

## MAUSOLEUM DECORATIONS

Families may place decorations on flower stands where provided, or outside the entry doors. Plants and decorations may not be placed at any location inside the mausoleums or attached to crypt fronts. See *Decorations*

### IN GENERAL

Families are responsible for the maintenance of all plantings and decorations, including weeding, watering & trimming.

Families are responsible for removing decorations they have placed 30 days after the holiday and palm before the week of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Graves are cleaned off twice a year by the Cemetery staff to promote the overall appearance and aid in the maintenance of the cemetery. These clean ups occur on or about the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> and the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>. All plantings and decorations are removed or cut down at this time. New plantings or decorations may be brought to the cemetery two weeks after these dates. Families that wish to reuse decorations or cut flowers down in a certain manner are encouraged to do so prior to these weeks. Palms are removed on or about the week of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

When choosing plantings and decorations, families should keep in mind that no planting or decoration is considered permanent.

Please maintain your plantings as the cemetery staff is instructed to dispose of or cut back items or plantings which, in the Cemetery authority's sole judgment, are deemed to be in violation of this policy, have become unsightly or pose a safety issue. Should violations or corrections occur no notice is given and no compensation is permitted. The growing season changes from year to year and a bed that was weeded this weekend could be overgrown with weeds next weekend. If a planting bed contains more weeds than flowers, looks neglected or has exceeded the size limitations, it may be removed.

Removal of flowers or decorations become necessary for an interment. The cemetery will repair the grounds and return decorations and plantings. The cemetery however, shall bear no responsibility nor assume any liability for plantings and decorations if damaged or fail to thrive. The cemetery cannot be liable for damage caused by wildlife. Gethsemane Cemetery uses various fertilizers and weed control products through the year. The cemetery shall bear no responsibilities nor assume any liability for such damage. Gethsemane Cemetery shall bear no responsibility for damage, theft or vandalism with respect to plantings and decorations.



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There are three distinct groups that must be considered when performing the corporal work of mercy known as the Burial of the Dead.

First you have those that are interred or entombed in our cemetery. These individuals are entitled to a respectful "resting place" and the care and maintenance of such.

Second you have the survivors and visitors to Gethsemane Cemetery. This may include family and friends of the faithfully departed, as well as outside contractors and support staff that are offering services and support to either family members or cemetery staff.

And the third group consists of the Church along with its rituals and all cemetery staff.

The second and third groups of individuals are entitled to a safe, serene and reasonable environment in which to carry out the reasons for which they are here.

### *Our Mission is*

To bury the dead, comfort the sorrowful and pray for the living and the dead.

To offer our families choice and flexibility, coupled with unmatched service and care within a well maintained landscape, while preserving the dignity and identity of the Catholic Cemetery.

To deny no person a proper and dignified burial, regardless of their means.



*A Tradition of Trust Since 1895.*

## *Planting & Decoration Policy*



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## Planting & Decoration Policy

In compiling this Planting and Decoration Policy, Gethsemane Cemetery tries to strike a balance between the natural desire of family members to decorate individual gravesites, crypts and niches and the overriding obligation to maintain the appearance of the cemetery with the resources at our disposal. While we certainly appreciate and commend one's love of devotional objects of great personal sentiment, we sincerely trust all will understand the necessity of complying with this policy.

It is always difficult to create a policy which a wide and diverse group of persons will agree on. The goal of our policy is to make the cemetery grounds neat and clean with an atmosphere of simplicity, dignity and elegance. At the same time we must ensure that the cemetery grounds are a safe place for visitors as well as workers. Gethsemane Cemetery makes every effort to enforce this policy uniformly and with compassion.

Gethsemane Cemetery posts notices regularly to keep families informed of upcoming clean off dates and events. These notices are posted on our website ([www.gethsem.com](http://www.gethsem.com)) and our Facebook page. Please take a moment to Like our Facebook page in order to receive current announcements and notifications.

### FLOWER PLANTING

#### TRADITIONAL GRAVE SECTIONS

Families may plant in front of a loved one's memorial according to the following guidelines.

Families may make a planting bed in front of their memorial. All plantings and decorations must be contained within this bed to help facilitate safe and efficient maintenance operations. Plantings and/or beds may extend to a maximum size equal to the length of the memorial and 16 inches to the front of the memorial.

