



Mount St. Mary's Cemetery Policies

VIII

Decorations and Memorials

1. General Policy: From the earliest times in the Church's tradition, believers have decorated the places of interment of their loved ones with words and symbols reflecting their strong faith in the continuing presence of the Lord in life and death and their firm hope in the resurrection and the promise of everlasting life. The Cemetery property maintained by Mount St. Mary's Cemetery is a Sacred Place and as such must be maintained in a manner which is respectful of all those who have entrusted their loved ones to us. In order to maintain the condition of the Cemetery and to be considerate of one another, it is necessary to limit the nature and type of decorations permitted throughout this Sacred Place. It is the policy of Mount St. Mary's Cemetery that any item or object other than a flush bouquet holder, marker or monument is considered a decoration or grave accessory (hereinafter collectively "Decoration"). It is imperative that all decorations be placed in compliance with these Rules and Regulations and any amendments thereto promulgated by Mount St. Mary's Cemetery from time to time.
2. Veteran markers are permitted.
3. Flowers at the time of Interment: Immediately following an interment, the flowers from the funeral may be placed on or near the place of interment. Placement and removal of flowers shall be as follows:
 - a. In the case of an interment in a grave, the funeral flowers may be placed directly on the grave, the flowers will be removed and discarded within five (5) days.
 - b. In the case of a columbarium, due to the small area, not more than three (3) bouquets may be placed near the place of interment, and they will be removed and discarded within (5) days.
4. Decorations:
 - a. Live floral arrangements in a disposable container are permitted year-round.
 - b. Artificial Flowers or Decorations: Artificial flowers and decorations are not permitted.

- c.** Grave blankets, mounds, cones, and other similar grave accessories are not permitted, because they become shelter for animals.
- d.** Statues, candles, lights of any kind, glass vases, banners, chimes, wind catchers, balloons, stuffed animals, shepherds' staffs, or any other decorations are NOT permitted.
- e.** Decorations which are in glass or metal cans are subject to immediate removal, because of the danger they present to persons and property. Only approved bouquet holders may be used for decorations. Federal Law requires us to make working conditions as safe as possible for Mount St. Mary's Cemetery employees.
- f.** Glass: All glass decorations and any lights, such as Christmas lights, are never permitted and will be removed and discarded.
- g.** Candles or Flame Decorations: Votive candles of any kind and any decorations which include a flame, either live or battery operated, are prohibited on places of interment and will be removed.
- h.** Planting of any kind in any area of the cemetery is prohibited and will be removed.
- i.** Decorations including, but not limited to, marble chips, stones, wood chips, bricks, lucky stones, etc., are not permitted around the place of interment.
- j.** Mount St. Mary's Cemetery shall not be responsible for any decorations or personal effects left on any part of the cemetery property, including but limited to any place of interment.
- k.** Trees and shrubs are for the beautification of the entire cemetery and for the benefit of all the families, therefore, decorations placed on any tree, shrubs or cemetery structures will be removed. Mount St. Mary's Cemetery reserves the right to decorate trees and shrubs as seen fit.
- l.** Small American flags are permitted four days before and after Memorial Day, July 4 and Veterans Day.
- m.** Niche Decorations: As Niche fronts are part of the building structure, only Mount St. Mary's Cemetery approved and installed niche front decorations are permitted. The use of non-approved adhesives or tape can cause damage to granite niche fronts. Moreover, non-approved decorations, which may cause discoloration and other damage, can diminish the beauty of the entire building, affecting the rights of others. Items attached to the niche fronts will be removed and the cost of repair may be assessed to the Owner of the place of interment or their surviving heirs.
- n.** Cemetery personnel will dispose of decorations on plots that interfere with the care and maintenance of the grounds.

- o.** All items which are deemed by Mount St. Mary's Cemetery to be in violation of the rules and regulations will be removed and discarded. Mount St. Mary's Cemetery is not responsible for any item which is discarded. Further, neither Mount St. Mary's Cemetery nor the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore is responsible for any item placed on a place of interment and/or removed from a place of interment.
- p.** Grave accessories not covered by these rules and regulations are subject to removal.

Questions

Anyone having questions regarding the foregoing Rules and Regulations are encouraged to contact Mount St. Mary's Cemetery.

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