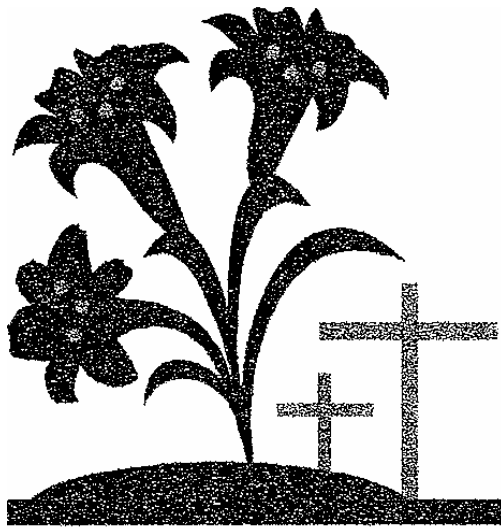


# ***HOLY CROSS CEMETERY***



## ***Rules and Regulations***

***St. Philip's Catholic Church  
702 Beltrami Avenue  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
Diocese of Crookston***

## WHY A CATHOLIC CEMETERY?

Church states in Canon 1205 that there are in effect only two places it considers SACRED-namely, the place assigned to divine worship and the burial place of the faithful provided this place has been duly blessed.

Recognizing that we are in fact pilgrim people in the world, ever moving on through this world to a future home, the Church accompanies the faithful all the way, even to bringing the lifeless body to rest in a place which has been set aside, marked off as a place to pray, to remember and to be reminded of our pilgrim journey.

Not too long ago in time it would have been unheard for a good Catholic to be buried anywhere but in a Catholic cemetery. There, after a burial, friends would go about revisiting the graves of deceased loved ones. All of us have before us those principles that give the Catholic Cemetery not only the reason that it exists, but how it should exist. It is important, however, that we have those principles not only before us, but in us, in our hearts and minds. It is never merely OUR cemetery-it is a Catholic cemetery, blessed and designated sacred ground, steeped in an age old sacred tradition.

Fostering the sacred character of a Catholic cemetery is a mandate to strive for excellence, demanding that we use all those human talents with which we are endowed, all human resources available to us, to make our cemetery visibly, financially, managerially worthy of its status. We must simply go on with our responsibility for providing a good Catholic cemetery, a model of organization, professional, efficient, compassionate. It is no frivolous piety by any means for all of us to be mindful of the Psalmist as he sings in Psalm 104, "may the Lord rejoice in His works." Holy Cross Cemetery is one of those works of the Lord given to us through the church. The sacred character of

Holy Cross Cemetery is our sacred trust.

### INTERMENTS

All interments and removals are subject to Church Canon law. The Rules and Regulations of the Diocese of Crookston, Statutes of the State of Minnesota and Rules and Regulations adopted by St. Philip's Church Cemetery Committee.

These interments and removals shall be done under the supervision of the Holy Cross sexton. Necessary documents for interment or removal shall be furnished to the cemetery sexton by the funeral director. All fees shall be paid in advance.

In each interment, a statement giving the name, age, sex, late residence, cause and date of death (as nearly as the facts can be ascertained), shall be furnished to St. Philip's secretary so that an accurate record is obtained.

All funerals upon entering the cemetery shall be exclusively done under the charge of the Cemetery Committee and/or the cemetery sexton (caretaker) or his designee.

All burials of a casket that exceed four feet in length shall require a concrete or steel vault of two piece construction.

No workmen other than employees of Holy Cross Cemetery will be permitted to work in the cemetery without first securing approval of the Cemetery Committee and/or the cemetery sexton (caretaker) or his designee.

### **OWNERSHIP OF A LOT**

Arrangements for the purchase of a lot and/or burial in Holy Cross Cemetery must be made at the office of St. Philip's Catholic Church.

Individual lots may be "reserved" for future burials. Payment of \$100 at the time of reservation is required and a payment schedule for the balance must be arranged. If the balance is not paid in full in twelve months, the longer will no longer be reserved and the credited amount will be returned to the purchaser. Only under extraordinary circumstances could the Cemetery Committee approve a new payment schedule.

