

**ST. JOSEPH'S NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH and CEMETERY**  
**1300 Stratford Road – Stratford, CT 06615**

**Cemetery By-Laws**

St. Joseph's Cemetery is a permanent sacred space, consecrated by the Church as a place of burial, and a place for prayer, reflection, hope and remembrance. Respect for this hallowed ground is required at all times.

**NON-MEMBER BURIAL PLOTS:**

1. Purchase of a burial plot indicates the right to burial in that location.
2. Purchase of a burial plot is *not* the purchase of the land in which the burial occurs.
3. Burial plots are located in the back section of the cemetery in an area behind the church.

**Criteria for Purchase:**

1. Must be purchased for a resident of Stratford, who may presently reside in a long-term care facility outside of Stratford, *or*
2. Must be related to a member of St. Joseph's National Catholic Church (N.C.C.). This will require a request from the church member or a review of the request by the Parish Committee or Cemetery Committee if the member is deceased.
3. Communicants of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church of Stratford, CT.
4. Members of Mercy Tabernacle Church, upon request.

**BURIAL PLOTS:**

1. A single burial plot allows for the interment of:
  - a. One (1) full body and two (2) cremains that would be placed on top of the buried body.
  - b. Three (3) cremations

**COST OF BURIAL PLOTS:**

1. \$2,000.00 per single plot (\$4,000.00 for 2 graves, etc.), each additional plot will cost \$2,000.00
2. The cost of the Interment Engineer to open and close the grave site is an additional cost:
  - a. \$1,400.00 for a single grave site
  - b. \$800.00 for a single cremation site
  - c. Additional cost will be incurred for Saturday burials as per Interment Engineer

**PAYMENT:**

1. A burial site purchased at time of death must be paid in full, inclusive of the fee for the Interment Engineer to open and close the site.
2. A burial site purchased for future use will require a 50% deposit with the balance paid within 6 (six) months.
3. The cost is paid directly to St. Joseph's N. C. C. Church. Checks must be made out to St. Joseph's of Stratford.
4. The deed to the plot will be provided upon full payment received.
5. Prices are subject to change at the discretion of St. Joseph's Parish Committee and/or St. Joseph's Cemetery Committee at the time of annual review.

### MONUMENTS:

Monuments may not be installed until the burial plot is paid in full. The specifications (size, style, color) are prescribed by the St. Joseph's Cemetery Committee. The monument dealer or purchaser must submit the specifications of the monument to the Cemetery Committee for approval.

Type: Gray granite slant type with sawcut back.

Size: Single grave monument:

20 inches wide x 10 inches deep x 16 inches high  
with a base of 24 inches x 12 inches x 6 inches

Double grave monument:

30 inches wide x 10 inches deep x 16 inches high  
with a base of 36 inches x 12 inches x 6 inches

Military: Gray granite or bronze flat flush marker may be installed with verification of military service. Monument footings will be installed by the Internment Engineer.

### PLANTINGS:

1. Planting of trees or shrubs is not permitted as they are detrimental to adjoining plots.
2. Flowers and potted plants are permitted in front of the monuments and may not exceed the width of the monument.
3. Artificial flowers, evergreens in boxes and Christmas wreaths are permitted in front of the monument and must be removed when unsightly.
4. Grave blankets and sprays are not permitted.
5. Funeral flowers are removed from grave sites in one week to not damage the sod.
6. Crushed stones, wood chips, shells and bricks are not permitted and will be removed.
7. Fencing, edging and borders of any material are not permitted.
8. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove and dispose of all floral pieces after the interment, inurnment, or when they become unsightly.

### ANIMALS:

Family pets are not allowed on cemetery property and may not be buried on cemetery property.

### OTHER:

All funerals in the cemetery shall be conducted with the full knowledge and approval of the Pastor of St. Joseph's National Catholic Church. No funerals in the cemetery are permitted to occur at a time that could extend services or Cemeteries' operations beyond dark. No funerals in the cemetery are permitted on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, the afternoons of Good Friday, December 24th, December 31st and holidays.

Full-sized caskets must be enclosed in a permanent container approved by the state of CT and local health department regulations.

Cremains must be enclosed in an approved urn vault for internment. Scattering of cremated remains on a grave or in the cemetery is strictly prohibited.

A burial permit issued by the registrar of the town in which death occurred is required per state of CT, and usually provided by the funeral director. It must be presented to the pastor prior to internment.

A casket may not be opened at any time within the cemetery without necessary permissions. The Funeral Director must be present and written consent from the legal representative of the deceased must be provided.

The owner of a plot may not sell or transfer the plot to another person.

In the event that an owner of a burial plot wants to return the plot, it will be relinquished to St. Joseph's N. C. C., and the St. Joseph's Cemetery Committee or Parish Committee may, at its discretion, refund the full fee or portion of fee paid.

Infant burials are conducted in the same manner as adult burials. Fee is the same, unless otherwise determined by the St. Joseph's Cemetery Committee or Parish Committee.

Should vandalism to the monuments occur, the cost of restoration is the responsibility of the burial plot owner, not St. Joseph N.C.C.

Grievances will be presented to the Pastor, Cemetery Committee and/or Parish Committee. If the issue is not resolved then the grievance will be presented to St. Joseph's Tribunal for consideration and, if necessary, presented to the Parish at a special meeting.

In addition to the above stated Rules and Regulations, St. Joseph's National Catholic Church and Cemetery will be in compliance with all applicable State and Local Regulations.

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The above rules and regulations were ratified and adopted by St. Joseph's National Catholic Church Cemetery Committee and St. Joseph's National Catholic Church Parish Committee on May 30, 2020.