



# Decoration Regulations

## Catholic Cemeteries

### Diocese of Rockford

#### PLEASE LIMIT DECORATIONS TO ONE PER GRAVE

Natural and Artificial flowers are permitted. Pots - Not to exceed 12 inches in diameter. Planters Boxes - Not to exceed 18 inches in length, 8 inches in width, 6 inches high.

All Containers should be of plastic or wood construction with ample drainage. They must be placed on deceased grave and not dug into turf.

Metal Stands, Shepherd Hooks, Glass, Statuary, Decriptive Stones, and Border Edging are strictly prohibited. Candles of any kind are not permitted.

No items may be stuck in the ground. Loose items must be placed in a Pot, Flower Box, or Approved Vase.

Decorations may not exceed 24" in height.

These restrictions are necessary for safety reasons. Any of these objects can be picked up and hurled by mowing equipment, making them potential hazards to visitors and cemetery staff. They will be removed and disposed of immediately.

Artificial flowers are permitted on all graves in approved vases and containers. In-ground metal vases in granite collars or aprons 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 planters with plants, or in approved vases. Flags may not be stuck into the ground on wooden sticks, nor may they be attached to metal stakes (which are not permitted).

During the growing season, our field staff remove non-compliant decorations weekly from sections as maintenance is performed.

#### MONUMENT LOTS

Planting beds the length of the family monument are permitted directly in front. You cannot plant behind the monument if you do not have graves on that side. Decriptive stones and border edging are strictly prohibited. No perennial plants or bushes are permitted. Annual plants only. Perennial plants will be removed of and disposed of. All plants will be cut level to the turf after November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### SPRING AND FALL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**  
(Weather Permitting) are used to clean up the grounds completely and prepare the cemeteries for spring and winter. **All decorations will be removed and disposed of during these times.**

If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them before March 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please, do not place any decorations during these clean-up dates.

After November 15<sup>th</sup> when the grass is not being cut, artificial wreaths no more than 30 inches in diameter are permitted when placed on a stand.

**Evergreen blankets or grave coverings are not permitted at any time. All winter decorations must be on an easel.**

#### REVERENCE AND RESPECT

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

Catholic Cemeteries are a holy place. These sacred grounds are blessed by the church and dedicated as a place of prayer and dignity for our faithful departed.

Please Maintain a quiet reverence and respect for the others visiting the graves of loved ones.

Please abide by the following:

- Proper attire at all times
- No Picnics
- Proper behavior at all Times
- Pets on leashes, not allowed in burial area
- No Alcoholic Beverages
- No Parking on Grass
- No Gatherings of 10 or more without approval from management

**Cemetery Hours: Dawn till Dusk**