

CEMETERY CLEANUP

This Cemetery performs **a general cleanup twice a year**. In the Spring, to get the Cemetery ready for our summer visitors and in the Fall to prepare the Cemetery for the winter months. Kindly remove any decorations you wish to keep prior to the cleanup dates and refrain from placing decorations during these dates:

SPRING: March 1st- March 20th

FALL: October 1st– October 20th

These dates are **subject to weather and ground conditions**.

Funeral flowers will be removed three (3) days following the service.

Please do not outline the graves or memorials by stripping a border of sod around them. Also outlining graves or memorials with metal frames, plastic borders or crushed stones is not permitted. This is destructive to mowers and can cause serious injury when pieces of metal, plastic, and/or stone are picked up by a lawn mower and projected at high speed by the mower's blades.

Any and all items in direct violation to these rules and regulations will be removed without notification and will not be saved,.

The burial of your deceased loved ones with dignity, and the ongoing care of their graves are the main mission of the Diocese of Lansing Catholic Cemeteries and St. Robert Bellarmine Church.

However, there are incidents when grave decorations become damaged or missing during our mission.

We are sorry that happens and want you to know that these incidents are not deliberate nor show a lack of compassion for your deceased family members or friends.

We regret that we cannot guarantee to safeguard your grave decorations from damage or disappearance, and we also regret that we cannot accept the responsibility for their damage or loss.

CEMETERY VISITING HOURS

St. Robert Bellarmine Cemetery

W. Carpenter Rd
Flushing, Michigan 48433
Tel: 810/659-2501

CEMETERY

Dawn to Dusk 365 days a year

OFFICE

Monday-Friday
9:00am– 5:00 pm
Closed Saturdays

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS A SUMMARY OF THE RULES. THE CEMETERY STAFF WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING CEMETERY POLICIES. THE COMPLETE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE CEMETERY OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF GRAVE DECORATION POLICIES



St. Robert Bellarmine Cemetery

Flushing, MI

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**The Diocese of Lansing
Cemeteries**

GENERAL RULES

A **signed consent form** is required prior to all burials.

Graves must be paid in full before a burial can take place.

Memorials will not be placed on lot/grave if an outstanding balance is owed to the cemetery.

Only cemetery personnel may install markers and monuments.

The cemetery **does not bury** on Sundays, Good Friday afternoon, or national holidays.

FLAGS

Flags may be placed on the grave of a veteran one(1) week before **Memorial Day until Flag Day**. After the above dates, flags will be removed and disposed of in the appropriate fashion.

SEASONAL ITEMS

Remembrance Lights are allowed from after the spring thaw until November 1st. Because of the damage to these lights in recent years, the Cemetery does not encourage their usage. **The Cemetery will not replace damaged or stolen lights.** These objects are placed in the cemetery at the owner's risk

Easter lilies are allowed Holy Week and the week following Easter.

Grave blankets and wreaths are allowed from November 1-February 28. After this date, they will be discarded as weather and ground conditions permit.

FLOWER REGULATIONS

PERMITTED

Fresh cut flowers are permitted in approved in-ground vases. See the cemetery office for approved vase specifications.

Potted plants are permitted if placed **ON the marker itself or on a side of the monument**. Only one potted plant permitted per lot in lieu of an approved flower bed. **Unightly, unapproved or potted plants which interfere with the orderly mowing of the cemetery will be removed.**

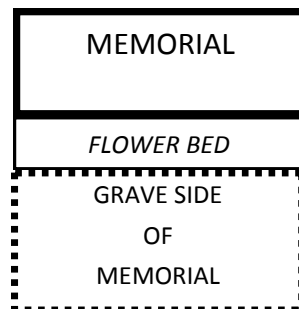
Flower beds are allowed on the grave side of the memorial (monument or marker). **Only natural flowers are to be planted in approved flower beds.** Flower beds are not to exceed 8 inches in width and the dimensions of the memorial in length.

Wood or cedar chips and similar biodegradable materials may be used to decorate the flower bed.

FLOWER BEDS

Approved flower beds are permitted. Flowers **must** be planted on the grave side of the memorial. Flower beds must not exceed the width of the memorial nor exceed eight (8) inches from the memorial itself.

The use of thorned plants is prohibited!



NOT PERMITTED

Trees and Shrubs and other such items without written permission of management.

Artificial flowers planted or left in the ground. Wires used to create these flowers can cause serious damage or injury if projected by the lawn mowers.

Perennial plantings are discouraged. The winter time activities in the cemeteries simply cannot protect permanent decorations from damage. Our families are not well served by any permanent decorations that must survive winter.

Stones or rocks of any kind or color for any reason. These items can cause serious injury to visitors and memorial when projected by a lawn mower. The use of patio stones is also prohibited.

Decorative borders of any kind around the memorial. The use of fences or part of fences of any kind.

Glass, china or porcelain of any kind which when broken present a serious safety hazard.

Temporary pin-type vases. The use of cans including those wrapped in aluminum foil to place flowers on a lot.

Lawn decorations and statues or any other yard decorations. Experience has shown that these items tend to attract vandals in the cemetery.

Knick-knacks, toys, clothing, jewelry or any other object of value should never be placed on the lot, near the memorial or in the cemetery.

"Protect the graves of your loved ones. Preserve from disarray God's vineyard from which the angels will gather the great harvest into God's storehouse. Do not destroy the tombstones which were erected by loving hands. Do not disturb the peace and tranquility of those who have reposed from earthly cares."

Blessed John Moschus

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING INQUIRE AT THE CEMETERY OFFICE FOR ANY TYPE OF SIZE RESTRICTIONS ON MEMORIALS FOR YOUR LOT.

Foundations are required for all monuments and certain markers.

In-ground vases must be flush to the ground to allow lawn mowers to pass over them.

Polish markers are discouraged. Lawn mowers and other cemetery equipment must travel over markers to maintain and to perform interments.

The Cemetery cannot be responsible for scratches on any markers placed in the cemetery. Such markers are placed at the purchaser's risk.

Symbols of faith, hope and the Resurrection should have a prominent place on memorial placed in a Catholic Cemetery. **Memorials should not have any word or words, symbols or drawing which management in it's opinion considers inappropriate for a Catholic cemetery.**