flowers have been removed.

What is Endowed Care?

Mt. Carmel Cemetery is a sacred place, whether it is newly blessed or hundreds of years old. It is not enough that the cemetery is well kept, but it must be well kept forever. To provide for the future care when all other sources of income had ceased, Mt. Carmel Cemetery requires a percentage of the sale of burial rights be set aside and invested for this purpose.

» **Endowed Care permitted uses.** Interest from the endowed care fund will be used for cutting and trimming the grass at reasonable intervals, maintenance of the grave and the general preservation of the lot and grounds, walk, roadways, boundaries and buildings. It will also be used for the partial payment of tools and equipment, facilities, supplies, insurance, replacement parts, utilities, and any other costs associated with the current and future maintenance of the cemetery.

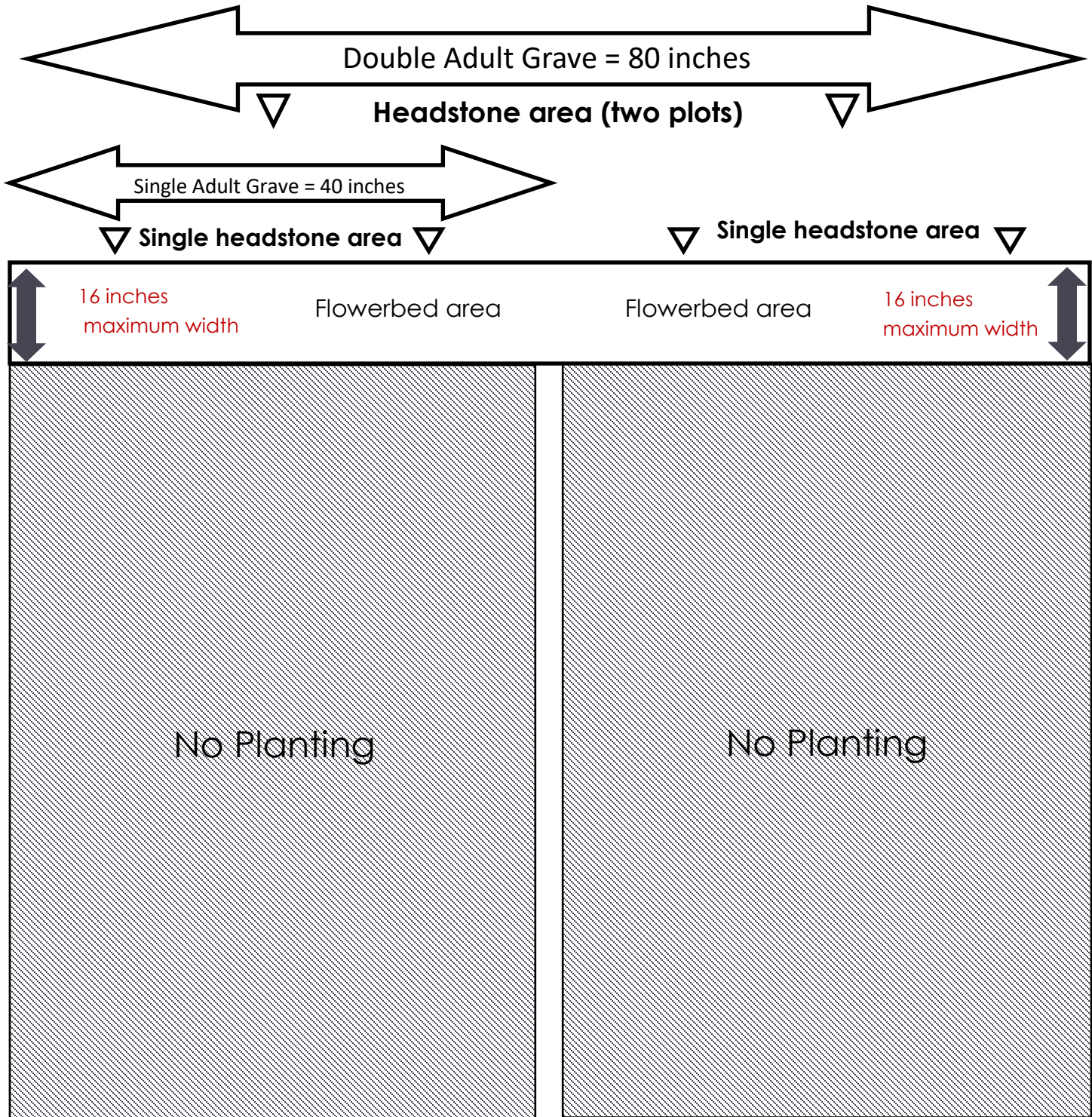
» **Endowed Care restrictions.** The term “Endowed Care” does not mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial, nor the planting of flowers or ornamental plants, nor the doing of any special or unusual work, nor does it mean the reconstruction of any granite, bronze or concrete work on any section of the lot or any portion or portions thereof in the cemetery, injured or damaged by any cause direct or indirect, beyond our reasonable control.

Trees and Shrub Planting

Mt. Carmel Cemetery undertakes to maintain, so far as its income will permit, the planting of trees and shrubs on its property which serves as a needful background for lots or as an essential part of the general landscape.

- » **Planting of trees.** The planting of a tree or shrub on an individual grave is prohibited. Trees, shrubs, and other such items are not permitted without the written consent of Mt. Carmel Cemetery staff.
- » **Ownership of trees.** All trees planted within the cemetery become the property of Mt. Carmel Cemetery. However, Mt. Carmel Cemetery are not responsible for the replacement of a tree, shrub, or other such items if it is deemed necessary to remove the tree.
- » **Removal of trees.** All unauthorized planting of trees, shrubs, and other such items will be removed without notification to lot holders.

What if you have two combined plots?



▽ Denotes flower urn placement

» If placing urns on a combined lot, they must be placed on the sides of the headstone within the 80 inch area. For a single plot, urns must be placed within the 40 inch area on either side of the headstone.

Other Issues and Concerns

- » **Outside workers.** Mt. Carmel Cemetery must authorize all outside workforces that perform work in the cemetery.
- » **Succession.** Rights to a lot, crypt or niche specifically mentioned in a will. Otherwise, the laws of intrastate succession will apply for the unused burial space.
- » **Refunds and resales.** Cemetery plots are not for resale or profit. A plot holder does not have any right to sell, transfer, or exchange any right or interest in the plot. The Pastor at St. Ann of Cadillac has the sole and absolute discretion to return unoccupied plots for a refund of the buyers' original purchase price.
- » **Loss or damage.** Mt. Carmel Cemetery disclaims all responsibility for any and all damage or losses from causes beyond our reasonable control and especially from damage caused by the elements, act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots, or order of the military or civil authority, whether the damages are direct or indirect.

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