

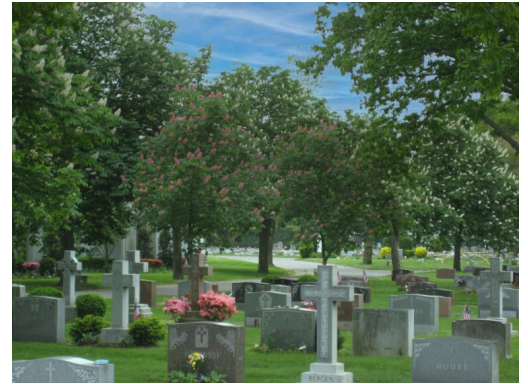


CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF LONG ISLAND

DECORATION/PLANTING GUIDELINES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

It is important to be mindful of our cemeteries' rules and regulations for planting and decorations. They are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care and permanent maintenance.

We have compiled the most frequent questions we are asked regarding decorations at our cemeteries. Please review this document for the answers to these questions. We hope this is helpful and provides greater understanding on our rules and why they exist.



Generally, what items are permitted on graves?

The following items are typically permitted on graves:

- **Annual flowers** planted in a **18" semi-circle** in front of monument (*not permitted for flat marker sections*)
- Fresh flowers in a permitted vase or bouquet holder.
- Artificial flowers in an approved container in **winter months** (November 1 until one week after Easter).

Note: Artificial flowers are **permitted year-round at Holy Sepulchre** due to cemetery's deer population.

- Flags which must not exceed 12" x 16". Up to two flags are permitted, but **one must be an American flag**.
- Potted plants and seasonal decorations per the holiday schedule published by the cemetery

What items are NEVER permitted on graves?

Any item not listed above is **not permitted** to be placed on graves, **including but not limited to:**

Statues	Stones/Rocks/Pebbles	Shells/Marble Chips
Borders/edging	Perennials/Hedging/Bushes	Mulch
Plaques/markers	Vigil lights (flame or solar)	Glass jars/vases
Wooden crosses	Rosary beads	Pinwheels
Banners	Bottles	Toys
Balloons	Pictures	Bric-a-brac

Why do these rules exist? Why can't I put anything I want in the 18" area in front of the monument?

Items placed on graves can cause potential safety concerns and/or monument damage when caught up in equipment. In addition, placed items can impede day-to-day cemetery work. For example, when opening a grave, items on adjacent graves need to be removed before work can be completed. Items placed also move outside of the planting area over time due to weather or ongoing activity within the cemetery.

Can I plant a bush or shrub on my plot either in front of or next to the monument?

Bushes and shrubs are **never permitted** on single graves, double graves, or in any flat marker section.

Bushes or shrubs are only permitted on plots having **three graves or more**. They must be planted on the **side** of the monument, cannot extend more than 14" in front of or behind the monument, must not encroach on other plots, and must adhere to height restrictions listed in our rules.

Why can't I place rocks or other items on top of monuments or flat markers?

Rocks, stones, and coins can become dangerous projectiles that get caught up in lawn mowers and line trimmers; they can seriously injure visitors or cemetery workers and cause damage to monuments or car windows. Separately, placing rocks can also cause permanent damage and discoloration to the monument as they release elements that penetrate below the surface of the granite and become bleached by the sun.



Please don't leave rocks, coins, or other items on top of monuments! They will be removed and discarded.

Decorations were removed during a recent cleanup. Can I retrieve them?

Cemetery staff **removes and discards** any items that are not permitted per the cemetery's rules and regulations. Due to the volume of items being removed during cleanups, it is not possible to make arrangements to have families claim items once they have been removed. Because of this, we kindly ask that families refrain from placing any prohibited items, particularly items of value or importance, on gravesites.

Decorations were removed from my grave, but I see the same types of items on another grave. Why did you only remove my items?

While our cemetery staff makes every effort to enforce our rules and regulations uniformly, it is possible that certain violations were missed during a cleanup. In other instances, items may have been placed by families after our staff completed the cleanup of that section.

When are violations removed from graves?

The cemetery completes scheduled cleanups after holidays throughout the year. Please refer to the **holiday decoration schedule** that is posted to our website and available at each cemetery office.

During cleanups, the staff removes holiday-specific decorations, and if time permits, they will also remove any violations. However, it is important to note the following:

- If an item is not removed during a cleanup, this does **not** mean that the item is acceptable. The staff may have been focused solely on holiday decorations during that cleanup due to other priorities at the time.
- **Separate from the cleanup schedule, violations may be removed at any time without notice**, especially if items are a safety hazard or they interfere with cemetery work.

I placed flowers and flags which are permitted, yet they were removed from the grave. Why?

Because our cemeteries are open to the public, with thousands of visitors each year, we cannot guarantee plants and decorations from damage, theft, or disappearance. In addition to potential theft, items are often displaced due to the weather or wildlife.

The cemetery reserves the right to **remove and dispose** of any decoration or planting when deemed as unsightly, in poor condition, or out of season. No placed item, whether floral or otherwise, is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery may remove items at any time **without notice or compensation**, and the cemetery is not responsible for any damaged or missing items.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following the cemetery's rules and regulations.

CEMETERY OF THE HOLY ROOD
111 Old Country Road, Westbury
(516) 334-7990

QUEEN OF PEACE CEMETERY
321 Jericho Tpke, Old Westbury
(516) 434-2439

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY
3442 Route 112, Coram
(631) 732-3460

QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS CEMETERY
115 Wheeler Road, Central Islip
(631) 234-8297

For more information, please contact the cemetery office or visit www.CCLongIsland.org