

Things to Consider FAQ

We are Here for You

St. Joseph Cemetery will help you make decisions on interment options. Given our experience, history and attention to detail with every aspect of cemetery planning, we can assist you with decisions that make sense for you and your family as you consider each of the aspects associated with determining a final resting place.

Pre-Planning

Pre-planning allows you to ensure that your wishes are met without putting loved ones through the financial and emotional burden of having to make your final arrangements. Your loved ones will know exactly what you want, saving time, confusion and grief in the planning process. Plus, you can save money by purchasing at today's prices.

- Easier on loved ones
- Eliminates emotional decisions that often lead to overspending
- Provides peace of mind that YOUR wishes are carried out

Why Purchase a Cemetery Lot?

It is very important to create a comfortable, unique and permanent place for those left behind because your family will return to the grave site, or memorial long after the funeral. Having a special place to come and grieve helps everyone heal and move forward. A recent study found that

people do not have enough time to deal with their emotions after a loved one dies. Today's careers coupled with busy social activities often hinder the grieving process, not to mention the financial concerns the family faces. Pre-planning starts the difficult conversation when you're ready, waiting means making decisions with a heavy heart that can often leave you feeling rushed, careless, irrational and financially burdened.

Having a comfortable and permanent place such as a cemetery is an important part of the time following death. It's a place to share moments of today with memories of the past. How will you remember your loved one?

Who actually owns the property at the cemetery?

The purchase of property at a St. Joseph Catholic is not a real estate transaction, but rather a faithful agreement between a family and the Church. The family purchases the right of burial or entombment in the site. The Church retains ownership of the property and takes responsibility for respectfully maintaining the gravesite in perpetuity.

If my parents purchased six sites and they are buried in two of them, who is entitled to the remaining four sites?

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery follows the inheritance laws of each local jurisdiction. In general, all the children inherit the remaining burial sites of a family grave purchased by their parents, unless otherwise specified in a will. If one child has a need to use one of the sites, the other children must all sign an authorization, as well.

What can I do with cremated remains?

The Catholic Church requires that cremated remains be treated with the honor and respect due to every human body. Therefore, just as a full body is interred in a cemetery immediately following the Funeral Mass, the Church requires that this same reverent act take place for cremated remains as well.

Can the cremated remains of more than one family member be put together in one burial space?

Most grave sites at a Catholic cemetery can be used for two burials, whether the family chooses cremation or full body interment. This policy ensures that each unique person receives enough physical space for the memorialization of each unique life.

Why must the casket be placed in an outer burial container?

The Catholic cemeteries of the Diocese require that all interred caskets and urns be placed in either a concrete liner or a vault. This practice helps keep the cemetery grounds as safe and attractive as possible while at the same time protecting the interred remains. By requiring an outer burial container, the casket or urn is less likely to be disturbed during burials of adjacent graves, and the gravesite is less likely to sink. The use of outer containers gives family members the peace of mind that comes from knowing their loved ones' remains are undisturbed as they walk and pray on the grounds of a cemetery that is both safe and beautiful.