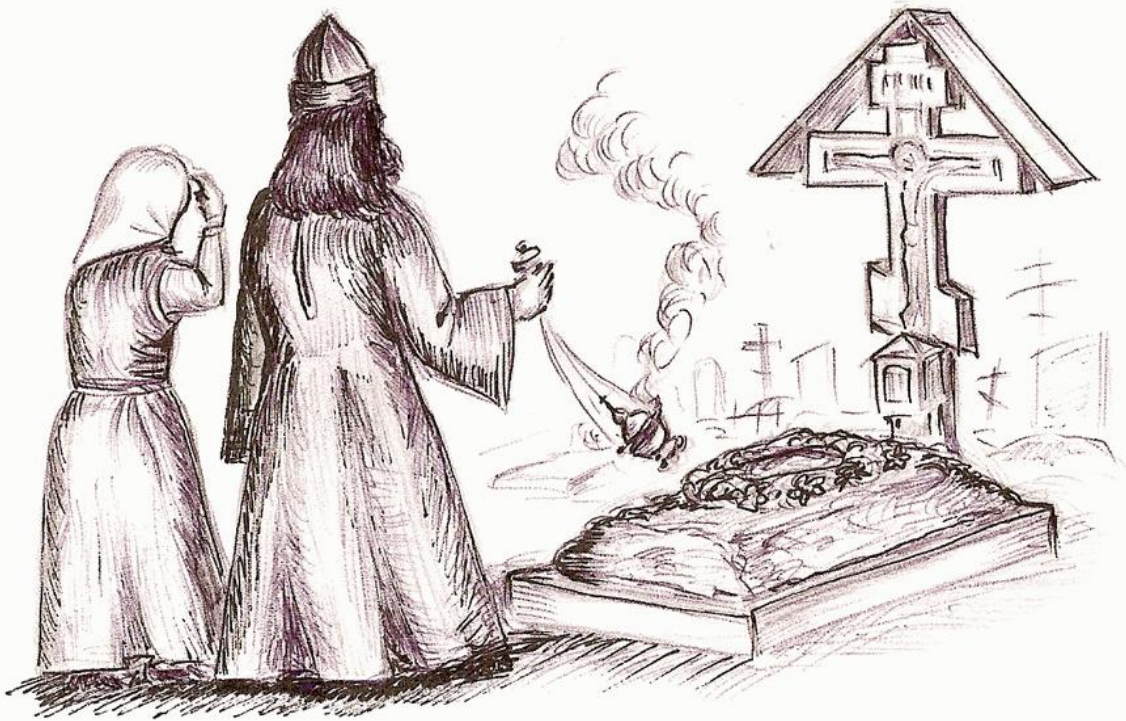


HOLY ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY

ORTHODOX CHURCH



*CEMETERY POLICIES, PROCEDURES,
AND EXPECTATIONS, EFFECTIVE 2018*

HOLY ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church is located at 629 Sunshine Avenue in Central City, Pennsylvania.

The parish cemetery is located on Stone Avenue in Shade Township, Pennsylvania. This Orthodox Christian Cemetery serves the needs of members of the Holy Orthodox Church in Central City, Cairnbrook, Shade Township, and the surrounding areas. Established in 1919, the Cemetery is governed by Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 629 Sunshine Avenue, Central City, Pennsylvania.

A copy of these regulations will be given, at the time of purchase, to every plot holder, and a copy will be kept in the permanent files of the parish.

A. The Privilege of Burial:

1. Practicing Orthodox Christians, in good canonical and financial standing with Holy Assumption Parish, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish (Pine Hill, Pa.), or another parish of the Orthodox Church in America (and with a reasonable family connection to Holy Assumption Parish) may be buried within the cemetery.
2. A non-Orthodox spouse of an Orthodox person married in the Orthodox Church by an Orthodox priest, and their children brought up in the Orthodox faith may be buried within the cemetery.
3. Orthodox clergy are permitted to serve the Burial Service, as well as other Memorial services at the cemetery.
4. Non-Orthodox clergy may serve the Burial service of a non-Orthodox spouse at the cemetery.
5. Non-Orthodox clergy may not officiate at the burial of an Orthodox Christian.
6. Persons who have left the Holy Orthodox Church either by adherence to some other religious body or by excommunication or non-fulfillment of their religious obligations, lose the right to burial within the cemetery.

