

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

The Catholic Cemetery is a holy place. These sacred grounds are blessed by the Church and dedicated as a place of prayer and dignity for our faithful departed. We ask that the decorations you choose for your loved ones' graves are in keeping with this sacredness.

Please maintain a quiet reverence and respect for the other people visiting graves of loved ones. Please abide by the following: a) proper attire; b) proper behavior; c) no alcoholic beverages; d) no picnics; and e) no pets.

We encourage the placement of decorations. We will try to be as careful as possible during our normal interment and maintenance activities as we can. We regret that we cannot guarantee that all decorations will be free from damage or loss, and we cannot accept responsibility for these occurrences.

DECORATION RULES

- Natural and artificial flowers are permitted.
- Containers of the following sizes are permitted:
 - Pots 6 inches to 10 inches
 - Boxes – not exceeding 18” in length, 6 inches in height, and 8 inches in width.
 - All containers should be plastic or wood (clay pots are acceptable but not preferred,) and must have ample drainage. Pots and boxes must be placed on top of flush markers, or in front of monuments. If a clay pot is used, please note that the cemetery is NOT RESPONSIBLE if it is damaged.
 - Some of these containers are not suitable for the snow and ice from our harsh winters. All containers not picked up by NOV. 1, will be removed and destroyed by the cemetery staff.
- Metal Stands, boxes, pots, shepherd hooks, glass, statuary, decorative stone or border edging are STRICTLY PROHIBITED, and will be removed immediately. Candles of any kind are not permitted. These restrictions are due to safety concerns for both our visitors and our staff. (Any of these objects can be picked up and hurled by the cemetery equipment, making them potential weapons. They will be removed and disposed of immediately.
- Artificial flowers are permitted on all graves in approved permanent vases. In-ground metal vases with a 12” granite collar are permitted. All vases must have a hole in the bottom, so that water will not be contained in the vase.
- Flags may be placed in the planters, and in the approved vases. Flags may not be stuck into the ground, nor may they be attached to the metal veterans' stakes.
- EVERGREEN BLANKETS OR GRAVE COVERINGS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME, AND WILL BE REMOVED AND DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY.
- MONUMENT LOTS: planting beds of up to 18 inches are permitted directly in front of a raised family memorial. Do not plant behind the memorial, unless the graves on the reverse side are part of the family lot. Decorative stones, wood chips, and border edging is not permitted, and will be removed. All plantings will be cut level with the turf after November 1st. No perennial plantings are permitted.

SPRING AND FALL MAJOR CEMETERY CLEAN UP

March 1 – 15 and November 1-15 are the days that the cemetery crews clean up the grounds and prepare the grounds for the upcoming season. ALL DECORATIONS WILL BE REMOVED AND DESTROYED ON THESE DATES. If you wish to save your decoration, please remove it before these dates. We also ask that you not place any decorations on the graves during the cleanup weeks. After November 15th, artificial wreaths, no larger than 30” in diameter”, placed on metal stands are permitted, as well as pots of evergreens or artificial flowers.