Rules and Regulations of the Catholic Cemetery
of
St. Mary's Catholic Church
201 E. Forest Ave
Mora, Minnesota 55051
320-679-1593
Amended 2.10.2026

Catholic cemeteries are intended for the burial of Catholic Christians who are entitled to burial according to the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. However, the burial of individuals who do not profess the Roman Catholic faith and the conduct of their burial service by a minister of religion is permitted in a Catholic cemetery; this usually involves a situation in interfaith marriages. Other situations are at the discretion of the local pastor in deference to the unity of faith of parishioners.

To ensure the sacred character of the cemetery operated by St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mora, in accord with the mind and traditional practice of the Catholic Church and to establish and maintain good order, the following rules and regulations are in effect.

SALE OF CEMETERY EASEMENTS FOR PURPOSE OF BURIAL

a) Easement for the purposes of burial purchased at the time of death MUST be paid in full. In case of hardship, the cemetery committee may make an exception if requested in writing.
b) Easements purchased before death MUST be paid in full at time of purchase. Upon purchase, a receipt will be kept on file in the parish office guaranteeing the right to burial in the cemetery. The file will include the name of the purchaser(s), specific grave plot site, price paid and date of purchase.
c) No lot easement may be resold to a third party. Easements may be conveyed to someone else only through the cemetery parish office.
d) All easements purchased in advance must be assigned to particular individual.
e) An unused easement maybe sold back to the cemetery for a refund of 75% of the original purchase price. Proof of purchase information must be available.
f) The number of easements for the purposes of burial to be purchased by a family at one time will be at the discretion of the cemetery committee.

GRAVES

a) Burial in the cemetery is restricted to human burials only. No burial of any animal remains. Animal remains are not to be buried with human remains.
b) Graves are limited to one monument or marker per plot unless there is a government issued veteran marker.
c) There shall be no curbing or railing around the grave.
d) Metal or concrete outer containers (vaults) are required for all casket burials.
e) Vaults are required for all cremated remains. A cremation urn vault or container is to be constructed of concrete or steel, or of other approved composition and size.
f) The cremated remains of two individuals in two urns or one casket and the cremated remains of one individual may be placed in one grave with the approval of the cemetery committee and written approval of the easement holder or their direct heir. Only one monument stone will be allowed for both people buried.

g) Infants less than one year of age can be buried in the "Infant Section". Only memorial markers or markers that no part is above the ground are allowed.

CASKET AND CREMATION BURIALS

a) When there are two cremation burials in one grave, the first vault is placed closest to where the headstone will be, and the second vault is put farthest from the headstone. There is no special placement for the husband or the wife's vault.
b) When two burials occur at one time in the same easement, one vault is permitted. Ashes can be joined in a common urn, provided the identity of each person is clearly marked and maintained.
c) In all sections of the cemetery the caskets are buried with the head to the West and feet to the East. The husband is to the South (left) of his wife.

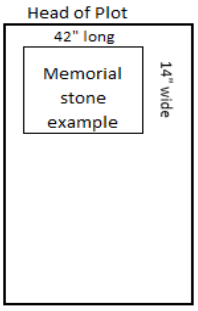
MEMORIAL REQUIREMENTS

a) No monuments on grave plots in the style of a bench will be permitted.
b) A memorial stone may be no more than 14" wide and 42" long. A monument may be no more than 32" high, 48" long and 14" wide. A memorial stone or monument must sit in the area that is purchased for designated individual(s).
c) On a single grave, in section 3 of the cemetery, the concrete pad is limited to 32". The monument **MUST** fit the concrete pad.
d) Two names may be placed on a single stone that covers one grave space. The husband's name is to the left of his wife's name when looking at the stone.
e) All stones shall be placed upon a proper foundation in accord with industry standards to sufficiently support them; and they shall be placed in line with the others in the same row.
f) Memorial stones and monuments must have a concrete rim around them that is flush with the ground, and extends out at least 5 inches. A hole may be formed in the concrete base to hold a planter pipe.
g) Memorial stones will be placed at the East end of the East plots and West end of the West plots. Monuments are to be placed on the West end of plots 1,2,3,4,5 and 6. They will be placed on the East end of plots 6,7,8,9 and 10. See diagram below for clarification.

