



**St. Magdalen**  
**Roman Catholic**  
**Cemetery and Mausoleum**  
**Flemington, NJ**

## **Mission Statement**

Catholic Cemeteries are places consecrated and set apart and, with consecrated churches, constitute the "sacred space which the church designates and reserves in this world exclusively for the worship of God. Unlike other burial grounds, they reflect the deep faith of Catholic Christians in the intimate connection between the death of the believer and the death of the Lord. They support our conviction of the Holy Spirit, and are an expression of the ministry of the Church to the bereaved among us and to the deceased themselves who continue to be members of the Church, suffering and triumphant.

The Catholic Cemetery seeks to assist people in accepting the reality of death in a context of faith in the promise of eternal life. Our facilities and services include a place for burial, an environment to meet the needs of the liturgy of burial, and an atmosphere to encourage prayer for the dead and in which love is remembered, hope is rekindled and faith is awakened and strengthened.

We also seek to minister to the poor, who must be treated with dignity in life as well as in death. We are privileged to accept those deceased without family or funds to assure their Christian burial.

We minister to the living by helping them to anticipate their needs when the time will come for them to face the reality of death through the arrangement of burial space for themselves at a moment when they can acknowledge and address the issues surrounding their own mortality in an atmosphere of peaceful reflection. We seek to provide a systematic program of year-round care and maintenance of our cemetery so that it will preserve the beauty and dignity appropriate for this sacred space and be reflective of the esteem in which we hold those whose mortal remains rest here.

Ever since the Sacred Body of our Crucified Savior was reverently laid in the tomb, there to await the hour of its glorious Resurrection, the Church has been most solicitous to surround the burial of those deceased remains with reverence. In the Requiem Mass and burial prayers, the Church gives voice to her belief in the Christian Doctrines of the Resurrection of the Body, the Communion of Saints and Life Everlasting; but as a further seal and symbol of that faith, she sets apart and solemnly blesses the place in which the bodies of her faithful departed await the day of Resurrection.

In the very earliest days, Mother Church found it necessary to make rules and regulations which would protect the sacred places and the relics laid therein. She could not and would not allow anything within the holy precincts which would desecrate them, lessen their beauty, or bring dishonor on the dead.

To insure the sacred character of St. Magdalen's Cemetery, in accord with the mind and traditional practice of the Church, and to establish and maintain good order, the following rules and regulations are in effect.

## **General Information**

The facility is owned and operated by the Church of St. Magdalen under the ultimate authority of the Pastor. The responsibility for administration and supervision of the facility is delegated by the Pastor.

This facility conforms in all relevant matters to applicable laws of the New Jersey State Statutes regulating the operation and administration of such facilities. It is a charitable non-profit institution maintained as a service primarily for the Roman Catholic parishioners of St. Magdalen and other nearby Catholic parishes. However, non-Catholic spouses and family members of Catholics may be buried with their loved ones.

The grounds and all plots have been solemnly consecrated according to the Rites of the Roman Catholic Church and as such are subject to all the relevant Canons of the Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church.

### Hours of Operation for the Public shall be:

May through August                      9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

September through April              9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Interments/Entombment's - Saturday

Additional charges starting at \$100 will be added to all Saturday interments and entombments, as well as designated holidays.

### Automobiles

Automobiles and other vehicles on the Cemetery grounds are not permitted to exceed ten miles per hour. They must remain on the paved roadways at all times and may not turn around on the roadways or grass areas.

### Burial Park Grounds

The Cemetery grounds shall be entered through designated open gateways and then only for the purpose of respectful visiting or personal expression of devotion. The Cemetery grounds shall never be used and shall never be available for recreation, picnicking, sports, casual gatherings of groups, or for any loud, boisterous or disrespectful behavior of any kind, as judged by the Pastor.

- Skateboarding, bike-riding, roller skating, roller blading, ball playing, snow mobiles and off road vehicles are strictly prohibited.
- Any person, who destroys, defaces or in any way vandalizes any monument, tree, shrub, plant or building on the property is guilty of a serious offense and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- Smoking is not permitted on the Cemetery grounds.
- Fences, hedges, coping, edging, curbing enclosures, ironwork, wires, seats, urns, posts, steps and any and all such permanent accoutrements are not permitted on the cemetery plots.

- Articles such as shells, stone chips, mulch, Styrofoam crosses, and faded or discolored artificial flower arrangements will be removed without notice.
- Grading, sodding, seeding, planting of live plants or pots, fertilizing, and filling of Cemetery plots by persons other than Cemetery employees is prohibited.
- Mowers or power equipment of all kinds are not allowed on the Cemetery except by authorization of St. Magdalen for the maintenance of the grounds.
- Outlining of graves or memorials by stripping a border of sod around the grave, or outlining the grave with metal frames, stones, or crushed stone is not permitted.
- Pets are not permitted on the grounds for any reason.
- Children under the age of fifteen are not permitted on the grounds without an accompanying adult.
- The enforcement of all rules and regulations is entrusted to the Pastor.
- Interments require a minimum of 48 hours pre-notification.
- The management may refuse interment in any plot or crypt against which there is any unpaid account balance.
- The purchase of a cemetery plot does not confer ownership in the land but only a right in the nature of an easement to use the plot for the burial of the dead for as long as the property continues to be used as a cemetery, as provided by law. If purchaser no longer has need for plot, it will be repurchased by St. Magdalen for original purchase price less 15%.
- The term "plot owner" defines the purchaser of a burial easement who is subject to the conditions specified in the document issued at the time of purchase. Cemetery plots shall be indivisible and the descent of a family plot to heirs occurs as regulated by civil law.
- All plots are single depth.
- Baby graves: 2' W x 5' L
- Digging new graves: In inclement weather, excavated dirt will temporarily be placed on adjacent grave.

