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# CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS

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St. John the Baptist Cemetery  
Hugo, MN

St. Genevieve Cemetery  
Centerville, MN

*Cemetery Board Mission Statement:*

*Our cemeteries exist to meet the needs of the faithful at the time of death, burial and throughout bereavement. By setting aside a holy place for burial, we provide a fitting environment for liturgical celebration. As in life, we believe the human body should be treated in death with respect and dignity. Our memories of the deceased are enlightened by a faith that sees death as a bridge to the communion of saints. Death is not the end of the journey. Our bonds with the believing community are not broken.*

## PRAYER FOR VISITING A GRAVE

God of Abraham and of Moses,  
Lord of the Living, who visited Jesus within His grave  
and filled Him with the fullness of eternal life,  
hear our prayer this day  
as we come to the burial place of (name)

With reverence, we visit this sacred shrine  
where his/her body was placed  
within the womb of the earth  
to await the final day of glory.  
We pause in silence to be united with him/her.

Pause for silent prayer...

Lord, we have come on this pilgrimage of prayer  
to keep the flame of love alive within our hearts.  
As we read his/her name upon the marker-stone,  
we rejoice because that name has been written for all ages  
in the palm of Your divine hand.

May the breath of creation that surrounds this grave—  
in trees, grass and earth, birds and sun—  
join us in prayer.

May this pilgrimage remind us of what we already know:  
that nothing dies;  
rather, life is only transformed into new life.

Holy is this grave,  
holy this earth that has held in gentle embrace  
the bodies of all who are buried in this cemetery.

Lord,  
with reverence, we leave a wreath of worship at this grave,  
woven with love, adorned with memories  
and with our faith in the reality  
of that earthen Easter morning  
when all the holy dead shall rise  
in the splendor of Your glory.

Till that day, eternal rest to (name)  
and to all the holy dead. Amen

**CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE**  
**Cemetery Rules & Regulations**  
Updated October 2016

For the mutual protection and benefit of lot owners, the following Rules and Regulations have been adopted by The Church of St. Genevieve and all lot owners and visitors within the cemetery. All lots sold shall be subjected to said Rules and Regulations and subject further to such other Rules and Regulations, amendments, or alterations as shall be adopted from time to time.

**DEFINITIONS**

The term *cemetery* as used herein refers to the both the Church of St. Genevieve Cemetery in Centerville, Minnesota and the Church of St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Hugo, Minnesota.

The term *lot, plot or burial place* shall be used interchangeably and shall apply to one or more than one adjoining grave.

The term *interment* shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by entombment or cremation.

The term *memorial* shall include a monument, footstone or headstone for family or individual use.

The term *Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis* shall mean the Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis or the person acting on his place or stead.

The term of *Management* shall mean the person or persons duly appointed by the Ordinary for the purpose of conducting and administrating the cemeteries owned by the Church of St. Genevieve in Centerville, Minnesota.

The term *Perpetual Care* is a trust fund designated for the purpose of insuring that a cemetery has the financial means to provide permanent care.

**GENERAL RULES**

1. The Church of St. Genevieve Cemetery in Centerville, Minnesota and the Church of St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Hugo, Minnesota are owned and operated in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota and the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. The Cemeteries reserve the right to refuse admission to the Cemeteries and to refuse the use of the Cemetery's facilities, at any time, to any person or persons whom the Management may deem objectionable to the best interests of the Cemeteries.
2. The Cemeteries are intended for the burial of Catholics who are entitled to Christian burial according to the rules and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. Any question of burial of a

non-Catholic member of a lot owner's family or of any person not entitled to Christian burial shall be decided by the Pastor.

3. Religious ceremonies other than those of the Roman Catholic Church are not permitted within the Cemeteries unless the consent of the Pastor has been obtained.
4. It is the duty of the Management to see that the rules and regulations are complied with and maintained in order to protect and promote the best interests of the Cemeteries. Management is authorized to make additional rules, which may be needed, that are not covered by these rules and regulations.

### **LOTS AND LOT OWNERS**

5. The laws of the state of Minnesota govern the descent of title to the use of Cemetery lots, and other matters pertaining to assignments, conveyances and trust deeds.
6. The use of lots will not be granted to other than individual persons or families. Title must stand in one name.
7. Lot sizes for adults shall be four (4) feet by ten (10) feet. Infant or cremation lot shall be four (4) feet by four (4) feet.
8. No lot shall be used for any other purpose than for the burial of the human dead.
9. The Cemetery disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from the damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, explosions, invasions, insurrection riots or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage is direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.
10. Lot owners are granted only the right of interment in their lots. The Cemetery reserves the right to refuse to permit the interment of anyone who was not at the time of death the owner of the lot or relative of the owner by blood or marriage.

### **TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP**

11. The Management requires a consent letter when a current owner of a lot gives title of remaining graves or right of burial to another relative who is not named as the legal descent of title. This consent must be approved by the Management and on file in the Church office. There may be a fee to transfer ownership and record the necessary changes (Minnesota Statute 306.15)
12. The Management requires that if a person inherits remaining graves and has no need of them, that they sell them back to the Cemetery. Anyone wishing to sell a lot or gravesite back to the Cemetery, will receive the current cost of the grave, less 15% to cover the administrative fees.