An unwanted lot may be sold back to Holy Cross Cemetery at any time the owner desires. The cost of the lot at time of purchase will be the selling price. Transfer of a lot by a cemetery owner is prohibited unless approved by the Holy Cross Cemetery Committee.

Minnesota Statute No. 525.14 is our authority on the

descent of lot ownership.

Purchase of a lot(s) includes Perpetual Care and is defined to include such general care of the cemetery property as:

- fencing and road maintenance
- weed control
- fertilizing
- watering
- cutting the grass
- planting trees and flowers in special areas of the cemetery
- raising sunken graves.

### **CREMATION BURIALS**

All cremation burials shall be done under the supervision of the Holy Cross Caretaker and/or his designee.

Cremation burials may be buried in any lot of the cemetery above an existing remains. with written permission from the lot owner. No more than three cremation burials may be above an existing remains.

Full sized lots may be purchased for cremation burial. No more than four cremations will be allowed on a regular lot.

## CEMETERY MARKERS

All graves must have a grave marker. Grave markers furnished by a funeral director must be constructed so they can serve as a permanent marker.

All markers shall be of the "level-with-lawn" type and shall be set in cement with at least a four-inch cement border. This may be pre-cast or cast on location. No gravel or any type of descriptive rock shall be used around grave markers.

All grave markers shall be set by cemetery workmen, unless the Cemetery Committee and/or the cemetery sexton or his designee grants the monument company supplying the marker permission to set same.

If this permission is granted, setting the marker shall be done under the supervision of cemetery personnel

Grave markers shall be Catholic in design and character. Symbols inconsistent with the Catholic faith are expressly forbidden.

No markers of any kind may be placed on gravesites without prior arrangements and approval of the Cemetery Committee and/or cemetery sexton or his designee.

## **PLANTING TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.**

Planting trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers and cutting, watering and fertilizing of any grave area may be done only under the direction of or by the cemetery sexton or his designee. Grass that is trimmed around a gravesite must be removed.

## **GRAVE DECORATIONS**

Decorations may be placed on gravesites at any time during the year for special occasions, i.e. birthdays, anniversaries and other special days. However, they must be removed after a reasonable time unless they are placed so as not to interfere with mowing the cemetery grass. During the Memorial Day Holiday period it is permissible to place artificial flowers on gravesites.

However, they must not detract from the beauty of the cemetery, do not fade and can be picked up when the grass on the lot is mowed. These decorations can be placed **NOT MORE** than **THREE DAYS PRIOR** to the holiday and shall be removed not later than **TEN DAYS FOLLOWING** the holiday. Decorations remaining after this time will be removed and destroyed by cemetery employees.

At any time that decorations have become faded, wilted or are blown out of their containers, they will be removed and destroyed by cemetery employees.

Cemetery personnel are not responsible for decorations placed on gravesites.

Artificial wreathes may be placed on grave sites during the winter months, November 15th to April 1st, if erected on a secure stand or easel.

It is permissible to place cut flowers on a gravesite provided they are placed in an approved cemetery ground vase or on the grave marker in a container that is not easily blown over or broken. Fresh flowers placed on graves will be removed when wilted.

Potted or boxed plants on gravesites must be stable enough for outdoor use and must be placed on the grave marker or in an approved -cemetery type vase. They shall not be placed in the ground around the marker. When wilted they will be removed and destroyed by cemetery employees.

Shepherd hooks may be installed by drilling them into the concrete border of the marker so as not to interfere with mowing the grass.



## **RESURRECTION SCENE**

This section is reserved for Memorials and/or burials of deceased religious; priests, brothers and sisters. Markers for the Memorials and/or burials shall be of a design specified by the Cemetery Committee.

## **GENERAL COURTESY RULES**

- Be respectful of graves when walking in burial areas. Use the alleys as much as possible.
- Do not park your car on the grass.
- Removing over growth around grave markers on family lots is encouraged provided the cleaning remains area cleared from the cemetery when finished.

