

Blessed Trinity Cemetery Rules and Regulations



*Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
Frankenmuth, Michigan*

Revised: November 2010

Blessed Trinity Cemetery Mission Statement



**Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
has established and maintains
a parish cemetery
as a resting place for the
earthly remains
of our deceased parishioners and
loved ones
and as a sacred area
for reflection, remembrance and
prayer.**

"I am the resurrection and
the life."
(John 11:26)

1. Title to all cemetery lots/niches shall remain in the name of the Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, which shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of cemetery property.
2. Blessed Trinity Cemetery may be used for the burial/inurnment of the earthly remains of the following:
 - a. Current members of Blessed Trinity Parish and their spouses and dependents. Members are those whose names are printed on the current parish membership list.
 - b. Former parish members.
 - c. Single adult children of current parish members.
 - d. Others at the discretion of the pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish at the time of need.
3. The Cemetery Committee will assign lots at the time of need. A lot size is 3 feet 4 inches by 12 feet.

Niches may be selected at the time of purchase. The niche size is 12 inch by 12 inch by 12 inches.
4. Arrangements are as follows:
 - a. Cremains may be buried in a single lot, with no more than 4 containers of cremains in a single lot.
 - b. One lot may contain a full burial and one container of cremains.
 - c. Up to two containers of cremains may be placed in a single niche.

5. Pre-need Payments and Selections

- a. A member or former member of Blessed Trinity may pay perpetual maintenance and care fees prior to the time of need. Up to three adjacent spaces for in-ground burials may be reserved in advance with the pre-payment of maintenance for that number of graves. The lots will be assigned by the Cemetery Committee at the time of the first death.
- b. A member or former member of Blessed Trinity may reserve up to two niches in the columbarium with pre-payment of maintenance fees. A specific niche or niches may be selected at the time of payment.
- c. If reserved spaces or niches are not going to be used, Blessed Trinity will return the maintenance fee originally paid for the unused space(s) or niche(s) when notified in writing. Written notice must be given by the person who paid the fee, by the surviving spouse or by the personal representative of the estate.
- d. Reserved spaces and niches may not be transferred to another party without written authorization from Blessed Trinity Parish.
- e. Burial spaces or niches may revert to Blessed Trinity if they are not used within 30 years. This period may be extended upon request.

6. Grave Markings

- a. All monuments are to be placed at the head of the grave and shall not exceed a measurement of 24 inches front to back, or 36 inches in height from the foundation. The base of the monument shall not exceed a width of 32 inches (single lot), 54 inches (double lot), or 90 inches (triple lot). The foundation is to be placed by the sexton before monuments are erected. The foundation will be 24 inches in depth with a 3-inch border in width and breadth of the new monument.
- b. Inscriptions on monuments that are not in keeping with the Catholic Faith are not permitted. Inscriptions and names of individuals on monuments are to be placed so they can be read from the foot of the grave. The Blessed Trinity Cemetery Committee must approve all monuments and inscriptions before placement in the cemetery. Inscriptions on niches must conform to the current parish guidelines and rules.
- c. Memorial markers for veterans must be placed either on the foundation at the head of the grave or affixed to the upright monument. The bronze niche marker also provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs may be placed on the niche.
- d. The cost for monuments, inscriptions and foundations are the responsibility of the purchaser.

7. Individuals are to be buried with the head to the north so that the face looks south if it would be in a rising position.
8. Flowers and Decorations
 - a. The Blessed Trinity Cemetery Committee reserves the right for the good of all to regulate the method of decorations of lots and niche faces. It is important to understand that decorations must not infringe upon adjacent spaces or create either a hazard or an unattractive situation, which may be offensive to other families with adjacent spaces.
 - b. No shrubs or trees of any kind may be planted in the ground at gravesites. Planting of seasonal flowers is allowed only in front of the grave marker and extending no further than 2 feet from the marker.
 - c. No ring stands, baskets, potted plants or vases may be placed on the outside area surrounding the columbarium. This includes the walkway and grassy areas around the columbarium.
 - d. Potted plants are allowed on grave sites for special occasions such as birthdays, the anniversary of death or marriage, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Memorial Day. Unless regularly maintained, these will be removed in seven days. All potted plants are to be removed by October 15.
 - e. Flowers placed on the grave site at the time of internment will be left a minimum of three days (3), maximum of five days (5). It is suggested that potted plants from funerals not be left in the cemetery since they will be discarded.
 - f. Flags are permitted on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, and Fourth of July.
 - g. Artificial flowers, grave blankets and wreaths on graves are allowed starting November 1st through March 31st. Anything left after March 31st will be picked up by cemetery personnel.
 - h. Shepherd hooks, solar or artificial lights, audio or video devices and vigil lights are not permitted in the cemetery.
 - i. Everyone is requested to dispose of rubbish in a proper receptacle provided on the cemetery grounds.
9. Graves are opened and closed by the sexton, under the supervision of the Cemetery Committee. Graves are opened to allow 18 inches of soil on top of the vault. Cremation urns are buried to a depth to allow 18 inches of soil on the top of the urn. All burials must be contained in a vault or a substantial urn. An urn vault may be required for fragile urns as determined by the Cemetery Committee.
10. Lot seeding of a closed grave is done by the sexton as soon as possible after the burial. Grass mowing and snow removal is done under the supervision of the parish maintenance director.

11. The Blessed Trinity Cemetery Committee

- a. The Cemetery Committee will consist of 6 members: 2 from the Administration Committee, 2 from Parish Council, and 2 appointed by the parish pastor. The Cemetery Committee shall appoint a chairman who shall be responsible for scheduling meetings as required.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Cemetery Committee to preserve order and improve and beautify the grounds of the cemetery.
- c. The actions of the Cemetery Committee shall be subject to review by the Parish Council and the Administrative Committee.
- d. The Cemetery Committee must meet at least once per year during the Lenten season. This meeting will be for an annual review of the fee structure, a review of the operational and maintenance performance of the cemetery, and a review of the Rules and Regulations if required.

12. A current copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery of the Blessed Trinity Catholic Church are available in the parish office.

Blessed Trinity Cemetery Maintenance and Perpetual Care Fees

Effective: April 1, 2010

Single grave site for current members	\$1,000
Others eligible	\$1,200
Double grave site for current members	\$2,000
Others eligible	\$2,400
Triple grave site for current members	\$3,000
Others eligible	\$3,600

For more than one burial of cremains in a single site, an administrative fee of \$200 will be charged for each additional burial.

Single niche for current members	\$1,500
Others eligible	\$1,800
Two niches for current members	\$3,000
Others eligible	\$3,600

Cemetery fees are used for continuing care and maintenance and for further development of the cemetery. These fees are payable to Blessed Trinity Catholic Church and will be deposited in the Cemetery Account. Costs for opening and closing graves and niches and the placement of monuments are not included in these fees.

These fees are reviewed on an annual basis.