## **DESCENT OF TITLE**

13. Minnesota Statute has been changed to read as follows: to the decedent's surviving spouse with the right of interment. If there are still remaining gravesites and not designated to someone, the law reads that they go to the oldest surviving child (Section 525.14).

## **CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS**

14. The Cemetery reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterment or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property.

## **CARE OF LOTS**

15. The Cemetery will give such care as it can, providing there are sufficient cemetery funds for that purpose or where care has been provided for in a Perpetual Care and Improvement Fund. The care is to consist of cutting the grass and general preservation of the grounds.
16. The general care assumed by the Cemetery shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any vase, basket or memorial placed upon lots; nor the planting of flowers or shrubbery, nor watering or sprinkling of the lots.

## **INTERMENTS**

17. Funeral Homes or families must present to the parish personnel a burial permit or a cremation certificate from the State Department of Health, as required by the State of Minnesota.
18. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the Cemetery, no funeral director nor his embalmer, assistant, employee or agent shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body, without the consent of the next of kin, of the legal representative of the deceased, or of an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
19. No interment of two or more adult bodies shall be made in one grave except in the case of cremation. One cremated remain may be buried above an existing entombment. Two cremated remains will be allowed in one adult lot.
20. No interment may be made unless the body is contained in a casket and cement vault. Cremated remains do not require a vault.

## **REMOVALS**

21. Authority to make a removal must be signed by the Lot Owner who has been granted the use of the lot from which the removal is to be made, or by the next of kin of the decedent. When such

authority is filed by a court order of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the Management; then permission will be granted for a removal.

## **DECORATIONS**

22. The Management reserves the right to remove all floral designs, flowers, boxes, toys, vases, ornaments or similar articles that prevent maintenance to the grounds. Wreaths and Christmas flowers will be permitted from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>. Above ground planters, for flowers, are allowed. No trees, shrubs or flowers are allowed to be planted in the ground. Current shrubs or trees will be removed as soon as they become unsightly, dangerous or diseased, or interfere with cemetery maintenance.

## **MEMORIAL WORK**

23. No memorials may be placed on any lot not fully paid for.
24. Any memorial work on the respective lots shall be set on the space designated by Management and installed by Management or by a monument company with approval of Management. All monuments shall be set in foundations built of concrete and of the size and depth prescribed by Management.
25. All memorials shall be constructed of natural stone. Crosses or other grave markers of wood, iron, cement or any like material are strictly prohibited, except the standard bronze insignia provided by the United States Government for Veterans.
26. No curbing, fencing, hedging, borders, benches or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any lot; no walks of bricks, cinders, tile, terra cotta, sand, cement, gravel or wood shall be allowed in any lot. Management reserves the right to remove the same if so erected, planted or placed.
27. All flat markers set level with the ground must be not less than four (4) inches nor more than six (6) inches in thickness. All markers shall be set in a concrete base extending five (5) or more inches below the stone. Concrete shall provide a 360 degree border at least four (4) inches wide and flush with top of marker. All lettering or carvings on markers must be sunk or incised. The use of raised letters in sunken panels or incised letters with a raised border will be at the lot owner's risk and the Management expressly disclaims any responsibility for damage they may sustain.
28. The size of a double flat marker is one (1) foot by three (3) feet and size of a marker for cremation, which has been placed over a conventional gravesite, is one (1) foot by two (2) feet.
29. A monument in the monument area of the Church of St. John the Baptist Cemetery will only be allowed if four graves are purchased so that 2 gravesites are opposite each other. Flat markers are only allowed if the four gravesites are in a row. The length of the monument base here may not exceed forty-eight (48) inches. The base needs to extend (6) inches around the monument. A regulation total height for any monument is not to exceed forty-two (42) inches from the ground level, which includes a ten (10) inch thick base.

30. Only one family monument shall be allowed on any grave in the Church of Genevieve Cemetery. The length of the monument base here may not exceed three fourths ( $3/4$ ) the width of the lot nor may the base extend over the occupied grave. The base needs to extend six (6) inches around the monument. A regulation total height for any monument is not to exceed forty-two (42) inches from the ground level, which includes a ten (10) inch thick base which must extend around the monument six (6) inches.
31. Flat markers must be placed at the end of the grave farthest from the base of the monument. All inscriptions shall read from the front of the lot. The Cemetery Board has also approved a ledge top on a monument, but the length of the top cannot exceed the size of the base.
32. Management reserves the right to stop all work of any nature whenever, in its opinion, proper preparations have not been made or when tools and machinery are insufficient or defective or when work is being executed in such a manner as to threaten life and property or when the monument dealer has been guilty of misrepresentation or when any reasonable request on the part of Management is disregarded or when work is not being executed according to specifications or when any person employed on the work violates any rule of the Cemetery. Any work violations contained in this rule are subject to a doubled monument location fee.
33. When any memorial work has been set in place, it shall not be removed without the due process of law or written permission of the Management.