



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH POLONIA, WISCONSIN

Cemetery Committee

SACRED HEART CEMETERY
7375 CHURCH STREET, CUSTER, WI 54423

SAINT MARTIN'S CEMETERY
6692 STATE HIGHWAY 66, CUSTER, WI 54423

— *Cemetery Rules and Regulations* —

1.0 • INTRODUCTION

Catholic cemeteries, regardless of size, location, or length of time in operation, share the primary goal of providing dignified burial places for the faithful departed. They must offer services and facilities in harmony with the teaching of the Church and show a degree of care that reflects the spiritual values inherent in the tradition of the Catholic burial.

Guidelines are designed for the express purpose of governing the activities of the cemetery and for the mutual protection and benefit of lot holders and the cemetery as a whole. They are established with certain restrictions to ensure uniformity and control within the cemetery grounds.

These guidelines are not intended to be restraining, or all inclusive, but rather to define an orderly plan of operation, care and permanent maintenance. With this understanding in mind, the lot holder is requested to honor the following provisions.

2.0 • GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All the interments and removals are subject to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church, the rules and regulations of the Diocese of La Crosse, the State of Wisconsin, plus the rules and regulations of these cemeteries. Religious ceremonies contrary to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church will not be permitted within the cemeteries.
2. Only an authorized Roman Catholic cleric may officiate at the interment service. Any other person to officiate at an interment services must have the approval of the Sacred Heart Parish pastor.
3. Sacred Heart Parish does not offer grave opening services for a traditional burial. The director of funeral services, selected on behalf of the families and/or friends of the deceased, will coordinate the grave openings with the cemetery's approved grave contractor. Sacred Heart Parish accepts no liability for damages to property or personal injuries during the course of the grave opening; nor does it accept any responsibility for the quality of services or workmanship provided.
4. Cremation urn grave openings must be performed by Sacred Heart Parish personnel or a qualified provider of grave opening services in compliance with the Sacred Heart Parish grave opening policy. Note: Cremation urn grave opening by parish personnel is not available when the ground is frozen.

3.0 • GRAVE LOTS

1. All lots will be purchased through the Sacred Heart Parish office on a first-come, first-served basis. Unpaid lots cannot be *reserved* or *held* in the name of a family or family member. Lots are considered *sold* when payment is received.
2. Grave holders purchase burial rights in said grave. Title of land remains vested in the name of Sacred Heart Parish.
3. The total measurement of a single grave lot is 48"W × 120"L (4' × 10'). See exhibits A & B.
4. Once purchased, grave lots cannot be re-sold to someone else by the grave holder.
5. No grave shall be opened unless the lot is paid for, unless approved otherwise by the Cemetery Committee.
6. A cemetery lot is entitled to either one (1) traditional (casket and vault) burial OR one (1) cremation urn burial. No more than one (1) traditional burial per lot is permitted. An additional cremation urn burial will be permitted for an additional fee (see 4.0 • Fee Schedule below). The additional urn burial must be a family member or a person granted a special exception in writing by authorized Sacred Heart personnel.
7. Traditional burials must be in a vault; construction may be of metal or concrete (no wood). Cremation burials do not require a vault.
8. NOTE: Certain cemetery lots, i.e. located above the old church foundation in the West/Old Church Sections, are sold with restriction endorsements. Sacred Heart Parish and cemetery management ONLY guarantees cremation urn burials in these areas. Lot holders may inter traditional, full vaulted graves at their own risk and expense in these designated areas.

4.0 • FEE SCHEDULE

1. Charges being assessed as of this date for grave lots, additional burials, and cremation urn openings are as follows:
 - a) Registered Parish Member\$600.00
 - b) Non-Member.....\$1,200.00
 - c) There is no discount for multiple lot purchases.
 - d) If there is an additional cremation urn burial (see "Grave Lots" item 3.6 above), the fee for the 2nd burial is 50% of the current lot fee. There is no fee for an unborn child/fetus.
 - e) Cremation Urn Grave Opening.....\$150.00
by Sacred Heart Parish personnel and based upon an opening of 12"L × 12"W × 18"D.
2. Prices are for the Right of Burial in the grave lot and do not include opening and closing fees, memorial stones or any other markers.

3. Grave holders who wish to relinquish burial rights are to sell the grave back to the cemetery at the original purchase price. Graves cannot be re-sold to someone else by the grave holder. Receipts must be presented for verification of ownership and original purchase price.
4. Pricing is subject to annual review and change by the Sacred Heart Cemetery Committee and Finance Council.

5.0 • MEMORIAL STONES AND MARKERS

1. All monuments shall be erected on a concrete foundation provided by the monument company at the expense of the grave owner. At a minimum, the foundation should extend 6 inches beyond all sides of the monument base and should be flush with the ground surface. See attached exhibits A & B.
2. No monument or marker is permitted to be erected on, or extend onto, graves where the Right of Burial has not been purchased and/or paid in full.
3. Memorial dealers are not permitted to have any nameplates or other types of advertising on any memorials placed in the cemeteries.
4. Identification of multiple burials must be contained within the face of the monument or on flush with the ground surface markers within lot boundaries.
5. Symbols and decorations, either on headstones or otherwise, which are offensive or contrary to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are strictly prohibited.
6. Sacred Heart Parish will not be responsible for the upkeep of headstones, markers, and stonework or held liable for damage due to improper installation or weather deterioration. Sacred Heart Parish does not obligate itself to maintain, repair, or replace any monument or grave marker erected; nor is Sacred Heart Parish responsible for loss or damage beyond reasonable control. Sacred Heart Parish will take all reasonable precautions to protect all lot and graves from harm.

6.0 • DECORATIONS

In order to secure the safety of visitors and staff, to prevent interference with routine maintenance operations, and to prevent equipment damage, visitors are asked to abide by the following regulations:

1. All planted flowers and/or shrubs may only be planted in monument base extensions flush with the ground surface and contained within the boundaries of the lot.
2. Shrubs may not exceed 3 feet in height or 20 inches in diameter.
3. Artificial flower containers, solar lights, etc. must be firmly attached to the monument. The monument base must maintain 4" around the outer edges of base unobstructed for maintenance operations.
4. No glass or wire containers are allowed.

5. Shepherd hook plant hangers, military service markers, and solar lights are permitted if anchored in monument bases, or base extensions, and are in compliance with a 4" minimum set back clearance from base and/or base extension outside edges. Maximum of 2 non-animated solar lights.
6. Fences, hedges, curbing, pebbles, bricks, stones, etc. and other enclosures around or within graves are not permitted.
7. All decorative objects shall be removed at such time, in the judgment of the Cemetery Committee, their condition and appearance warrant removal or they interfere with the care of the cemetery.
8. Articles and plantings in non-compliance will be removed without notice.
9. Sacred Heart Parish assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to articles placed on a cemetery lot.
10. The cemetery will be maintained as directed by the policies of Sacred Heart Parish and its Cemetery Committee to the extent that Perpetual Care funds and funds from other sources are available.
11. Sacred Heart Parish has posted, at convenient locations at Sacred Heart Cemetery and St. Martin's Cemetery entrances, the polices to be followed by relatives and friends of the deceased members for the placement of flowers and memorials to facilitate the efficient care of the cemetery grounds and burial lots and to secure the safety of visitors, maintenance personnel, and equipment.