West

Memorial stone Plot 6 Monument	Memorial stone Plot 7 Monument
Monument Plot 1 Memorial stone	Monument Plot 2 Memorial stone

East



MATERIALS

a) All memorials, including flush markers, are to be constructed of First Quality "Certified" SELECT granite and are to be in accord with the Monument Dealers Agreement which must accompany all stonework applications. Approved bronze markers are also acceptable. Use of any other proposed material is subject to the approval of the cemetery committee. Any materials that do not meet the standards set by the cemetery committee will be rejected.
b) The memorial dealer must guarantee that the memorial will be free from flaws, defects, tool marks, rust stains, or discoloration impervious to standard cleaning procedures, and

guarantee that the memorial will not check or crack and guarantee the replacement of same be made if such faults occur within a period of five (5) years. Wedge or hickey monuments/memorials are not permitted.

c) Any stonework showing knots, evidence of doctoring, iron likely to disfigure or stain, or a tendency to create a dirt pocket and spall off shall not be accepted.
d) Artificial coloring of any type is prohibited. Therefore, stonework that is artificially colored with the use of chips or glass, or by gold leaf and any other chemical additives, including paints may not be used.
e) Marble will not be permitted by the cemetery except in the case of duplicating.
f) Pictures of deceased loved ones are not permitted except in the case of duplicating. In that case they must accord with the following:
    a) All pictures must first be approved by the cemetery board.
    b) Only portraits of the deceased are allowed. Head or bust only.
    c) Size must not exceed 3.5" x 5", 1.5 to 2.0 millimeters thick and must have a stainless steel core with inorganic pigment coating. The picture must be recessed into the face of the monument and must be flush.
    d) Ceramic, porcelain, glass, or other injurious materials used in conjunction with a picture will not be permitted.
    e) The cemetery shall not be liable for any resulting damage to a memorial in conjunction with adhering any picture.

DESIGN

a) The cemetery committee reserves the right to review and approve or disapprove a memorial in view of size, design, or inscription based on good taste and Roman Catholic teaching and discipline. The design of a memorial, i.e., the carving, drawing, scene, etching, insignias, etc., must be in keeping with the religious nature of the cemetery. Memorialization is not a private/personal matter. It becomes a public statement when installed on cemetery grounds. Therefore, it must refer to the Catholic doctrine and beliefs on death, resurrection and eternal life.
b) Every memorial must have a cross either sculptured, cut, or engraved in proper proportion to the stonework. Such a cross must be of noteworthy size and may be enhanced by floral carvings or other decorations which do not compete with or detract from the cross. This regulation excepts those memorials which are cruciform in design.
c) When duplicating a memorial which has no cross or religious symbol, the new memorial must have a cross or feature a religious design. These religious symbols maintain the Catholic in our Catholic Cemetery.
d) Nature scenes may be approved if they are generally and readily recognized as depicting God, eternal life, resurrection, heaven, etc. Such nature scenes may not include human forms and must be used in conjunction with a cross which must be present and prevalent. Copywrite graphics, words or slogans; sports teams; or brand names should NOT be in the design.
e) Secular designs which are meaningful to a particular family may be approved if they are small and not prominent in relation to the cross which must be present and prevalent. Secular designs must not compete with the cross in size or meaning.
f) Secular designs representing one's vocation and/or avocation should be in the size and location of the dates of birth and death, generally at the bottom of the stone.

g) Requests for nature scenes and secular designs must be accompanied by an exact scaled drawing of the scene, design, etching, carving, etc. A full-size drawing may be requested in questionable cases.
h) Requests for unusual nature scenes and all secular designs must be accompanied by a written statement of the source, meaning, and personal significance of the design/symbol and its relation to the doctrines of the Catholic Church.
i) A bust etching of the deceased must be proportionate to the memorial and not overwhelming or in competition with the religious design/symbol.
j) There are specific criteria for cremation monuments in cremation sections and for monuments in children's sections. The cemetery committee should be consulted.
k) BAS-RELIEF – designs may include bas-relief sculptured carvings.
    a. FULL-FACED – If such sculpture is to be full-faced, then relief is to be not less than 2.5".
    b. PROFILE – If such sculpture is to be profile, then relief is to be not less than 1".
l) All sculptured carvings must be inspected by and have the approval of the cemetery committee before permission is given to set at gravesite.

