

## ST THOMAS AQUINAS CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery is dedicated to preservation of the cemetery grounds as an attractive, reverent setting for the sacred burial of the deceased. Accordingly, rules and regulations are in place to ensure uniformity and continuing aesthetic appeal.

Visitors are welcome at the cemetery from dawn to dusk.

The speed limit within the cemetery is 15 mph; the roadways are narrow and also used by pedestrians. Alcohol or drug consumption is NOT permitted on cemetery grounds.

Funeral arrangements/wreaths will be allowed for a period of one week following the interment.

The main cleaning periods are March 15-April 15 and October 15-November 15. The Cemetery is totally cleaned twice a year. This includes removing and discarding all artificial decorations from the previous decorating period. Perennial or annual plantings will be trimmed flush to the ground during the fall cleaning period. Any decorations you want to save must be removed before the beginning of each cleaning period. A decoration cannot be retrieved once it has been removed. No decorations are allowed until cleaning is complete.

Secondary cleaning of the cemetery happens twice a month during the spring, summer and fall months. Violations as well as deteriorated, unsightly flowers or decorations will be removed.

### **During the spring, summer and fall decorating period, April 16 – October 14:**

-- Special decoration consideration may be given around holidays including Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, All Souls Day, Veteran's Day and Christmas.

-- Annual and perennial floral plantings are permitted only at raised markers. They may extend a maximum of 12 inches from the marker on the front. During the fall cleaning period, all plantings will be trimmed flush to the ground.

-- Also permitted at raised markers only is ONE aboveground arrangement per lot. ONE statue per lot is also permitted; the statue must be situated fully on the monument foundation. Shepherd hooks are limited to 48 inches in height and ONE per lot, abutting the foundation.

-- At flush markers, a vase/pot on the marker is the only decoration option. No other decoration except American flags may be placed in or on the ground.

-- American flags may be placed at any grave, as close as possible to the marker. American flags will be placed on the graves of veterans the week before Memorial Day and will be removed the week following Labor Day.

### **During the winter decorating period, November 16 – March 14:**

-- Wreaths, crosses or other decorations are allowed at any grave on an approved stand at least 24-inches high; a tripod is best for stability. Vases must be turned down all winter.

**Decorations NEVER PERMITTED** are listed below. The cemetery reserves the right to remove and dispose of these articles without notice to the easement holder.

- Solar lights, glass containers, crockery, votive/vigil lights, candles, metal designs, ornaments, shells, signs, cards, pictures, tripod etchings, toys, or other breakable or flammable objects. Wire or nails or any other material that may create a hazard to workers or visitors when broken or neglected.
- The planting of shrubs, vines or trees on any lot.
- Any enclosure/fencing or trellis of any nature around any grave, lot or plot.
- Christmas trees or blankets of any size. Halloween decorations and pumpkins/gourds.
- Decorative seasonal flags, windsocks, balloons, pinwheels or similar decoration.
- Any item which includes improper or offensive language or statements contrary to Catholic doctrine.

The cemetery is NOT responsible for theft, damage or vandalism of any items placed on graves, lots or markers. The cemetery is NOT responsible for loss or damage to flowers, etc due to theft or normal process of work at the cemetery. No reimbursements will be made.

Raised or flush markers are the personal property of the individuals who purchase them. The cemetery is NOT responsible for markers, and damage to them as the result of vandalism or acts of God is the responsibility of the individual owner.

The cemetery has the right to fill and level graves and to plant grass on them as maintenance of the property. The cemetery also reserves the right to remove or replace existing trees, shrubs, vines, flowers and other plantings that become unsightly, diseased or damaged by accident or weather.

The cemetery reserves the right to alter/change rules and regulations as deemed necessary without written notice to individual easement holders. Please see cemetery information sign to keep abreast of current rules and regulations.

We ask the cooperation of every family to maintain the perpetuity and beauty of the cemetery.

Please direct inquiries/comments to the parish office, (262) 534-2255 between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Your concerns will be directed to the Cemetery Committee, and a member will respond in a timely fashion.