



RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF
SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

PREAMBLE

St. Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery is founded as an expression of our Christian love for one another. St. Nikolai Velimirovic, in his homily for the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women, poetically writes:

Man is sublime when he cares for the living; Man is more than sublime when he cares for the dead. A man often cares for the living out of selfishness. But what selfishness can there be in a man's caring for the dead? Can the dead pay him, or express their gratitude? Some animals bury their dead; giving them to the grave, they give them over to forgetfulness. But when a living man buries a dead one, he buries a part of himself with the dead man and returns home carrying a part of the dead man in his soul. This is especially clear – terribly clear –when a kinsman buries a kinsman, and a friend a friend. Death has one characteristic in common with love: it, like love, works a profound change in many that experience it and go on living.

As Orthodox Christians, we care for the human person from the womb, to and even in, the tomb. As a holistic incarnational faith, our concern is for people's bodies as well as their souls. We hope that our cemetery will be a ministry to the living and the dead. To the young and full of life it will be a place to visit their loved ones who have passed. To those in the process of dying, it is a place of rest where they know they will be prayed for, visited, and remembered. A burial ground on Church property expresses the unity of the One Church, composed of the living and the dead, as they "look to the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS RESPECTING THE CEMETERY

1. The conduct of all persons present on the property of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery must be consistent with the sacred nature of the Cemetery and its function as a consecrated place of internment of the remains of Orthodox Christians awaiting their Resurrection. Unruly, loud, or boisterous behavior by those present on the property of the Cemetery is never permitted in any circumstance.
2. No child under ten years of age is permitted within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery unless accompanied by an adult who is responsible for the conduct of such child.
3. The Cemetery is open and available to visitors from sunrise to sunset throughout the year; it is closed to visitors from dusk to dawn throughout the year. Large assemblies of persons within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery are generally not permitted except in conjunction with funerals and other religious rites approved by the Parish Priest of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church.
4. The conduct of religious rites or ceremonies on the property of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery is permitted only with the express consent and approval of the Parish Priest of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church.
5. No motorized vehicles of any kind or character may be operated within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery at any time.
6. As a general rule, animals of any kind are not permitted within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery, with the exception of service animals under the control of disabled persons. The burial of animals of any kind within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery is prohibited.
7. The placement and installation of permanent landscaping features within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery is the sole prerogative of the authorities of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church and Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery.

PARTICULAR RULES AND REGULATIONS RESPECTING INDIVIDUAL BURIAL PLOTS AND GRAVESITES

1. All gravesites must have a permanent grave marker installed within 120 days following the date of internment of remains. Any temporary markers must be removed after 120 days following the date of internment of remains.
2. All monuments or other markers placed at an individual burial plot or gravesite must be made in the form of a cross or include an engraved image of a cross in accordance with Orthodox Christian tradition. To ensure the observance of this requirement, drawings, and/or

photographs, including an indication of exact dimensions, of all proposed monuments must be submitted for approval by Cemetery authorities prior to execution, delivery or installment of the indicated monument. No secular symbols, images or designs may appear on any monument marking a gravesite within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery. Grave site markers or headstones made available by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to any deceased person eligible for burial in Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery are deemed to comply in all respects with this section.

3. The approved permanent gravesite marker is to be placed at the head of the grave, i.e., the west side of the burial plot or gravesite and will in addition accurately depict the Christian name of the person interred in the burial plot.
4. Any approved permanent gravesite marker or monument will not exceed a width of three feet and a height of four feet and will be constructed of a permanent stone material. Single larger headstones designed to designate the adjoining burial locations of multiple members of a single-family are permissible provided that the width of such headstones shall not exceed twice that allowable under these Rules and Regulations for a single headstone and shall not exceed the height allowable under these Rules and Regulations for a single headstone.
5. Coping, fencing, roping, hedges, borders, wood chips, gravel, stone, bricks, glass, block borders, or decorative stones delineating a gravesite or burial plot Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery are not permitted.
6. No trees, bushes, flowerpots or other types of permanent decoration may be placed at a gravesite or burial plot within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery. Temporary wreaths and cut flowers for special occasions (i.e., Pascha, the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, Memorial Day, the anniversary dates of the birth or death of the interred person, the Name Day of the interred person, or other dates of special importance to the interred person or the family of the interred person) are permitted, but must be removed from the gravesite within thirty days of their placement. Neither Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery nor Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church assumes any responsibility whatsoever for temporary grave decorations or for their upkeep, and these may be removed at the discretion of Cemetery authorities.
7. Concrete burial vaults may be employed at the discretion and at the expense of the family of a deceased person to be interred within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery, but such use is not obligatory. Any necessary leveling of a gravesite or burial plot where a concrete burial vault has not been employed is the responsibility of the family of the person interred at such gravesite or burial plot. Any cost or expense associated with the use of such concrete burial vaults for the internment of a deceased person within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery is the sole responsibility of the family of the deceased, and under no circumstances will Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church or Cemetery bear any financial responsibility in this respect.

SPECIAL POLICIES OF SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

1. Burial plots within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery for the remains of any Priest (or spouse or minor child of any Priest) who has served as the Parish Priest of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church will be made available free of cost. All expenses associated with the internment of the remains of any such Priest (or spouse or minor child of any such Priest) will be borne exclusively by the family of such Priest or his family, as the case may be.
2. Within the discretion of the Standing Cemetery Committee of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery and with the approval of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church, burial plots within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery of the remains of any indigent person if otherwise eligible for burial in Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery may be made available free of cost. All expenses associated with the internment of the remains of any such indigent person will be borne exclusively by the family of such person, except that such expenses may be met by Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church with the approval of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church.
3. Within the discretion of the Standing Cemetery Committee of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery and with the approval of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church, burial plots within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery for the remains of any stillborn child or those of any deceased child under the age of three years if such child is the stillborn child or deceased child of any person eligible for burial in Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery under the provisions of Article III of the Special Regulations of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Church will be made available free of cost.
4. Any issue regarding entitlement to burial within Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery not otherwise addressed within these Rules and Regulations will be resolved in the discretion of the Parish Priest in cooperation with the Standing Cemetery Committee of Saint Innocent Orthodox Christian Cemetery.