

SAN JOSÉ CATHOLIC CEMETERIES FLOWER & DECOR POLICY

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services (CFCS) has been entrusted with the sacred duty of the management and perpetual care for the cemeteries of the Diocese of San José. CFCS is responsible for the safety of all families and visitors, our workforce, and the good stewardship of resources that are dedicated to these sacred grounds.

CEMETERY WIDE SEMI-ANNUAL CLEANUP

- **2nd week of January/1st week of July:** The cemetery will conduct a semi-annual clean-up twice a year, once in January and once in July. During these clean-up events, items that are unsightly or against policy will be removed.

GRAVES

- **Fresh Flowers:** Allowed all year in allotted vases provided by cemetery. Will be removed when they become unsightly (e.g., wilted or decayed).
- **Artificial Flowers:** Allowed all year in allotted vases provided by cemetery. Will be removed when they become unsightly (e.g., faded or damaged).
- **Decoration and Ornamentation:** Ornamentation is not permitted: Includes but is not limited to all memorabilia, decorations, picture frames, statues, candles, balloons, cards, edging, fencing, glass, wind chimes, food or alcohol.

CRYPTS AND NICHES

Indoors

- **Fresh Flowers:** Are not permitted (Exception: Fresh flowers are permitted during the committal ceremony and will remain for three days).
- **Artificial Flowers:** Allowed all year in allotted vases provided by cemetery. Will be removed when they become unsightly (e.g., faded or damaged).

Outdoors

- **Fresh Flowers:** Allowed all year in allotted vases provided by cemetery. Will be removed when they become unsightly (e.g., wilted or decayed).
- **Artificial Flowers:** Allowed all year in allotted vases provided by cemetery. Will be removed when they become unsightly (e.g., faded or damaged).
- **Decoration and Ornamentation:** Ornamentation is not permitted: Includes but is not limited to all memorabilia, decorations, taped pictures, statues, candles, balloons, cards, food or alcohol. Decorations are not to be placed on the ground.

COMMITTAL AREA AND GRAVESIDE SERVICE

- **Interment:** Upon completion, the casket piece and three arrangements will be placed at the gravesite and remain for three days or until they become unsightly, whichever comes first.
- **Entombment:** Upon completion, the casket piece will be placed on the floor in front of any outdoor crypt / indoor crypt and remain for three days or until it becomes unsightly, whichever comes first.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- Seasonal decorations are permitted during the month in which the holiday takes place and will be removed one week after each holiday.
- Only TWO decorations are allowed on the marker space (headstone).
- Vigil battery operated candles placed in safe, approved vessel are only permitted during the month of November.
- Glass, candles, balloons, food or alcohol is not permitted.

GENERAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- Cemetery personnel are responsible for the overall appearance of the grounds. They will remove any items that can be hazardous, detract, from the neatness and beauty of the cemetery, and that does not follow the decor policy.
- The cemetery is not liable or responsible for any flowers or decorations that are lost, damaged, or removed.

Catholic cemeteries are consecrated grounds, dedicated to the sacred purpose of providing a final resting place for the faithful departed. In accordance with Catholic teachings, these cemeteries are sacred holy sites, reflecting our belief in the Resurrection of the body and the dignity of every human life.

This policy serves as a reminder of the importance of Catholic cemeteries as sacred spaces and underscores the responsibility of all who enter to uphold their sanctity.