

Holiday Decorations Schedule

Holiday decorations are permitted up to 7 days prior to the holidays listed below. They will be removed and discarded 3 days after the holiday. Items containing glass are not permitted. Items at gravesites must be placed onto the top of the lawn marker memorial or on top of the base of the upright memorial so as not to interfere with regular ground maintenance. Any holiday item inserted into the ground must be as close to the memorial (headstone) as possible.

- New Year's Day
- Father's Day
- Valentine's Day
- Independence Day

- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Halloween
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas*

* Indicates an exception to the **Holiday Decorations Schedule**. See **Christmas schedule** (below).

Christmas schedule

Christmas flowers and decorations are permitted beginning December 1 and will be removed and discarded as early as January 2 or per the **Monthly Decorations Removal Schedule**.

Monthly Decorations Removal Schedule

Any items that are not compliant with the **Decorations Policy** are subject to removal at any time. Additionally, Catholic Cemeteries makes an intentional effort to remove and discard all non-compliant items on a monthly basis per the schedule below. This effort includes removing all non-compliant items from the gravesites and memorials on the cemetery grounds, the interior and exterior of the mausoleums, and all columbaria.

WEEK 1: 1st-7th

Gate of Heaven (KCK) St. John (KCK)
Mt. Calvary (Olathe) St. John (Lenexa)
Mt. Calvary (Topeka) St. Joseph (Shawnee)

WEEK 2: 8th-14th

Mt. Calvary (KCK) Resurrection (Lenexa)

WEEK 3: 15th-21st

Mt. Calvary (Lansing)

- Catholic Cemeteries reserves the right to remove and discard any items that are not compliant with this policy at any time without notice. For this reason, Catholic Cemeteries recommends not leaving any items of significant emotional or financial value.
- Catholic Cemeteries is not responsible for the care, maintenance or condition of items left at the cemetery and is not obligated to pay for or replace any items that are removed, broken, stolen, etc.
- Any items that do not have a clear home (due to wind or other factors) will be discarded.
- Any items individuals or family members wish to keep must be retrieved according to the timeline outlined in the **Decorations Policy**.
- Any items hindering access to or encroaching upon other gravesites, crypts, niches or columbaria supersede any exceptions expressed in this policy and are subject to immediate removal.



913-371-4040 (Kansas City area)
785-272-0820 (Topeka area)
913-727-1698 (Lansing/Leavenworth area)
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May 2022

Decorations Policy and Monthly Removal Schedule



Dear Catholic Cemeteries Family,

Catholic cemeteries are holy places of prayer and remembrance. The Church honors the custom of families and visitors expressing love and devotion for departed loved ones by decorating graves. However, decorating must not create a safety hazard, impede proper maintenance, infringe on other graves, diminish the Catholic character of the cemetery, or offend others. For these reasons, Catholic Cemeteries of Northeast Kansas employs regulations for the common good and regular cemetery clean-up days.

These regulations are for the mutual protection of all individuals and families. They intend to help

sanctify the memories of those buried within the cemeteries and to create an environment which awakens faith and brings consolation. These rules assist in protecting the cemeteries, creating and preserving their beauty, and ensuring that the interests of all concerned parties are addressed equally.

We thank you for your understanding and for your assistance in addressing this matter and keeping our cemeteries beautiful. May God bless you and your family.

— Catholic Cemeteries of Northeast Kansas

Mausoleums/Columbaria

Fresh flowers

Fresh flowers are not permitted on the interior of the mausoleums at any time and are subject to immediate removal. They are not permitted at any exterior mausoleum crypt, niche or columbarium with the exception identified in the *Holiday Decorations Schedule*.



Artificial flowers

Artificial flowers are permitted on all indoor or outdoor mausoleum crypts, niches and columbaria as part of the Floral Program only. Pricing and details for this program are available in the cemetery offices and on the Catholic Cemeteries website. An exception is made in accordance with the *Holiday Decorations Schedule*.

Items on the ground or in walkways

Items left at any indoor or outdoor mausoleum crypt, niche or columbarium are not permitted. This includes all flowers (fresh or artificial) and all standing decorations regardless of whether or not they are obstructing an interior or exterior walkway. (See *Standing decorations* in the *Cemetery Grounds* section of this policy.) An exception is made in accordance with the *Holiday Decorations Schedule*.

Crypt and niche fronts

Attaching items to any mausoleum crypt, niche or columbarium is not permitted. The use of glue, tape and other adhesives may cause damage to the crypt and niche front surfaces. Options for personalizing a crypt or niche front are available through the cemetery offices. An exception is made in accordance with the *Holiday Decorations Schedule* with the use of scotch tape only.

Cemetery Grounds



Fresh and artificial flowers

Fresh and artificial flowers are permitted year-round provided that they are in good condition and placed in a cemetery-approved vase. Flowers that are dead, faded or out of season will be removed and discarded at the discretion of cemetery personnel.

Vases (cemetery-approved)

Flowers must be placed in vases approved by and installed by Catholic Cemeteries. Vases may be purchased through the cemetery offices. Other types of flower containers are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, glass vases, crockery jars, clay pots or plastic vases of any kind. An exception is made in accordance with the *Holiday Decorations Schedule*.

United States flags

Small U.S. flags are permitted year-round provided that they are in good condition and in a cemetery-approved vase. An exception is made for Veterans Day and Memorial Day when one small flag per veteran may be inserted into the ground at the head of a gravesite up to 7 days prior to the holiday. All flags inserted into the ground will be removed 3 days after the holiday. Removed flags will be handled in accordance with United States Government flag handling guidelines.



Solar lights

Solar LED lights are permitted year-round provided that they are in good condition. They must be the “flickering flame” type, mounted on a metal pole, and have no glass in their construction. Each gravesite may have a maximum of two lights. The lights are permitted at the head of a gravesite only and must be inserted into the ground as close to the memorial (headstone) as possible.

Standing decorations

With the exception of *Solar lights* (see above for regulations) and as stated in the *Holiday Decorations Schedule*, standing decorations of any kind are not permitted. A standing decoration is any item placed onto the gravesite or memorial (headstone). This includes, but is not limited to, potted plants, balloons, pinwheels, candles, toys, stuffed animals, wind chimes, food or beverage items, shepherd’s hooks, banners, photos, handmade items, bird-houses, rocks, crosses, any items containing wire, any items containing glass, and many other items. Adhering items to a memorial is not permitted. No decorations are to be placed at or on a bench, tree, bush, fence, statue, etc., at any time of the year. If you are unsure whether an item is compliant with this policy, please contact the cemetery office before placing the item at a gravesite.

Planting and landscaping

Planting flowers, shrubs, trees, etc., at a gravesite or anywhere on the cemetery grounds is not permitted. This includes altering the state of or creating a landscape bed with mulch, fence, bricks, pavers, etc.

Funeral flowers

Funeral flowers will be removed on the second day following the funeral service, or as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of visitors or to avoid hindrance of cemetery operations.