

ST. DONATUS CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

(dated April 2016)

- 1). All funerals and/or burials should be arranged with a funeral director who is to contact the current pastor of **St. Donatus Catholic Church located in Brooten, Minnesota** and an appointed member in charge of the cemetery who will mark the grave.
- 2). All cemetery plots will cost **\$300.00 per plot for a “currently registered” member of the parish and \$600 per plot for anyone not registered with the parish.**
- 3). Each plot, even if only for cremated remains, will be paid for at full price. This is to ensure perpetual care of the plot(s). In purchasing a cemetery plot, the buyer merely purchases a “burial easement” at a specific plot. The buyer is not purchasing a piece of property; therefore, the purchaser is obligated to follow all cemetery rules and regulations as written in this policy. Burial plots can be purchased or reserved at the above prices through the local pastor or a designated member in charge of the parish cemetery. The pastor or cemetery board member shall provide for the purchaser a written receipt for future reference. The check should be made out to the **St. Donatus Cemetery Fund.**
- 4). One plot is required for a burial with a vault. For cremated remains, two persons may be buried on one plot, but the burial fee for the second person will be \$300 for “currently registered” member of the parish and \$600 for anyone not registered with the parish. Each burial must have a sealed burial vault for a coffin or sealed liner (in the case of cremated remains). [St. Cloud Diocese Policy] In the case of cremation, the cremated remains must remain together (not scattered) and buried at a depth of 18-24 inches below ground level. All burial vault structures with the exception of the memorial stone or burial marker must be placed underground. No surface burial vaults or artificial concrete cast stone or over the surface grave frames are allowed.
- 5). All burials upon a “reserved family plot(s)” must first obtain the direct permission from the original purchaser of the burial plot or the oldest surviving son of the same family owner of the burial plot(s) before the actual burial can take place. [for further information see Minnesota Statute 306.09]
- 6). Each plot is to have a memorial stone or marker provided at the family’s expense. Permission to bury any person or place a burial marker must first be obtained from the current pastor of the parish and an appointed member of the parish who is in charge of marking the plot.
- 7). All markers or monuments must be placed in designated areas and in line with the other markers or monuments with an appropriately stable foundation structure. These markers must be of durable, permanent materials such as granite or marble or bronze as in the case of Veteran memorial footstones. All footstones shall be flush with the surface of the ground and a concrete base shall extend 5 inches on all four sides at ground level. The Cemetery Board reserves the right to move or remove any stones, which are not properly placed or fit with the above descriptions.

- 8). There will be no refunds for cemetery plots paid yet unused. The family can, however, donate back to the cemetery each unused plot.
- 9). The clearing of snow along the pathway to and into the cemetery due for a funeral burial or the placing of a memorial stone shall be done by a locally appointed parishioner and done by donation or at the private individual's expense.
- 10). All signs, symbols and/or expressions that express irreligious sentiment or speak of paganism are forbidden on grave markers or otherwise. No advertising of any description is permitted within the cemetery. The cemetery reserves the right to remove any and all these items.
- 11). Persons engaged in digging burial plots or erecting monuments are prohibited from leaving any materials or blocking avenues in any area without the Cemetery Board's permission. They must do as little damage as possible to the surrounding grass and shrubs and trees. They must also remove all left over ground debris and restore the ground to its original condition. Failure to do so will result in that person or dealer or contractor fixing the damage or that same person(s) paying for the costs of the repair done by the Cemetery person or Committee.
- 12). Persons engaged in digging burial plots or erecting monuments must provide proof of insurance and that they are an independent contractor. They are to use reasonable means to protect grass and pathways. Failure to do so will be at contractor expense.
- 13). Should a monument become unsightly or dilapidated or a danger to other persons, including children, the cemetery board reserves the right to remove or reposition in such a way as to be safe for others. In certain cases, these costs may be incurred by the private persons.
- 14). Persons visiting this cemetery are to respect all other monuments and refrain from defacing any markers or destroying the fence or picking flowers, trees or shrubs either wild or cultivated on or within cemetery grounds and its adjoining property.
- 15). All floral arrangements or baskets or personally contributed items must be placed either **on top of or on either side of the monuments or markers** to ensure easy access to mowing and lawn care maintenance. Any item not located on the concrete ribbon is subject to removal by the local parish, cemetery board or an appointed person from the parish.
- 16). The local parish or cemetery board will not be responsible for the destruction of any floral arrangements or designs or baskets placed on or near the monuments.
- 17). The local parish or cemetery board or appointed person from the parish reserves the right to remove all floral arrangements or designs left on monuments which have become

old or unsightly or have not been properly placed on top of or near either side of the monuments. This will be specifically done during Spring and Fall clean-up.

18). Any driving of any animal or motor vehicles (ie. car, truck, snowmobile, ATV, horse, cattle, or any other animal or vehicle) over grave sites without permission is absolutely prohibited. Any damage to grass or cemetery property or monuments shall be at operator's expense.

19). Any throwing away of garbage or rubbish on the drives and pathways or any part of the cemetery is prohibited.

20). Purchaser's of various plots may have proper memorial work done on their respective plots with the pastor and cemetery board's approval.

21). All monies contained in the **St. Donatus Cemetery Fund** as well as fees received from burial plots, donations, charges, or other gifts shall be retained in a separate parish account and dedicated solely to the perpetual care, upkeep, and maintenance of the cemetery grounds proper. A member or appointed person of the cemetery board shall be represented on the local parish pastoral council.

22). These Rules and Regulations are partly in response to the, "Minnesota Catholic Cemetery Policies and Procedures-2002" a copy of which is located in the local parish office. These Rules and Regulations are also subject to change only with the consent of the **St. Donatus Cemetery Board and Parish Pastoral Council**.