

Flower Policy

Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Flower Policy

The Catholic Cemeteries in the Diocese of Memphis have developed guidelines for the use of flowers and decorations on the graves in the cemeteries, in order to maintain the cemeteries in an attractive and dignified manner and in order to protect the safety of visitors to the cemeteries and employees of the cemeteries.

The new guidelines are designed to maintain the cemeteries in the most attractive manner possible while still allowing loving families to remember their departed loved ones. The new guidelines will also increase the safety of visitors to the cemetery.

There are three Catholic cemeteries in the Diocese of Memphis. These include Calvary Cemetery on Elvis Presley Boulevard, All Saints Cemetery on Holmes Road, both in Memphis, and Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Jackson.

Anyone with questions should contact the cemetery office at 948-1529.

Flower Policy for the Catholic Cemeteries

In order that the cemeteries may keep their beautiful appearance and in order to allow the cemetery maintenance personnel to properly care for the cemeteries and to provide a safe environment for visitors to the cemeteries, the following listed rules or regulations have been developed concerning the use of flowers in the cemeteries.

A) FUNERAL FLOWERS - At the end of the burial process the cemetery grounds staff will place the funeral flowers on or close about the grave. The flowers may be stood up or placed flat on the grave depending upon the weather conditions, the number of flowers and the amount of space in which to display them. The flowers will remain on the grave 2 to 4 days.

B) YEARLY CLEANUP - During the first week of March, ALL flowers, decorations, holders or any other non permanent memorial on the lot will be removed and discarded.

C) VASES - Only vases permanently attached to the stone memorial(s) and consistent with the *Guidelines for Monuments and Markers* may be used in the Catholic Cemeteries. In order to maintain the safety and beauty of the cemeteries, glass vases, glass jars or any other non-metal containers are not acceptable in the cemeteries.

D) ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS - Artificial flowers are acceptable in permanent vases any time during the year.

E) FRESH CUT FLOWERS OR DRIED FLOWERS - Fresh cut flowers or dried flowers are allowed in approved vases any time during the year. In order to maintain the cemeteries in an attractive manner, fresh cut flowers or dried flowers placed on the lot but not in approved vases will be removed at the discretion of the grounds department employees.

F) PLANTINGS - Plantings may be done by the lot owner only with the specific written permission of the Diocese.

G) HOLIDAY EXCEPTIONS -

- 1) Thanksgiving/Christmas - Beginning the third (3rd) weekend in November, lot owners may decorate their lot using artificial, live, cut or fresh flowers or plants. In order to prepare for Lent and the upcoming mowing season, all Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations not in permanent vases will be removed and discarded beginning the third week of January.
- 2) Easter - Easter decorations, flowers of all kinds, etc. will be allowed beginning Holy Thursday. In order to maintain the cemeteries all decorations and flowers not in approved, permanent vases will be removed beginning Easter Tuesday.
- 3) Mother's Day - Flowers of any kind will be permitted on the lot beginning the Friday immediately preceding Mother's Day. In order to efficiently continue the mowing and trimming all flowers or decorations not in permanent vases will be removed beginning the Monday immediately following Mother's Day.
- 4) Memorial Day - Flowers of any kind will be allowed on lots beginning the Friday immediately preceding Memorial Day. In order to maintain the beauty of the cemeteries, all flowers and decorations not in permanent vases will be removed beginning the Tuesday immediately following Memorial Day.
- 5) Father's Day - Flowers of any kind will be allowed on lots beginning the Friday immediately preceding Fathers Day. In order to allow for continued mowing and trimming, all flowers or decorations not in permanent vases will be removed beginning the Monday immediately following Father's Day.
- 6) All Saints/All Souls Day - Flowers of any kind will be allowed beginning Oct. 31. In order to allow for the removal of fallen leaves, all flowers or decorations not in permanent vases will be removed beginning the first workday following All Souls Day.