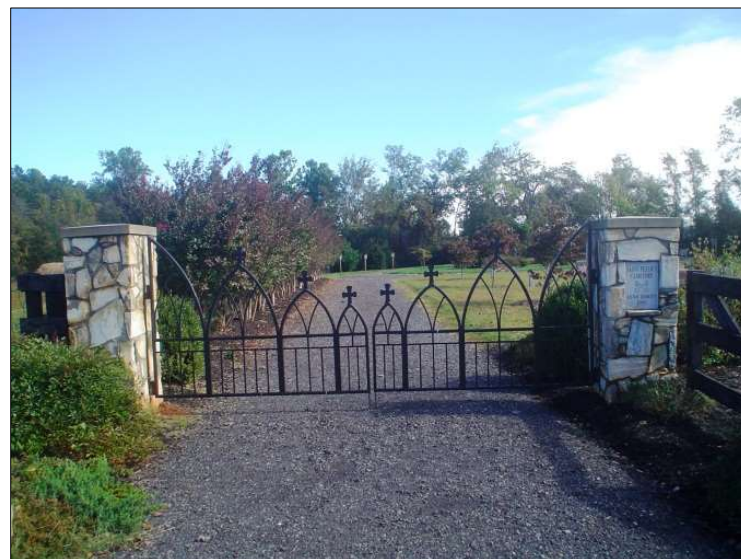


St. Peter Cemetery

Washington, VA 22747



CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS



St. Peter Cemetery Contact Information

Fr. Kevin Beres

Parish Phone: 540-675-3432

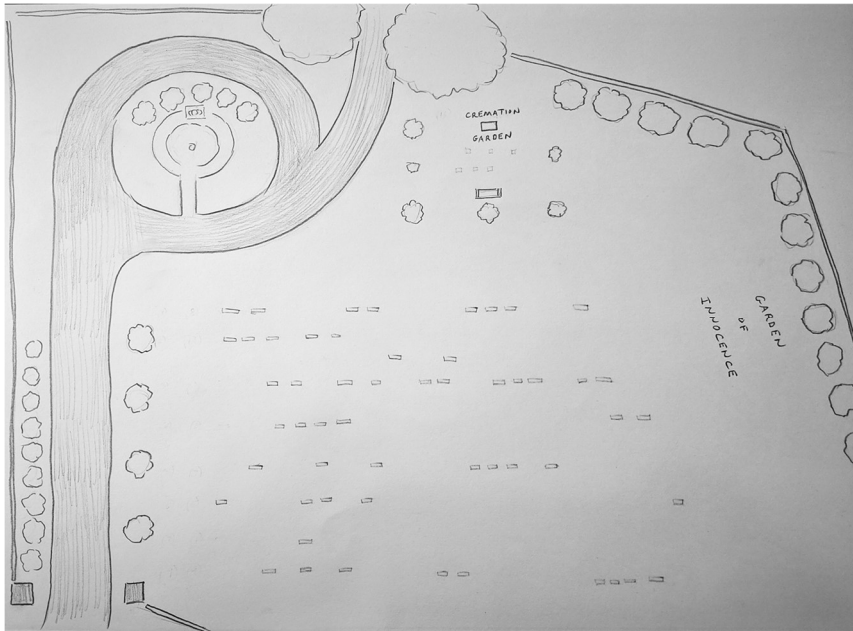
Cemetery's Physical Address: 12762 Lee Highway
Washington, VA 22747

Phone: 540-675-3432

Email: stpeterscemetery22747@gmail.com

Cemetery Hours: daily from sunrise to sunset

St. Peter Cemetery reserves the right to close the cemetery whenever necessary. When this happens, we regret any inconvenience to our visitors.



Revised: April 3, 2024

Pets

Under no circumstances shall pets be buried in the Cemetery. The release of pigeons, doves, other animals or balloons at the time of interment, or on any subsequent occasion, is not permitted under any circumstances.

Please note that the rules and regulations pertaining to St. Peter Cemetery are subject to review and change without prior notice to deed holders.

Change of Address

It shall be the responsibility of the grave holder to notify the Cemetery Administrator of any change in their mailing address, email address, phone number and any other pertinent information in a timely fashion. Any notification sent to a grave holder at the last address in the Cemetery records shall be considered sufficient and proper legal notification.

