

# Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea

## Holy Rosary Cemetery and Saint Joseph's Cemetery Regulations

**Effective May 29, 2018**

All Catholic Cemeteries have a history as old as the catacombs of Rome. Early on Christians found the ministry of burial of the dead most important. From the catacombs, where early Christians met secretly in prayer and entombed the mortal remains of the early martyrs, to today, where our cemeteries serve the needs of Catholics located in this area. Our Catholic cemeteries silently bear witness to the respect we give the human body, even in death, because of its status as Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Our Cemeteries provide an environment of comfort in times of sorrow, and are meant to continually remind us that Jesus Christ promised one day we would be all together in the Eternal Life of Resurrection. These policies have been prepared upon reflection of policies already in place here in Duryea, as well as in Catholic cemeteries in surrounding areas, including the policies set forth by the Diocese of Scranton for the larger, diocesan cemeteries. It has been several years since these have been posted or enforced, and though there are some changes, the bulk of what is below is not new.

The regulations are designed to promote safety, improve the general appearance and facilitate maintenance of the cemeteries, which are now to be maintained by our own staff, as they had been in the past. We have tried to establish policies that are fair and safe. Your patience, understanding and cooperation in complying with these guidelines will preserve the safety, beauty and sacredness of our Catholic cemeteries. Signs are being made for both cemeteries listing the following regulations in short form. Below is the list of regulations, with some explanation as to the reasons for these rules:

### VISITATION

- Cemetery hours are only during daylight hours. *Daylight hours does not include the twilight hours of early dawn and late dusk. Although there are no locks, we ask you to observe this rule at all times.*
- NO DOG WALKING. *Animals are a great comfort to us in this life, and bringing a beloved pet when visiting the grave of a loved one is understandable. Using a sacred space as a dog park is not acceptable, and can be very hurtful to others in the cemetery. Please respect this regulation.*
- Motor vehicles driven by visitors are not permitted within Holy Rosary Cemetery or on its front sidewalks. *The walks are not built for such traffic.*

### TRASH

- Garbage service is not provided. *No dumping is allowed at either cemetery. Please - if you bring it in to our cemeteries, plan on taking it out. If this seems strange to you, or unfair, or if you would say "but we always left our garbage at the gate," please consider the fact that the vast majority of cemetery visitors here at both Holy Rosary and Saint Joseph's Cemeteries take weeds, sticks, dead flowers, etc. with them. The signs may have faded over time, broken in storms or otherwise deteriorated - but leaving trash was never the norm in either cemetery.*

### HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- Decorations, potted spring flowers, artificial arrangements, etc., are permitted for a one week period before and one week after the following holidays: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, and All Souls' Day. They must be in solid containers, not Styrofoam, glass or paper. *Decorations such as cut flowers, artificial flower boxes, urns, etc., not reclaimed will be removed after that time. It is not the responsibility of the parish to save or preserve these decorations after that time.*
- Christmas decorations, wreaths, Logs, etc., are permitted from the last week of November until March 1. *It is not the responsibility of the parish to save or preserve these decorations after that time.*
- Individual stems of artificial flowers pushed directly into grass or dirt will be removed. *In wind, they loosen and move around the cemetery, becoming a hazard.*
- Glass containers are not permitted at any burial site at any time.
- The parish is not responsible for any damage, theft, or vandalism.

CONTINUED → → →

## GROWING SEASON PLANTINGS

- Artificial flowers are not allowed during the growing season – April 1 – October 31.
- Planted flowers are permitted and encouraged, in a maintained area up to 12 inches in front of the headstone. *This is best done by simply digging out the space and removing the grass to form a natural edge, and adding some potting soil or humus within to help annuals to grow.* Flowers are not permitted around any flat marker, foot marker, or military marker footstone.
- Shrubs and trees are not permitted. *Those already planted will be left alone until/unless they become unsightly, at which time they will be removed.*
- Borders (metal, plastic, brick, or stone) or fencing are not permitted. *Graves currently planted with a border will be left as-is, until/unless the borders become a danger, or the planted area becomes overgrown. Borders around foot markers will be removed.*
- Stone, granite, or wood chips are not permitted and will be removed.

## CANDLES, SOLAR LIGHTS

- Burning vigil lights (candles) enclosed in glass or other protective devices are permitted ONLY on the eve of All Souls' Day (October 31) and for ten days thereafter. Vigil lights are not permitted during any other time of the year.
- Solar lights are permitted only in a maintained area within 12 inches of the headstone. Solar or LED lights placed directly into the grass will be removed, as they can easily become a safety hazard.

## STATUARY AND OTHER DECORATIONS

- Statues of Jesus, Mary, Angels, or the Saints made of plaster, chalk, ceramic, or resin, *and that are not part of an approved granite or marble monument placed by a professional monument company* are not allowed. *Sacred images which have been placed and which have expectedly deteriorated will be buried or otherwise reverently disposed of according to Catholic custom.*
- *The death of a loved one is not easy for any one of us. This can be especially true when the young leave this world. We want to comfort each other, and to let our departed loved ones know that they are not forgotten. This being said, the safety of our staff and visitors, and the sacred, universal nature of our cemetery comes first. As a general rule, non-floral items such as boxes, shells, toys, pinwheels, ornaments, glass items, wood or iron cases, figurines, and similar articles not designed for permanent outdoor placement are not permitted and will be removed at the end of a season, after discussion with the family. However, there are a few exceptions to this because of the particular nature of a death, so long as the burial site is well cared for by the family. This is at the discretion of the pastor and staff.*

We thank you for your assistance in maintaining a safe, sacred, and beautiful place for our loved ones who have gone before us.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.  
And let the perpetual light shine upon them.*

*And may the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*