

St. Joseph Church Cemetery Policy

In accord with Louisiana State Law regarding cemeteries, the bearer of the plot title only reserves the right for the burial of a body, not the purchase of any property. The cemetery land is private property belonging to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iota, LA, and the pastor is the legal agent responsible for the property. The vault, headstones, etc, belong to the family who purchased these items. All regulations, guidelines, and policies are the responsibility of the owner of the cemetery property itself.

The holder of title agrees to these terms and conditions:

- No items may be placed in the ground around any grave. This especially includes wind chimes and lawn ornaments, as they detract from the overall beauty of the cemetery.
- Items placed on any grave must be Christian in nature, and statues may not exceed 12 inches in height. These should be permanent fixtures on the tomb, and may not impede with any property surrounding the grave. Any statue or fixture must meet with the pastor's approval before it is permanently affixed.
- Flowers and perpetual candles, of course, are permissible and encouraged. However, they must be placed in a permanent vase or fixture already attached to a grave. Any flower arrangements or candles on top of, or around, a grave will be removed.
- Painting of tombs is strictly forbidden, except in the case of whitewashing and cleaning for various holy occasions (i.e. All Souls and All Saints days).
- If there are any concerns regarding placement of items, they fall under the purview of pastor's discretion. Please come to the office and inquire if there are any questions.
- Items removed from graves will be held in reserve for the family to pick up. If there is any expense incurred for removal of items, the family will be responsible for financial remuneration to the parish for damage to property or tombs.

Please be aware, yours is not the only family member or loved one who has been laid to rest on these beautiful and holy grounds intended to respect and give grace to the deceased and their loved ones. Care and upkeep of the cemetery requires high maintenance, and the parish staff is doing everything we can to respect all who have been buried here.

All plots are required to have a vault in the plot before burial.

Title holders of plots will receive an annual request of \$25 for maintenance fee for each plot in their name.