## **ST. PHILIP'S OFFICE HOURS**

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Telephone: 218-444-4262

Larry Mack, Sexton

## **FUNERAL HOMES**

Cease Funeral Home: 218-751-9700

Olson-Schwartz Funeral Home: 218-751-3159

## HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The ten-acre plot of land that now comprises HOLY CROSS CEMETERY originally was purchased by St. Philip's Church from the Fairview Realty Company for the sum of \$650.00 on August 20, 1913. Shortly thereafter, the new cemetery was consecrated and given its present name.

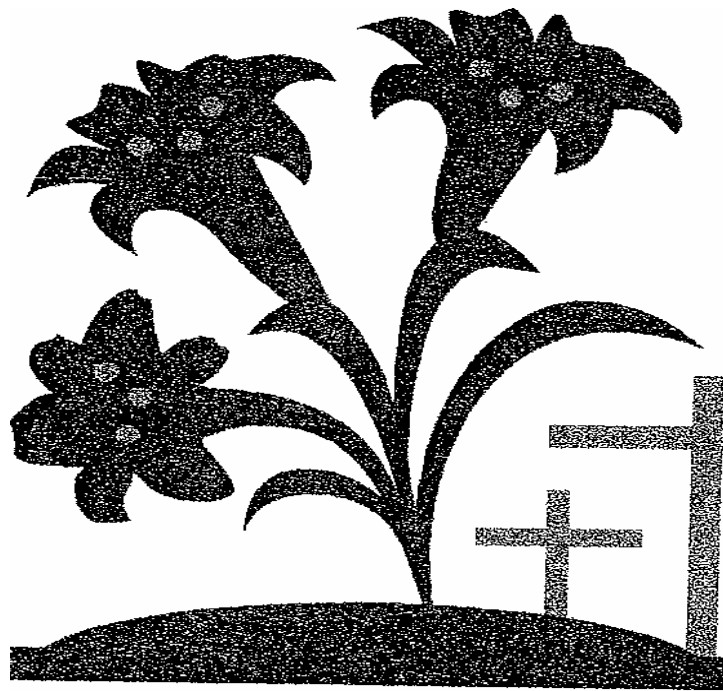
During the first twenty years of the cemetery's existence the land was cleared and efforts were made to upgrade its appearance. In 1935, a concerted effort was made to improve the cemetery and certain rules and regulations were promulgated. A power mower was purchased, a building containing an electric pump was erected and the beginning of a water system was laid. A light was erected at the cemetery gate. In 1942 a Perpetual Care Fund was established and those expenses were added to the price of the lots.

In the mid 1950's, during the pastorate of Father Joseph Mulvey, extensive negotiations with the descendants of persons buried in the cemetery and with only a couple exceptions, all upright monuments were removed and replaced with monuments set flat at grass level. Two resurrection scenes were constructed from removed tombstones and were set to the right and left and somewhat to the rear of a beautiful granite carnelian altar that had been erected in the cemetery as a memorial to a parishioner.

In recent years new sections have been opened, a new watering system installed and trees and flowers planted. Driveways through the cemetery were blacktopped, cemetery entrance landscaped and a chain-link fence erected along the cemetery's boundaries.

Holy Cross Cemetery has burial spaces for approximately four thousand interments. At present approximately 1400 persons are buried at Holy Cross. A

directory has been erected just inside the main entrance to aid visitors who wish to visit individual burial spaces. A Mass is celebrated on Memorial Day at Holy Cross Cemetery for the souls of the departed, weather permitting.



# WHAT IS A CEMETERY?

Lives are commemorated-deaths are recorded-families reunited-memories are made tangible-and love is disguised. This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information, and our heritage is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride, and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life-not death-of a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people-a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth living and remembering -always.

Courtesy of Doug Peterson  
Former Mayor of Bemidji

Adopted by the Holy Cross Cemetery Board September 2004