No planting or decoration may exceed 16 inches from the front of the memorial and plantings are not to exceed the length or height of the memorial or 18" in height, whichever is greater (*Exceptions to this are made for central memorials that memorialize graves on both sides – please check with the cemetery office*). For cremation grave, see *Cremation Sections*.

Please choose plantings that will tolerate occasionally being cut or nicked by maintenance equipment.

Annual flower recommendations are geraniums and petunias. Winter and Christmas planting recommendations are ornamental cabbage, Dusty Miller and winter pansies. Tulip and hyacinth bulbs only may be planted and allowed to flower in spring and the cemetery staff will trim them down after the leaves die back during normal maintenance operations. No other bulbs are allowed.

Families may use shredded bark mulch. No stones, chips, etc.

Only the low, black plastic bed edging may be used. Families should keep the maximum bed size in mind to be sure the edging does not extend beyond the maximum size.

The following list contains general plants that are **not** permitted, this is by no means an exhaustive list so please check with the cemetery office should you have any questions or concerns. **Prohibited items include but are not limited to:** sunflowers, shrubs, vines, climbers, trees, roses, vegetables etc.

A buffer of several inches should be provided as to allow the flowers to grow without encroaching on and/or exceeding the 16 inch regulation. Size restrictions will be enforced as violations become apparent. *For cremation grave, see Cremation Sections.*

**CREMATION SECTIONS - Crucifixion cremation sections.** Families may place a planter box, log or bed extending up to a maximum of 10 inches in front of the memorial. All other flower planting regulations apply.

### DECORATIONS

Decorations are defined as any other non-planted item. Decorations must be contained within the same area as the plantings. Families may make a planting bed in front of the memorial.

All plantings and decorations must be contained within this bed to help facilitate safe and efficient maintenance operations. Plantings and/or beds may extend to a maximum size equal to the length of the memorial and 16 inches to the front of the memorial. No planting or decoration may exceed 16 inches from the front of the memorial. *For cremation grave, see Cremation Sections.*

When families choose to use a stand for a decoration, the total height of such decoration may be a maximum of 36 inches. Families should use metal or plastic vases to hold cut flowers or

bouquets. The cemetery office can provide you with specifications on the type and size of vase that is permitted. Quality vases are available for purchase at the Cemetery office.

Families may use wood planting logs for decoration. Similar sized plastic planting boxes may also be used but are not recommended at grave sites, as they may not hold up against the string trimmers utilized in regular maintenance operations. Wooden planting logs or plastic planter boxes may be a maximum size of 8 inches wide and 24 inches long. Pots may be a maximum of 10 inches across or in diameter at the widest point. *For cremation grave, see Cremation Sections.*

Families may decorate for winter and Christmas with a log or wreath with fresh greens or grape vine. A small potted tree not to exceed a 10 inch diameter pot and 18 inches in overall height may also be used. (Please note: Ornaments or lights are not permitted).

Gethsemane Cemetery does allow artificial wreaths and logs between November 1st and March 15<sup>th</sup> ONLY. Artificial wreaths or logs must resemble that of real wreaths and logs in shape, design and color. Grave blankets of any size or shape are strictly prohibited.

Small wooden palm crosses are permitted from Palm Sunday until the week of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The following list contains decorations that are **not** permitted, this is by no means an exhaustive list so please check with the cemetery office should you have any questions or concerns. Prohibited items include but are not limited to shells, toys, figurines, pin-wheels, banners, flags, balloons, plaques, ornaments, non-permanent images, statues, crockery jars & containers, glass, artificial decoration, plastic floral pieces, wood and metal designs, wooden crosses, shepherds hooks, hanging baskets, iron furniture, arbors, urns, pedestals, vigil lights, solar lights, fences, barriers, borders, edging, stones, pebbles, chip mulch, foot stones, etc. Please note that Mylar balloons will permanently stain the memorial. The use of wires, nails, stakes, posts etc. to secure any decoration is prohibited; these items can cause injury to visitors and cemetery personnel as well as damage to equipment.

The **ONLY EXCEPTION** to the prohibited items above is the use of up to 2 artificial flower bouquets when placed **IN PERMITTED VASES**, may be placed within the confines of the allowable planting bed only. Vases must be the pin type or turn down. Please check with the office regarding the size and type of vase being used.