Holy Spirit
Roman Catholic Cemetery

Our Traditions

From the time that the Sacred Body of Our Crucified Savior was laid in the tomb to await the hour of His glorious Resurrection, the Church has sought to preserve the atmosphere of Christian faith and reverence regarding the burial of the remains of those who will rise with Christ. From the earliest days, the Church made rules and regulations to protect the sacred places and relics placed within them. The Church does not allow anything within the holy precincts which would desecrate them, lessen their beauty or bring dishonor on the dead.

To ensure the sacred character of parish cemeteries in the Diocese of Charleston, the cemetery is governed by the Pastor, relying on the Diocesan Cemetery's Rules and Regulations, Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church and the Handbook for Parish Cemeteries issued by the Bishop of the Diocese. Copies of these documents are available in the Parish Office.

Holy Spirit Cemetery is a Catholic cemetery operated and maintained for the interment of those entitled to Christian burial according to the guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church. When one purchases a Cemetery Easement, he or she and their heirs bind themselves to the governing principles mentioned above, or as amended in the future. Violation of these principles may result in the forfeiture of one's privilege to use the burial plot.

Cemetery Easement Owners' Rights and Responsibilities

The purchase of a Cemetery Easement, whether in a grave or a columbarium niche, does not acquire title to the property itself. Plots are for the interment of the plot holder; they may not be sold for profit by holders of burial easements. All interments must be in accord with Church Law. No symbols or ceremonies, religious or otherwise, may be used or performed that would be contrary or offensive to Catholic principles. The Cemetery Management may refuse to open a grave or permit the placement of a memorial when just debts are not paid or when there is a question of plot ownership. The Cemetery Management may, at its discretion, repurchase unused plots, graves or crypts at original cost minus any outstanding expenses. Any transfer of ownership rights must be made by the Cemetery Management.

Plot holders must keep Cemetery Management informed of their current address. The address on file will be considered the legal address for notices pertaining to the cemetery. Upon the death of a plot holder, all privileges in the plot shall pass to the spouse; then to those named or designated in instructions left for the cemetery or in the will; finally to those designated according to the South Carolina law of intestacy. A new burial easement is to be issued in all instances by the Cemetery Management.

The Cemetery Management is not liable for damages arising from vandalism, natural disasters, public unrest, or any cause beyond their reasonable control. The Cemetery Management has the right to make improvements to the cemetery at all times. In all matters not specifically covered in the purchase easement agreement, the Cemetery Management has the right to determine and decide any and all questions that arise. All inquiries and business concerning the cemetery are to be made in writing, email (cemetery@holyspiritsc.org), or by appointment.

Monuments, Ornamentation and Commemorative Gestures

This is a Catholic cemetery. To keep its distinctly religious nature, only Christian symbols are permitted on the memorials. Scenes or text depicting a decedent's occupation, hobbies, interests, fraternal associations, and so on, are not permitted.

The depiction of animals as found in Sacred Scripture is appropriate only if the Scripture verse is used with it to show that it is of a religious nature. Therefore, the Cemetery Management requires a description or diagram showing the design and inscription for advance approval of any such depiction.

All memorials are to be finished in accordance with trade standards and good craftsmanship. They must be in proportion to the size of the lot(s) and may not exceed 6'-0" in height. Their foundations must be installed by qualified, bonded contractors.

The memorial must be approved by the Pastor. An **Application to Erect Memorial,** a form that seeks the required information about memorial materials, design and installation is available from the parish office and should be completed by the individual seeking to place a monument. If a memorial does not conform to the specifications as approved, the Management will request removal of the memorial by the dealer; otherwise the Management reserves the right to remove it at the expense of the plot holder.

Memorial dealers and outside contractors are considered independent contractors and must be bonded for work in the cemetery. The Cemetery Management is not responsible for defects in memorials or foundations caused by the memorial dealer.

The Cemetery Management provides perpetual care to graves. Perpetual care includes filling in sunken graves, seeding, cutting grass, and trimming around memorials. Care does not include placement, maintenance or repair of any memorials or planting of flowers or ornamental plants on specific plots.

To facilitate the tasks of perpetual care, plot holders may place pots and vases with natural flowers immediately adjacent to or in front of the monument. This will leave enough space for grass cutting and trimming.

Plot holders may not erect fences, border arrangements, furniture, or any structural decorations with either natural or manufactured elements.

Small American flags or wreaths to commemorate a veteran's service may be permitted the week before and after Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day and are provided by the Cemetery Management for consistency.

In addition, plot holders may not plant and prune in-ground flowers, shrubs or grasses. Placement of artificial plants or flowers at gravesites is discouraged.

VISITATION

This cemetery is private property, and is open from dawn to dusk all days of the year.

All persons entering the cemetery for whatever reason must display proper respect for the deceased and for the sacred ground in which they are interred. The Cemetery Management shall have the right to take such measures as the circumstances warrant in order to ensure strict observance of this basic principle.

Identification, including an Easement Agreement, may be required of visitors by cemetery personnel. Children under the age of fourteen years must be accompanied by a parent or other adult. No pets are permitted on cemetery grounds (with the exception of trained service dogs which meet the requirement outlined by the A.D.A).

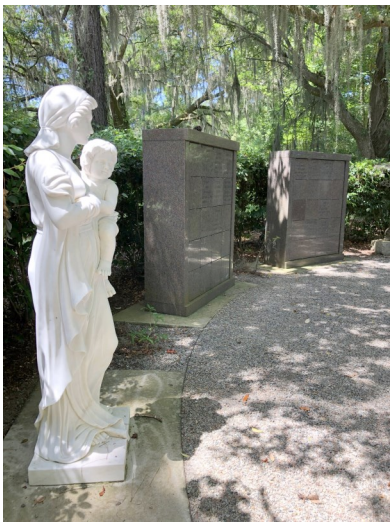
Loitering, unlawful assembly, boisterous language or inappropriate actions, alcohol or controlled substances are strictly forbidden from the cemetery. Any persons violating this restriction will be prohibited from entering the cemetery.

No firearms may be brought to the property or discharged without permission of the Cemetery Management. Hunting on cemetery property, littering and vandalism are punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment. Violators will be prosecuted.

Vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, snowmobiles, etc. are strictly prohibited in the cemetery. Sports or recreational activities of any kind are strictly prohibited.

Access to the cemetery grounds due to special accommodations may be arranged by contacting the Parish office.

Special Considerations for the Columbarium and Urn Garden



All Cemetery Rules and Regulations apply to the Columbarium and Urn Gardens. There are additional rules and regulations for these areas due to the proximity and number of niches and urn burials.

In remembrance of a birthday, an anniversary, Christmas, and/or Easter, a small, fresh flower arrangement or a small, live potted plant in a container of natural materials (clay or ceramic pots only), are permissible. However, due to space constraints multiple floral arrangements are not allowed. Items left at the niche must be floral in nature and may not stand taller than the height of the bottom niches (approximately 20”). Other items, including, but not limited to, hazardous materials, glass containers or bottles, metal, toys, pictures, candles, electric or battery-operated lights, balloons, books, letters, signs and flags are not permitted.

During the Advent and Christmas season, *a* potted plant, or small fresh flower arrangement is permitted, but may not be attached to the niche(s). An American flag is permitted at the niche sites for Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Days, including the week before and after the recognized holiday. Flags will be provided by the Cemetery Management for consistency.

Unauthorized items will be removed. Flowers will be removed when spent, or for routine maintenance.

Notes

Holy Spirit Catholic Cemetery
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