The Diocese of Madison offers the following guidance regarding symbols on headstones.

Catholic cemeteries are consecrated ground, and all markers placed on consecrated ground must reflect and enhance the Catholic faith, and may not detract from it in any way.



Required: If any symbols are used, Christian symbolism must be predominant. A few examples:



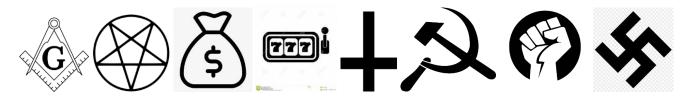
Permitted: Provided a Christian symbol is predominant, other symbols may be used that reflect deep and abiding human values, such as family, country, nature, and work. Examples:



Discouraged: anything pertaining to hobbies, pets, or trivial pursuits. Also, quotes from entertainers, songs, and non-christian religious leaders. For anything in this category, the client should have written permission of the pastor. Examples:



Forbidden in our Catholic cemeteries: anything anti-christian, offensive, racy, or tasteless. Examples:



These are examples and not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the pastor or director of cemeteries with any questions.