INSCRIPTIONS

EPITAPHS

a) Must be in harmony with the doctrines of the Catholic Church and be approved by the cemetery committee.
b) Should be from Sacred Scripture or from a liturgical or approved common prayer of the Catholic Church.
c) Must be of limited wording.
d) All epitaphs – even Biblical sources – must be identified as to source. An epitaph from a secular source or from a personal choice of wording must also include a written explanation of its relation to doctrines of the Catholic Church submitted to the cemetery committee.
e) Nicknames must either be on the same line and between the first and last name of the deceased and displayed in quotes or be on a separate line under the deceased's name and in quotes and of a smaller lettering size than the size of the deceased's name. The cemetery committee reserves the right to determine the acceptability of nicknames used on memorials.

NAMES

a) Only the names of the person(s) to be buried in a particular lot are permitted on the monument or marker. Exceptions must be approved by the cemetery board and may include:
    a. Name(s) of deceased spouse buried in another location
    b. Immediate family members of the deceased (parents, children, siblings).
b) Monuments may be permitted to be erected for individuals not buried in the particular lot if the human remains of the individual are non-existent or are buried on foreign soil causing undue hardship to visit the grave. In these cases, the words "In Memory of" are to be included on the monument or marker and a legal death certificate supplied to the cemetery committee.

DATES OF BIRTH/DEATH

a) Memorial dealers must submit an "Application to Erect Memorial" form whenever they are inscribing the dates of birth and/or death on a previously installed memorial. Whether the dealer was contracted to do this work at the time of the original purchase of the memorial or is presently being contracted by the family or funeral director, an appropriately completed form must be approved by the cemetery committee before performing this work.

MEMORIAL WORK GENERAL RULES

a) The cemetery committee reserves the right to prescribe and approve the type of material to be used, as well as the propriety of the design, and the proportions of the dimensions of the memorial to be erected. The parish reserves the right to establish rules restricting, abolishing or specifying markers, monuments or other structures of a certain description, design, size or material.

b) The cemetery committee reserves the right to establish the days and hours when a memorial may be delivered to the cemetery. All memorial work outside of normal hours shall be arranged with the cemetery sexton. Memorial work is to be suspended if an interment is taking place in the immediate vicinity until such services are completed.

c) The location and position in which a memorial is to be placed or erected on a lot shall be entirely subject to the approval and under the supervision of the cemetery sexton. Cemetery sections and lots are specifically designed for either monument (above ground) or marker (ground level) memorials.

d) Full purchase price of the lot easement and other fees must be paid in full prior to placement of any memorial.

e) Memorials may be installed on a lot when the purchase price of such lot easement and any other charges relating to such lot/each grave have been paid in full. Requests for exceptions/consideration of particular circumstances must be directed to the cemetery committee.

f) Memorial dealers must abide by the rules and regulations of the cemetery now in force or hereafter adopted in the erection or installation of the memorial work.

g) Memorializing by design, symbol, inscription, epitaph, etc. is permitted only on the portion/face of an upright monument where one's graves are located.

h) Memorials shall be permitted once an application for stonework has been submitted, with a sketch showing design in detail, ornamentations, all dimensions of stonework, type of finish of exposed surfaces and any inscription exactly as they will appear on the finished product, and such application has been approved in writing by the proper cemetery authorities. Memorial dealers are responsible for obtaining the written approval from the cemetery committee.

i) Memorial designs must submit a proper authorization from the person requesting the erection of a memorial and/or certain related work as part of the application process.

j) All stonework must be performed in accordance with the location, specifications and sketch as outlined in the application to erect memorial and is subject to the approval of the cemetery committee prior to its placement.

k) If, in the opinion of the cemetery committee, the completed memorial should not comply with said rules and regulations or approved application, it will, at the written request of the cemetery committee, be removed immediately by the dealer to correct any errors or deficiencies without cost to the cemetery.

l) In the event that through oversight, error, or other reasons, violations of the memorial work policy have occurred, a precedent is not set and such violations shall not be repeated.

