

Cluster Cemetery Rules & Regulations

St. Catherine-Ravenna, St. Joseph-Wright, St. Francis Xavier-Conklin

Established 11/2021

The Cluster cemeteries of St. Catherine, St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier are private Catholic cemeteries owned by the diocese of Grand Rapids and maintained by the Cluster.

Anyone may visit our cemeteries during the daylight hours. The cemeteries close at dusk.

We ask that all visitors respect the sacred grounds, grave adornment and headstones and conduct themselves with appropriate reverence. To maintain the sanctity of the grounds, no pets except those used by the blind are permitted unless confined in vehicles.

Lot Fees

Parishioner:	\$200.00 lot	\$200.00 perpetual care=\$400.00
Non-Parishioner:	\$400.00 lot	\$400.00 perpetual care=\$800.00

Interment Fees

Sexton Fees:	\$ 30.00	*identify and mark gravesite
Adult Interment	\$550.00	
Cremation or Infant	\$300.00	

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility: The purchaser must be a registered parishioner of one of the cluster parishes to be eligible for the parishioner rate.

A registered parishioner of the cluster can be buried at any of the cluster cemetery at the parishioner rate.

Lot Purchase

Prior to the purchase of a gravesite (s), the Sexton and purchaser will inspect the site to determine appropriate burial conditions.

Number of Lots

Purchaser is allowed to purchase as many lots as there are members of immediate family.

Lot Transfer

The lot may not be transferred to anyone. Any unused lot may be sold back to the parish at 50% of the initial purchase price.

The remaining graves not used by the purchaser must be designated per a will or other written instructions who is to have them. All family members need to sign off on a grave if they wish for someone else to have them.

Interment Rights

The purchaser does not buy the lot or own the lot or own the piece of property; the legal title remains with the cemetery. The purchaser of the lot acquires easement right of interment in accordance the cemetery policies.

Cemetery Care

The cemeteries operated by the Cluster parishes are non-profit “income care” cemeteries. All monies from lot sales are used to provide general care. “Income Care” is understood as that care and maintenance necessitated by natural growth and ordinary wear. This includes cutting of lawns and maintenance of driveways and fences.

The term “Income Care” shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial placed or erected upon any lot; nor the planting, cutting, watering or care of any private lot adornment; nor any unusual work requests; nor the reconstruction of any monument damage by any cause, direct or indirect, beyond the Cluster’s reasonable control.

Other Fees

The opening and closing of a grave, memorial installations, etc., are a separate service and are not included in the cost of a grave lot. Contact Sexton for assistance. All fees must be paid before interment or other services take place.

Payment

Cemetery lots must be paid for in full at the Parish office at the time of selection.

Interment Limit

Two cremated remains are allowed per lot of one vault burial and one cremated remains are permitted per lot.

Gravesite Adornment

- Shepard hooks are not allowed on the gravesite. These are dangerous to person mowing the lawn. They will be removed and disposed of if found.
- Solar lights are only allowed in the urn, not directly in the ground.
- There are no fences, landscape stones, rocks, gravel or bark allowed around the headstone.
- No planting of trees or shrubs directly in the ground is permitted. They will be removed by maintenance.
- Burial/casket flowers will be allowed to remain on the gravesite 4 days after burial. After that, they will be removed.
- Summer flowers can be placed on the gravesite May 15th for Memorial Day celebration. They will be removed before the fall decorating season.
- Fall flowers need to be removed by Oct 15th. They will be removed after that date and disposed of.

- Winter flowers such as wreaths, and potted flowers in urns are allowed from Nov 1st through March 1st. After that date, they will be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

Headstones and Memorials

Headstones with required footing shall not exceed the width of the grave site. Size of footing must be 2 inches beyond monument.

One memorial is allowed per grave or lot. However, one memorial may be in the center of two lots, e.g. for husband and wife.

Placement of footing and headstones must have the approval of the sexton. All footings must be done by the Sexton in charge.

Ground Interment

Ground interments must be arranged with the Sexton. Interments must be in concrete grave liner or burial vault. Cremated remains must be in decorative urns or a rigid plastic cremated remains container. All burials must be done by the Sexton in charge.

Scattering of cremated remains in the cemetery is not permitted. Burial permits or Crematory certificate must be presented to Sexton in charge before burial will be allowed.

Outside Workers

Sexton must authorize any workers, other than employees of the cemetery before they may do work in the cemetery. Lot holders may have certain work done in accordance with these rules and regulations at their own expense upon approval by the Seton. All outside workers will comply with the requirements of the Cluster Parish.

Purchaser Signature	Date
Secretary Signature	Date

Contact information:

St. Catherine & St. Francis	Secretary 231-853-6222/ clustersecretary@ourcluster.org
St. Joseph	Secretary 616-899-2286/ clustersecretary@ourcluster.org
Business Manager	Taylor McGough businessmanager@ourcluster.org
Sexton	Joe Looks 616-481-6536