B. The Cost of a Grave:

1. The price of a single cemetery plot is \$500.00.
2. The price of single cemetery plot for parishioners in good standing of Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, or Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Pine Hill is \$300.00.
3. The price of a grave for eligible non-Orthodox spouses of an Orthodox parishioner in good standing is \$300.00.
4. At the time of burial, all plots are subject to a fee of \$1,500.00 for the excavation of the grave site, backfilling, and subsequent seeding of the plot. This fee is subject to reasonable increases over time.
5. Plots must be paid for in full at the time of purchase. An acknowledging statement (a cemetery easement) must be signed at the time of purchase, stating that the

buyer has read the cemetery regulations and agrees to comply with them. Documentation showing conditional stewardship of the grave shall then be issued. Effective immediately, all burials must be accompanied with proof of "ownership" (an easement) of a plot.

C. The Grave Easement:

1. Grave easements may be handed down through the immediate family, provided that they understand the regulations of privilege of burial remain intact. Cemetery officials must be notified of these transactions, and proper documentation issued.
2. Grave property may not be privately sold to any other Orthodox Christian or non-Orthodox Christian (that is, no transfer of property may occur outside the authority of the parish). If it is no longer wanted or needed, grave property should be sold back to the cemetery at the rate of the original purchase price, or may be donated back to the church.

D. Grave Care and Maintenance:

1. At the time of burial, each grave requires an all-concrete vault.
2. A name plate marker flush with the ground or head stone marker must be placed on each grave or cluster of graves, identifying the grave within one year of burial.
 - a. Stone markers must not exceed 65 inches in total height and must be marked with a Cross. All language and imagery must be appropriate.
 - b. Statues of any kind may not be erected on any grave in the cemetery.
 - c. Coping or ledgers are prohibited.
 - d. Orthodox Crosses made of Cedar, Composite, or other durable material, and not exceeding 9 feet tall, constitutes an acceptable grave marker.
3. Plants shall be restricted to an area within 18 inches of the headstone, and must not impede the reading of the names on the Cross or headstone, nor the mowing of the lawn covering. The cemetery reserves the right to remove, trim, or re-arrange any shrubbery that blocks out the reading or the names on the grave or that is not properly cared for.
4. Trees of any kind may not be planted.
5. Masonic or non-Orthodox religious symbols may not be erected/carved on gravestones.
6. Grave decorations may not be anchored by wires or metal stakes that may damage mowing equipment. The removal of seasonal decorations is not the responsibility of the cemetery but the grave owner.
7. Foundations for headstones are put in by the monument company. The cost, therefore, is determined by the grave, or clusters of graves and must be paid by the family at the time of burial.
8. Monuments (headstones or other markers) are the property of the family. As of January 1, 2021, Holy Assumption Orthodox Church will not pay for maintenance issues with headstones if family members of the deceased are still alive.
9. Cemetery officials may be approached for help in securing a headstone or traditional Orthodox Cross. Recommendations can be provided upon request.

10. Cemetery Care includes the following:
 - a. the filling in, or leveling off of a grave within two months after burial;
 - b. seeding of a grave after the above item is accomplished;
 - c. mowing of the lawn and trimming around the headstone and;
 - d. removing of garbage and debris from the cemetery.
11. Care does not include the trimming of pre-existing shrubs or plants, nor removal of seasonal decorations from the grave, nor watering of plants or flowers on the grave.
12. Free-will offerings for capital improvements and beautification will be solicited on an as-needed basis.
13. The church and cemetery will not be held responsible for vandalism, or for injuries that result from trespassing or improper movement through cemetery property. Vandalism, property damage, malicious trespassing, or littering may be prosecuted through local, civil authorities.

E. Memorial Services:

1. Scheduled Orthodox Memorial Services are held at the cemetery at the Rector's discretion at some point during the Paschal Season, or on the Holy Day of Pentecost. The rector of Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Central City, or the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania (in the absence of an assigned Rector) is available for other services that may be requested at the cemetery.

F. Other Information:

1. To purchase a grave or for more information, contact the rector of Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, 629 Sunshine Avenue, Central City, Pennsylvania, 15926.
2. The Cemetery is considered to be open to pedestrian traffic April 1 to September 30 from 9:00am to 8:00pm and from October 1 to March 31, 9:00am to 5:00pm.
3. In the event the Orthodox Church of Holy Assumption ceases to exist as a functional religious body, a not-for-profit cemetery care association administered by the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania will be in charge of all aspects of cemetery care/maintenance and oversight.

G. Clergy Compensation:

1. As of 2024, the fixed rate for clergy compensation as per the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania is \$200 plus mileage at the Federal rate (currently set at .655¢/mile). These expectations are subject to change based on external factors.
2. Payment is expected prior to any service, and the terms remain applicable regardless of the length of the service.