

**Most Holy Trinity Church**  
**524 Mifflin Street**  
**Huntingdon, PA 16652**  
**(814) 643-0160**

## **Holy Cross Cemetery**

### **Summary of Policies**

From the time that the Sacred Body of Our Crucified Savior was laid in the tomb to await the hour of His glorious Resurrection, the Church has been most solicitous to surround the burial of those who will rise with Christ with an atmosphere of Christian faith and reverence. As a further seal and symbol of that faith, she sets apart and blesses the place in which the bodies of her faithful departed await the day of Resurrection.

In the very earliest days, Mother Church found it necessary to make rules and regulations which would protect the sacred places and the relics laid therein. She could not and would not allow anything within the holy precincts which would desecrate them, lessen their beauty, or bring dishonor on the dead.

To insure the sacred character of parish cemeteries in the Diocese of Altoona – Johnstown, each Cemetery is governed by the Pastor relying on the Cemetery's Rules and Regulations, the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church, and applicable Directives issued by the Bishop of the Diocese. Copies of both the Rules and Regulations and the Diocesan Directives are available for review in the Parish office.

This is a Catholic Cemetery operated and maintained for the interment of those entitled to Christian burial according to the guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church. When one purchases a Burial Privilege Certificate, s/he and heirs bind themselves to the governing principles mentioned above currently in effect, or as amended in the future. Violation of these principles may result in the forfeiture of one's privilege to use the burial plot. When a plot holder is dissatisfied with Management (the Pastor and/or local Cemetery Committee) and/or application of these Directives, Rules and Regulations, appeal may be made to the Diocesan Bishop. S/he or his/her designated representative will make the final decision. They may be contacted at the Diocese of Altoona – Johnstown Cemetery Commission office, 126 Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. The phone number is 814/695-5579.

### **Buyer's Rights and Responsibilities**

1. In the purchase of a burial privilege certificate, one does not acquire title to the property itself. The certificate is an easement for the purpose of the burial of human remains.
2. Plots or graves are for family use; holders of Burial Privilege Certificates may not sell them for profit. All interments must be in accord with Church Law. No symbols or ceremonies, religious or otherwise, may be used or performed that would violate Christian principles.

3. This is a Catholic Cemetery. To keep its distinct religious nature, only Christian symbols are permitted on the memorials. Scenes depicting a descendant's occupation, hobbies, interests, fraternal associations, and so on are not appropriate. The depiction of animals as found in Sacred Scripture is appropriate if the Scripture verse is used with it to show that it is of a religious nature. Therefore, you must submit a printed diagram showing the design and specifications for each memorial and inscription at the parish office for advance approval. A Memorial Foundation Order and Permit is available in the parish office.
4. All memorials are to be finished in accordance with trade standards and good craftsmanship. They must be in proportion to the size of the lot. Details are available on the Memorial Foundation Order and Permit.
5. In the event that a memorial does not conform to the specifications as approved, Management will request that the memorial be removed by the dealer, otherwise the Management reserves the right to remove it at the expense of the dealer.
6. Monument dealers and outside contractors are considered independent contractors and are to be bonded for work in the Cemetery. Management is not responsible for defects in memorials or foundations caused by the monument dealer.
7. Perpetual Care includes filling in sunken graves, seeding, cutting of grass, and trimming around memorials. Care does not include placement, maintenance or repair of any monuments or the planting of flowers or ornamental plants on specific plots.
8. To avoid creating obstacles to the routine care and maintenance of the Cemetery, plot holders may not plant flowers, shrubs or trees, nor may they erect fences, border arrangements, place furniture, or any decorations on their plot without prior written approval of Management.
9. Management is not liable for damages arising from vandalism, natural disasters, public unrest, or any cause beyond the reasonable control of Management.
10. Management may refuse to open a grave or permit the placement of a memorial when:
  - a. just debts are not paid (e.g. unpaid balance on a plot or perpetual care)
  - b. when there is a question of ownership of the plot.
11. Management may, at its discretion, repurchase plots or graves at original cost minus any outstanding expenses. Any transfer of ownership rights must be made by Management.
12. Plot holders are to keep Management informed of their current address. The address on file will be considered the legal address for notices pertaining to the Cemetery.
13. In the event of the death of the plot holder, all privileges in the plot shall pass to the spouse; then to those named or designated in instructions left for the Cemetery or in the will; then to those chosen by a joint decision of the legal heirs; finally to those designated according to the Pennsylvania law of intestacy. A new Burial Privilege Certificate is to be issued in all instances by Management.
14. All inquiries and business concerning the Cemetery are to be made in writing or by appointment only.

## **Visitor's Responsibilities**

1. This Cemetery is private property. The Cemetery is always closed from dusk to dawn.
2. All persons entering the Cemetery for whatever reason must display proper respect for the deceased and for the sacred ground in which they are interred. Management reserves the right to take such measures as the circumstances warrant in order to ensure strict observance of this basic principle.
3. There is to be no loitering or unlawful assembly, no boisterous language or inappropriate actions, no alcohol or controlled substances in the Cemetery.
4. No firearms may be brought on to the property or discharged without permission of Management. Hunting on Cemetery property, littering and vandalism are punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment. Violators will be prosecuted.
5. All off-highway vehicles, including bikes, skateboards, roller blades, snowmobiles, etc. are prohibited in the Cemetery. No illegal parking of cars is permitted. The speed limit in the Cemetery is 15 miles per hour.
6. Identification may be required of visitors by Cemetery personnel; in extreme cases, a Burial Privilege Certificate may be required of the visitor.
7. Unless otherwise specified in the Cemetery's Rules and Regulations, a parent or other adult must accompany children under the age of 14. Only trained seeing-eye dogs are permitted on Cemetery grounds.
8. Management reserves the right to make improvements to the Cemetery at all times.
9. In all matters not herein specifically covered, Management shall have the right to determine and decide any and all questions that shall arise.