m) No memorial, once erected, may be removed from the cemetery by the memorial dealer without written permission of the lot easement holder, or, if deceased, the legal heir(s)/agent(s), and written approval of the cemetery committee or court order.

n) When a memorial becomes in a state of disrepair and liability to the safety of lot easement holders, visitors or staff, the cemetery committee reserves the right to initiate appropriate action.
o) No member of the cemetery committee or parish staff shall be personally interested directly or indirectly in any business connected with the erection of private mausoleums, monuments, vaults, etc., nor shall they recommend the employment of any particular firm.
p) Memorial dealers may not solicit memorial sales or memorial work with the cemetery nor are advertisements in any form allowed on stonework in the cemetery.
q) The cemetery committee reserves the right to construct all foundations and to perform certain related work.
r) The cemetery committee reserves the right to issue, under separate cover, detailed regulations and instructions and policies pertaining to the type, size, quality, material and design of memorials, and inscriptions installed in the cemetery. Those detailed regulations, instructions, and policies and all amendments are hereby made a part of these stonework rules and regulations.
s) All memorials placed in the cemetery shall be at the risk of the lot easement owner or the legal heirs/agents. The cemetery will be held harmless for acts including but not limited to vandalism and acts of God.

CARE OF DECORATIONS

a) There shall be no planting, curbing or railing around the grave, and the planting of shrubs, bushes, trees, annuals or perennials around graves is prohibited.
b) The Cemetery Caretakers shall be responsible for backfilling sunken graves and other maintenance matters.
c) Special maintenance can be the responsibility of the family of the deceased.
d) All plants (real or artificial) placed on graves must be in an urn/pot on a pipe stand or in portable planters which can be moved for mowing.
e) All artificial wreaths, emblems, statues, etc. (that are not in an urn/pot or portable planter) that were placed on graves for Memorial Day, must be removed by June 15th, after which date the Cemetery Caretakers may dispose of them. Throughout the summer they are authorized to remove any bouquets, plants, fresh or artificial flowers which become unsightly, or any small artificial arrangements, statues, etc., that are left at the grave site after June 15th.
f) Prohibited cemetery decorations include but are not limited to: lights (not in a pot), pictures, boxes, shells, toys, windchimes, wind spinners, windmills, whirligigs, glassware, sprinkling cans, bird feeders and similar articles. Prohibited items may be removed by the Cemetery Caretakers. Items removed by the Cemetery Caretakers will be taken to the West side of the cemetery garage unless the item is broken or in poor condition at which time it may be disposed of at the Cemetery Caretakers discretion. Items will be left by the garage for a short time and then disposed of.
g) Planters, urns and pipe stands must be removed by September 30th.
h) Items not removed by September 30th will be removed by the Cemetery Caretakers and brought to St. Mary's rectory garage. Items can be collected from the rectory garage. Items will be kept for a short while then disposed of.

MAINTENANCE

a) Maintenance of the monument or grave marker shall be the responsibility of the family of the deceased.

a. Items included but not limited to: Vandalism, tipping and/or acts of nature resulting in damage to the monument or marker; or said items causing the monument or marker to become a safety issue.
b. If no family is found, repairs will be made at the discretion of the cemetery committee.

b) The Cemetery Caretakers shall be responsible for the re-seeding of the cemetery grounds and the leveling of lots that have settled due to normal ground settling.
c) A percentage of monies collected from the sale of easements will go towards maintenance of grounds, plantings, and overall beautification and improvement of the cemetery.

RULES OF CONDUCT

PLANTING

a) There shall be NO planting at the gravesites. The planting of shrubs, bushes, trees, annuals or perennials is strictly prohibited, except those that are in approved plant urns attached to the monument.
b) Potted plants may be placed at the gravesite.
c) All flowers and plants, including artificial, are to be removed no later than two (2) weeks after the events for which they were placed, except in the case of Memorial Day, where they must be removed by June 15th.
d) Any plantings (real or artificial) or other placed items are subject to removal and disposal if they become unsightly or hinder the care and maintenance of the grounds.

