

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

Cemetery Rules and Regulations
Updated 8/15/2025

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.
4. The prospective buyer does not need to be affiliated with any particular denomination.

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. Each burial plot is \$3,600.00 which includes a pre-poured foundation for headstone, 2 plots \$7,200.00, which also includes pre-poured foundation for headstone.

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY CHECK OR BANK MONEY ORDER

2. The cost of the Interment Engineer to open and close the grave is an additional cost:
 - a. \$2,000.00 for a single grave site
 - b. \$1,200.00 for a single cremation site

*All cremains must be buried in a permanent outer container

 - c. Additional cost will be incurred for Saturday burials as per Interment Engineer
 - d. Placement of a separate footstone is permissible but only at the time of burial. A footstone requires a separate foundation, the cost of which is the responsibility of the buyer at the time of installation.

NOTE: These prices are subject to change.

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 required 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.
6. St. Joseph's provides graveside services upon request.

MONUMENTS

Monuments may not be installed until the burial plot is paid in full.

The Specifications [Size, Style, Color] are prescribed by the Cemetery and Parish committee.

The monument dealer or purchaser must submit the specifications of the monument to the cemetery committee for approval. Any and all language, engravings or adornments that go beyond the standard (name, title, dates of birth and death) must be approved by the pastor of St. Joseph's church. Buyers shall obtain approval of such adornment from the pastor prior to purchase as St. Joseph's parish is not responsible for any cost incurred should an adornment be deemed unacceptable after the fact.

Single Grave Monument:

20 inches by 10 inches by 16 inches with a base of 2-0 x 1-0 x 0-6

Double Grave Monuments:

30 inches by x 10 inches by x 16 with a base of 3-0 x 1-0 x 0-6

Width is determined by the interment engineer and may not exceed 30 inches for a double grave as to accommodate adjacent burial site.

NOTE: Monuments cannot exceed 48" in total height.

Military:

Grey Granite flat flush marker or Bronze Plaque provided by the VA may be installed with verification of military service with DD214 discharge document. Veteran markers are managed by the Funeral director. Monument footings will be installed by the interment 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 border of any material are not permitted.
8. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove and dispose of all floral pieces after the interment 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, 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 lot, 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 of Parish committee.

Should vandalism to the monuments occur, the cost of restoration is the responsibility of the burial plot owner, not St. Joseph's PNCC.

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.

I have received a copy of St Joseph's Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Signature and date

Printed Name

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 July 2023. St Joseph's Cemetery Committee and or St. Joseph's Church Board reserves the right to refuse the sale of a cemetery plot or plots to any purchaser without a given reason or cause. Visitors must at all times respect the sanctity of the cemetery grounds. St. Joseph's maintains a zero tolerance policy on large gatherings, disruptive behavior, excessive noise or any other actions that - in the opinion of the St. Joseph's parish board - may have a negative impact or be deemed inappropriate.