*Surely Goodness and Mercy
Shall follow me all the days
Of my life
and
I will dwell in the
House of the Lord Forever
Psalm 23:6*

ST. PETER CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Introductory Letter from the Pastor**
- **General Rules and Regulations**
- **Fees**
- **Guidelines for Monuments**
- **Cemetery Guidelines**
- **Annual Cleanup**
- **Maintenance**
- **Operation**
- **Pets**
- **Change of address**

At the loss of a loved one it is customary to have a wake service the evening before the day of the burial during which a priest or deacon will usually lead a rosary or a prayer service. On the day of burial, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the happy repose of the soul of the deceased. After the Mass the burial itself occurs during which a priest or deacon leads the faithful in a prayer service that includes the blessing of the grave. Please contact the pastor of Saint Peter's who will help guide you in planning these services. All burials must be conducted in accord with the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church.

From the Desk of the Pastor

A Catholic cemetery is sacred, consecrated ground. It holds the physical remains of our beloved dead as they, and, we await the fulfillment of our Risen Lord's promise of our future resurrection from the dead.

Just as the human body deserves to be treated with dignity and respect in life, so it should be in death. St. Peter's Cemetery offers burial in a peaceful, beautiful setting where the faithful continue to witness the Good News of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

The Cemetery offers a place for the repose of the remains of loved ones, the Rite of Committal, private prayer and reflection.

The following booklet has been prepared to familiarize you with the regulations that govern St. Peter Cemetery. These regulations have been designed to preserve the sacredness of the cemetery, to protect our certificate holders, and to ensure a uniformity of practice.

Your cooperation with these regulations will be greatly appreciated. Having the families of those buried in our cemetery follow these rules will assist us in maintaining the sacredness and beauty of our cemetery.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Kevin Beres

Those wishing to help maintain the existing cemetery landscape by planting grass, filling in holes, weeding, and sodding are strongly encouraged to do so. However, if you wish to add any permanent plants, trees, memorials or anything else that would in any way change the current landscape of the cemetery then the explicit approval of the pastor is required before doing so.

Certificate holders shall be responsible for maintaining memorials so that they will not detract from the appearance of the Cemetery. If a memorial needs repairing in any way, it is the certificate holder's responsibility to repair it. The Cemetery will not be responsible for any damage to the memorials unless caused by the Cemetery's employees or agents. Nicks due to the mowing operations are considered acceptable normal wear and tear for which the Cemetery will not be responsible.

The parish will contract with local companies to mow and weed eat and maintain the over all grounds of the cemetery.

Operation

The cemetery shall be open during daylight hours only. Any person found on the Cemetery grounds after dark shall be considered a trespasser. Access shall be from the Church parking lot. Except for funeral home vehicles and transportation for handicapped persons, all vehicles, including bicycles, shall park in the Church parking lot.

All visitors shall observe proper conduct; responsible adults should supervise children.

The digging of the interment site is the responsibility of the funeral director. All necessary equipment, such as tents, chairs, etc. will be furnished by the funeral director.

Parking to access the Cemetery shall be exclusively at the Church parking lot, except for hearse and handicap access.

One row of annuals, that is flowers that will last only for one season and will not be permanent, may be planted in front of a monument provided that they do not entirely block the view of the monument, do not add to the height of the ground around the monument, are not over two feet tall and are removed at the end of their growing season.

Christmas, Easter, All Souls Day and other seasonal decorations are acceptable but only for religious holidays and may be up for one week before and after the holiday. The only exception to religious holidays is that flags no larger than 18" may be placed on graves no more than a week before Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans' Day and must be removed within one week after the holiday. Any such items left for more than one week after any particular holiday will be disposed of without further notice, and the parish assumes no responsibility or liability in connection with any items left and the removal thereof.

No lasting decorations, plants and/or flowers are allowed on gravesites, with the exception of the annuals described above. Coping, curbing, fencing, hedging or bordering of any kind around a grave or lot are prohibited. Spreading of any substances to retard the growth of vegetation is likewise not allowed. **The cemetery reserves the right to alter or remove any plant or decoration without notification.**

Annual Cleanup

For the sake of maintaining a clean and beautiful cemetery we ask that all items be removed from the cemetery each year during the winter by February 2nd. From February 2nd until March 1st each year there should be only the monuments. All other items will be removed. The only exception is if the anniversary of the death of the deceased occurs during this time.

Maintenance

The parish shall take all reasonable precaution to protect the Cemetery and the certificate holders from loss or damage, but it expressly disclaims any and all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond the reasonable control of the Cemetery, St. Peter Parish, the Cemetery Committee, and/or the pastor.

General Rules and Regulations

The Cemetery is an integral part of St. Peter Catholic Church, a parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arlington. These Cemetery Rules and Regulations shall be an integral part of the Reserved Interment Certificate given to each purchaser of a right to burial.