GRAVE DIGGING

a) No grave shall be opened without the prior consent of the cemetery committee or other authorized representative.
b) The easement holder or the family shall be responsible for the costs of the opening and closing of the grave, and for leaving the site in a neat and presentable condition in accordance with the rules and regulations of the cemetery. Winter burials may require snow removal expenses which will be added to the cost of the interment fees.
c) No burials are allowed on the lot lines. All graves must be dug by an approved digger and the monument or memorial stones must be placed by a bonded cemetery service company.
d) Levels of the lots shall not be raised, nor mounds allowed over the graves.
e) The contracted gravedigger's responsibilities are:
    a. Open the grave.
    b. Remove the dirt from the gravesite for the funeral.
    c. Close and fill the grave with dirt to be packed or tamped with sod replaced on the top, when possible.
    d. Dispose of the excess dirt in a location specified by the cemetery committee.
    e. Use planking when necessary to avoid damage.
f) The cemetery will not authorize payment to the gravedigger for opening and closing of the grave until the cemetery committee representative has signed and approved the voucher. The cemetery committee representative will sign an approval for the gravedigger only upon satisfactory completion of the grave closing in accordance with these rules.
g) If a family chooses to move any buried remains from the cemetery of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Mora to another location, written permission must be first be obtained from the pastor and the cemetery sexton. The labor and expense involved in the move is the sole responsibility of the family.

OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS

a) No loitering, loud noise, smoking, drinking, or littering is allowed.
b) No scattering of cremated remains on the cemetery grounds.
c) Damage done to lots, walks, driveways, trees, fences or other property by dealers, contractors, or by individuals at the cemetery shall be repaired by approved competent people under the supervision of the Cemetery Caretakers and the cost paid by those responsible.
d) The current rules and regulations must be observed regardless of what rules were in force at the time the Easement was obtained. St. Mary's Catholic Church of Mora reserves the right at any time and from time to time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind or add to these rules and regulations and any part thereof, or to adopt any new rule or regulation with respect to its cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.

GLOSSARY:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: The Cemetery Committee, a group of parishioners appointed by the pastor, are responsible for the operation of the cemetery in accordance with these rules and regulations explained here. The pastor has overall responsibility.

EASEMENT/PLOT/GRAVE: Designated space located within the cemetery property which individual(s) may purchase the ability to place remains after death. These terms maybe interchangeable throughout these regulations.

MEMORIAL STONE/FLAT STONE MARKER: Generally, a flat stone that will be placed at the foot of the grave.

MONUMENT STONE/ HEAD STONE: Generally, this stone is upright and will be placed at the head of the grave.

SEXTON: Individuals who work with the Cemetery Committee or are part of the Cemetery Committee to ensure regulations are being followed.

Easement Site Purchase
Per Grave – *(only one person/first person)*
Members (Parishioners and spouse of parishioner): **$600**
Non- Members: **$1050**

- One full body burial is allowed per grave.
- Following a full burial, one cremation burial is also allowed on that grave. Urn vault is required.
- Up to two (2) cremation burials are allowed per grave. Urn vault is required

Second Rite of Interment Fee *(spouse, child, second person placed in site)*
Members **$300**
Non- Members **$525**

Cemetery Fees to be paid at the time of burial
Members and Non-Members:
Cemetery Fee: $100.00 paid to St. Mary's Church

- Provides for sexton activities to include plot location and marking the grave for burial and stone placement, coordinating with service providers, and record keeping
- Additional fees may apply for ground thawing, snow plowing, moving monuments or markers, etc.

No interment will take place until all fees have been paid in full.
Prices are figured based on member or non-member of person being buried, not the person purchasing the easement.

Third Party Interment (Burial) Fees (cremation fees only)

Full body burial or alternate cremation digger
Josh Nehring 763-843-3164
1844 145th Ave #2
Ogilvie, MN 56358
Current fee rates start at:
Weekday: Urns $300.00 Full casket $800.00 Weekend additional $100
Any day after 3pm additional $50/ after 5pm additional $100/ after 6pm additional $150

St. Mary's Cemetery Board
Fr. Timothy Gapinski – Pastor
Roger Andres – Sexton
Ted Taylor- Sexton
Amanda Peterson- Secretary

Grave prices as amended February 10th, 2026