

Dear parishioners of Sacred Heart Church,

The Parish council recently revisited our cemetery policies and the continued rising costs of maintaining the cemetery. We decided to raise the costs of the plots to \$200 per plot as this fee does include perpetual care.

We also made changes to the policy on flowers, lights, and other graveside memorials to be more in line with other cemeteries in the area and to help with mowing and other care taking duties. We understand the families desire to express their love for the deceased by placing flowers and other items on the gravesite. However, this does make it more difficult and costly to maintain the overall appearance and beauty of our cemetery. Because of this we have decided that any flowers stuck in the ground will be removed 14 days after Memorial Day. We ask that if you place lights or other items on the gravesite that are outside of our policies, that you mow and maintain the grave around these items throughout the year yourselves. Any graves with extra items not 6 inches off the ground and not maintained by the family will have the items removed.

Sacred Heart Parish Council

## Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery Regulations

Revised: May 8, 2017

### 1) Vaults

- a. Surface vaults or concrete grave covers (of any kind) will **not** be allowed. Exception: If there is an existing cover on a deceased spouse's grave.
- b. Concrete or sealed vaults are required for all body caskets.
- c. Urn vaults are required for all cremains.

### 2) Monuments

- a. Headstone Monuments – An attached vase for graveside memorials is recommended.
  - i. Permanent monuments are required.
  - ii. All monuments, standing or flat, must have a concrete base (4 inches wide and 2 inches thick) around them which is flush with the ground. Flat stones must follow the contour of the land.
  - iii. Exception: Official Veteran's Monument
- b. Footstone Monuments
  - i. Must be of the flat style and placed flush with the ground.
- c. Check with the parish office before setting any monuments.

### 3) Graveside Memorials

- a. Flowers may be placed in a vase attached to the headstone or the headstone base and be at least 6 inches off the ground. Exception to this rule is from 7 days prior to Memorial Day to 14 days after Memorial Day. All flowers stuck in the ground **will be** removed after this time.
  - a. Glass or tin containers **are not** allowed for flowers.

- b. Other graveside memorials (solar lights or anything else) are permitted to be attached to the headstone or the headstone base and be at least 6 inches off the ground. When any graveside memorials are placed on the ground, it is the family's responsibility to maintain and mow around them in a timely manner or they will be removed.
  - c. Planting of trees and shrubs is prohibited.
  - d. Fencing, curbing, hedging, or borders will not be allowed around or on graves.
  - e. Cemetery caretakers maintain the right to level or straighten monuments and remove any graveside memorials (including flowers) that are broken, faded, or considered a hazard, at their discretion, with no liability for damage or loss to them or Sacred Heart Church.
- 4) Fees – includes perpetual care
- a. \$200 for each plot for parishioners
  - b. Non parishioner fees are double that of parishioners
  - c. Burial of cremains requires the purchase of one plot for \$200 unless burial on an existing family member's plot takes place. Up to 2 cremains are allowed on each plot.
  - d. Plot fees will be collected by the funeral home at the time of burial/purchase.
- 5) Planning
- a. Plot(s) may be purchased in advance of death.
    - i. Must be Catholic or one of the spouses must be Catholic.
    - ii. Must take the next plot(s) in line.
    - iii. Fees to be paid at time of purchase.
    - iv. Must place a tombstone, with name(s), on the plot(s) within 6 months of purchase, weather permitting, or fees will be forfeited.
- 6) Cremation
- a. Contact the pastor or parish office before cremation to ensure that the "Policy on Catholic Church Funeral Rites" of the Diocese of Bismarck concerning cremation and the handling of the cremains is met.
  - b. Information on the deceased must be recorded in the death register of the church where the burial takes place.
  - c. Notice of burial must be filed with the county registrar and the appropriate fee paid.