The Parish Cemetery of St. Peter is a Parish Cemetery, not a public or commercial cemetery. The Pastor and/or the Diocese shall have final authority in all matters pertaining to the Cemetery.

Legal Title to said property resides with the Bishop of Arlington. Purchase of a burial or interment site confers a "right to burial" only. An owner of such right is herein referred to, as "family," and such designation shall include sole individuals, legal representatives, holders of power of attorney, etc.

The right to burial shall be reserved for members of St. Peter Parish, and members of neighboring churches of the Arlington Diocese. Parishioners may have their spouses and minor children, including non-Catholic spouses and minor children of members. The pastor shall have the authority to verify membership of St. Peter Parish and resolve any eligibility questions. The pastor shall have full discretion to make an exception to this eligibility requirement under appropriate circumstances.

Purchase, sale or other transfer of a burial site shall be by Reserved Interment Certificate, on forms approved and signed by the Pastor, and takes effect: upon full payment of the purchase price; and being recorded among the cemetery records. We are not able to offer any payment plans so full payment must be made at time of purchase.

At the time of purchasing a burial site, a married couple or spouse, or children, may choose to be buried in the same burial site as their spouse (if space allows) or to be buried in adjacent burial sites.

In case a Reserved Interment Certificate cannot be presented at time of need, the records in the parish cemetery office shall determine who has the right of burial, and the family agrees to hold the cemetery, its agents and employees harmless in the rare event of discrepancies and any consequences thereof, foreseen or unforeseen.

If for good and sufficient reasons (at the discretion of the pastor) a family wishes to sell back a gravesite, they would be entitled to a refund of the original purchase price, minus a transfer fee of \$100.00. Any memorials that have been placed on such a gravesite must be removed at the sole expense of the family before the purchase price can be refunded.

Private sale of a gravesite is prohibited and will not be recognized by the cemetery.

The Pastor shall have authority to determine whether the holder of a Reserved Interment Certificate has abandoned the same, and, after good faith efforts to contact the holder, shall have the authority to revoke such certificate.

Fees

The purchase price of a plot is \$1,500 for parishioners and \$4,000 for those who are not parishioners. This applies to both regular full-size plots and cremation plots.

Each plot in the Cremation Garden, for cremated remains, is 48" x 48", and up to 2 urns may be interred in one plot. Each plot for full size burial is 48" x 120"; in these plots one body may be interred in a vault, or one burial and one urn for cremated remains, or two urns in one full size plot.

Any entombment fees, cost of memorials and/or inscriptions, decorations, etc., which may be charged by the funeral home, monument dealer, and providers of any other funeral-related services, etc., are in addition to these charges and are the sole responsibility of the family.

Guidelines for Monuments

For full size plots: monuments may not exceed 40" overall height and must be 6" stock minimum. Other dimension requirements: Base width 12" to 16", base length 24" - 32" for single graves, 42" - 60" double grave, 16" x 12" for slants. The monument is to be set on solid ground with cement foundation.

For cremation size plots: A cremated remains plot requires **flush ground** markers or monuments; using the first 14" of site for monument, and the other 34" for cremated remains. The monument is to be set on solid ground with cement foundation. Maximum size of 24" x 12".

Religious images may be engraved on the monument. Images of the deceased or images of secular things that were of interest to the deceased are permitted but should not dominate the monument. No images or inscriptions contrary to the Catholic faith are permitted. All engravings shall be consistent with the spirit of a Catholic Cemetery.

Plans or designs for all monuments and/or markers, including size of bases and a sketch indicating all carvings and engravings, must be submitted in writing or by email. The monument cannot be placed in the cemetery until it has been explicitly approved by the pastor. **The cemetery reserves the right to change or adjust any monument as needed without notification.**

Cemetery Guidelines

In consultation with the family purchasing a plot, the pastor shall have discretion to assign the location of specific gravesites, although preference will be given to proximity to family members. The family should consult with the cemetery administrator and/or pastor in locating gravesites.

Concrete vaults, boxes, grave liners, or equal shall be required for all burials in order to maintain the grade. Likewise, grave mounds will not be allowed and no lot shall be raised above the established grade. Fresh flowers may be placed at graves in plastic or metal containers only, i.e. no glass that could break into dangerous shards.

Potted plants and flowers (not shrubs or evergreens) are permitted within 12" of the sides and 18" of the front of a monument or marker. It shall be the responsibility of the family or friends of the deceased to maintain such plantings. The pastor shall have full authority and discretion to remove plantings that are not maintained or otherwise inconsistent with these guidelines.