**Please Note:**

**St. Magdalen is a Catholic Cemetery. All questions relative to eligibility for either casket or cremains must be directed to Parish Cemetery staff at 908-963-8527.**

## **Decorations for the Growing Season**

### **April 16 through October 14**

- An unplanted 6" or 8" pot is permitted at the side of the monument. This must be maintained and will be removed when withered, unattended, or overgrown with weeds.
- The planting of evergreens, trees, shrubs, or other plant material of any kind is strictly prohibited in any part of the Cemetery except by St. Magdalen's Church.
- Blessed palm fronds may be placed in regulation vases on Palm Sunday through Easter week. "Constructed" palm crosses (made with materials besides the palm itself) are not permitted.
- All floral arrangements left at the graveside at the time of interment will be removed by Cemetery personnel within three to five days in order to avoid the unsightly look of withered flowers.

## **Decorations for the Non-growing Season -Cemetery Plots**

### **October 15 through April 15**

- Flush grave Christmas pillows in a size not exceeding the width of the individual marker or two feet in length are permitted from Thanksgiving Day until February 1st and may be purchased from any source.
- An artificial floral arrangement in a 6" or 8" pot at the base of the monument is permitted. This must be maintained and will be removed when discolored or unattended.

## **Monuments/Markers/inscriptions**

- Concrete foundations are poured only by cemetery contractors and may be ordered between March 1st and October 15th. Costs for foundations are the responsibility of the plot owner. All monuments and markers require concrete foundations.
- Inscriptions on all monuments and markers must be generic to include name, dates, etc. Religious symbols such as crosses, praying hands, etc., are permitted as well as Scripture verses. No other symbols, verbal expressions or quotations are permitted without prior approval of the Pastor.
- Repair, maintenance and upkeep of all monuments and markers are the responsibility of the plot owners.
- If a casket or urn is removed from a plot and plot is left empty, certificate of same may be released to the cemetery in return for its original purchase price less 15%. If there is a monument on the plot, it must be removed, at plot owner's expense, prior to disinterment.
- To prevent settlement of graves, standard vaults are required.

**All dimensions in inches**

**MONUMENTS**

	<u>Length</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Base</u> <u>(L) x W</u>
<b>Single</b>	20-30	24-30	8	(26-36) x14
<b>Double</b>	36-48	24-32	8	(46-60) x14
<b>Triple</b>	36-48	24-36	8	(48-72) x14

**SLANT MARKERS**

	<u>Length</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Base</u> <u>(L) x W</u>
<b>Single</b>	22-30	18	10	(26-36) x14
<b>Double</b>	26-42	18	10	(32-52) x14

**Baby Graves Flat only 10 x 20**

**FLAT MARKERS**

**Bronze**

	<u>Length</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Base</u> <u>(L) x W</u>
<b>Single</b>	24	4	12	26 x 14
<b>Double</b>	24-44	4	14	28 x 48

**Granite**

	<u>Length</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Base</u> <u>(L) x W</u>
<b>Single</b>	24	4	12-14	n/a
<b>Double</b>	30-48	4	12-14	n/a

## **Mausoleum Regulations**

Sale, assignment or transfer of Crypts and Niches at all times subject to the canons of the Roman Catholic Church, the statutes of the State of New Jersey and the regulations of St. Magdalen and the Diocese of Metuchen.

St. Magdalen will re-purchase any unused, unlettered crypt upon written request from deed holder(s). Refunds to be calculated at purchase price less 15%. The crypt owner is to present a signed release form and original deed and contract to St. Magdalen.

Alternatively, crypt owner may sell crypt privately to a Catholic purchaser at any time. Crypt owner is, however, required to notify St. Magdalen regarding sale with name, address, and parish affiliation of purchaser as well as a copy of transfer documents. A 15% charge of new purchase price will be payable to St. Magdalen.

Transfer of interred remains from a cemetery plot to a Mausoleum crypt is the financial responsibility of the family, who must pay the disinterment fee, the entombment fee for the Mausoleum and the cost of a sealed metal casket or Casket Liner.

The lettering of crypts is required of all crypt owners at the time of the first entombment in the crypt and must be purchased through the Mausoleum office and executed by St. Magdalen's Mausoleum agents according to regulated specifications as to size, style and content.

The lettering of crypts will be sandblasted except on Altar Wall where bronze letters/numbers/symbols are required.

**NOT PERMITTED: Live flowers, glass vases, or balloons and all other items will be removed immediately. Nothing is to be attached or taped to Crypt or Niche fronts.**

St. Magdalen offers a Bronze Vase Program in which silk flower arrangements are placed in Crypt vases four times a year. For information, call Parish Cemetery staff at 908-963-8527.

No food or drink may be brought into the Mausoleum building or into the Mausoleum complex. At the time of entombment, one floral spray may be placed on the casket during the committal rites.

## **PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED OF THIS CEMETERY**

*Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, by Your power, Christ conquered death, rose to new life and returned to You in glory. May our brothers and sisters whose bodies rest here in expectation of a like resurrection share His victory and enjoy the vision of Your glory forever.*

*Forgive each of them, and all who die in Christ, and make them one with Him forever in the joy of Your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.*

*Amen*

### ***St Magdalen Roman Catholic Church***

*105 Mine Street*

*Flemington, NJ 08822*

*(908) 963-8527*

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