

Cemetery Burial Policies

Saint Benedict Church

306 Kegler Street

Doniphan, Missouri 63935

Phone 573.996.3301

Website: stbenedictdoniphan.com

The establishment of cemeteries under the care of a Catholic parish is an ancient tradition of the Church. In our Catholic tradition, cemeteries are considered to be sacred ground.

The five Catholic cemeteries currently under the care of St. Benedict Catholic Church were established specifically as a final resting place for the Catholic faithful who were members of the Catholic parishes to which the respective cemeteries were attached. This was the intention of the establishment of these cemeteries.

Thus, these cemeteries are considered “private” cemeteries rather than “public” cemeteries, in that they are not open to the general public.

It is the responsibility and goal of the Parish Cemetery Committee to provide for the continuing care and upkeep of these five cemeteries, as well as keeping in mind the best interest of the members of the present parish families of St. Benedict in Doniphan.

Our goal is to look to the future in order to secure and maintain proper burial space for the Catholic faithful of the area, and those who have familial or historical ties to the Catholic parishes.

The following policies have been established by the Parish Cemetery Committee to help plan for the future and provide for the necessary care and upkeep of the five cemeteries, as well as provide a sacred space for burial of the Catholic faithful.

Please note that the following policies have been established to maintain and secure burial space in our cemeteries for the Catholic faithful. Burial in them is not open to the general public.

Polices for Burial in the Five Roman Catholic Cemeteries

(Cemeteries located in Doniphan, Ponder, Pulaski, Oxly, and Beaver Dam communities)

I. Grave Marker/Tombstone

Some type of permanent grave marker/tombstone is required for anyone being buried in any of the five Catholic cemeteries.

An additional refundable fee of \$200.00 is required when purchasing a plot. The family of the deceased has a maximum period of one year after burial to purchase and install a permanent grave marker for the deceased. This period begins at the day of burial. The fee would be used to purchase a marker if the family fails to do so. If the family does purchase and have the marker installed within the one year period, the fee of \$200.00 will be refunded to them.

II. Burial Policies

Based on the fact that the five cemeteries are NOT public cemeteries, and were established for the burial of the Catholic faithful, those who are not of the Roman Catholic Faith are not permitted to be buried in the Catholic cemeteries UNLESS a person is the spouse of one who is of the Catholic faith. Only one exception applies to this particular policy: Someone who is not of the Catholic faith but is an immediate family member of a Catholic faithful may be buried in one of the Catholic cemeteries with their family.

In short, a non-Catholic who is married to a Catholic may be buried in the Catholic cemetery in which his/her spouse is buried. Also, a non-Catholic who is an immediate relative of a registered member of the parish, can be buried in one of the Catholic cemeteries in which their immediate family is buried.

III. Burial Fees

(for the grave itself and for perpetual care of the grave)

For Catholic Parishioners and their Non-Catholic Spouses: The burial fee for a person who, at the time of death, is a registered member of St. Benedict parish is \$100.00. This is to help cover the cost of the grave and help provide for future care of the grave itself. This fee also applies to a non-Catholic spouse who chooses to be buried next to his/her Catholic spouse.

III. Burial Fees (continued)

For Catholic Non-Parishioners: The burial fee for a person who is of the Catholic faith and is not a member of St. Benedict parish at the time of death is \$200.00.

For non-Catholic immediate family members: The fee for someone who is not of the Catholic faith but is the immediate family member of a Catholic is \$250.00.

The higher fees for non-parishioners and non-Catholics are due to the expected lack of future support by the family (financial or otherwise) to the parish or the cemeteries.

IV. Addendum

A receipt must be given for all financial transactions relating to the cemeteries, as well as reserving a particular grave. If a person/family purchases a grave plot before death, that person must receive a receipt of the transaction signed by the Parish Secretary. This assures a record can be kept of all transactions by both parties.

Flowers: Live flowers are preferred, but artificial flowers are permitted. No container of breakable material is allowed. No live plants or bushes are to be planted. Live plants and bushes will be moved or removed as needed by the cemeteries' caretakers.

Borders: No type of border (made of brick, concrete, wood, flowers, etc.) is permitted for the purpose of marking a particular grave plot. This assists in the easy care and maintenance of the cemetery as a whole.

Burial of Ashes: A plot may be purchased for the burial of cremated remains; however, please contact the parish office for current guidelines on burial of cremated remains. A permanent marker is required to mark the burial of a person's ashes and the \$200.00 refundable fee is still necessary.

May the souls of the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Date: _____

_____ Pastor