

Burial Policies

for the
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Cemetery
Clayton, Wisconsin

I. Purpose

The parish cemetery has been established to provide Christian burial for members of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (HTOC). With the approval of the Rector, a relative of a member may be buried in the cemetery. The burial of all other non-members requires approval of the Cemetery Committee (CC).

II. Plots

A Plot includes the area needed to bury one deceased person and the area of the Marker(s). A Plot for an adult is approximately 5' x 10', which includes the space for the grave Marker.

- a. With the consent of the CC, a single Plot may be purchased for the burial of one infant with one parent, or two infants together, should the deaths occur at the same time. Under no other circumstances may two or more persons be buried in the same Plot.
- b. The purchase of a Plot means only that a person has purchased the right to bury the body of one deceased person at a given location in the cemetery. In no way does the purchase of a Plot imply actual ownership of property, real or otherwise.
- c. Plots may be purchased at the time of death or, with the approval of the CC, Plots may be pre-purchased.
- d. If the pre-purchase of a Plot is approved by the CC, a Marker must be installed within 6 months of the time of purchase, or the CC retains the right to cancel the sale and return the payment, minus a 10% fee.
- e. Once a Marker is placed at a Plot, HTOC will not refund any payments.
- f. In consideration for the right of burial in the cemetery, all Plot-owners agree to abide by all Burial Policies and Cemetery Guidelines set by HTOC and/or the CC, including future revisions.

III. Perpetual Care

- a. Perpetual Care means that HTOC will make a reasonable attempt to maintain the general cemetery grounds for as long as the Church remains a viable organization. Perpetual care does not imply care beyond the ability or longevity of HTOC.
- b. Perpetual Care includes: lawn mowing, filling of substantially settled graves, removal of unsightly, unsafe, or damaged items, the trimming and/or removal of trees or shrubbery, and the removal of any item not in accord with the Cemetery Guidelines of HTOC.
- c. Perpetual Care does not include: the watering or caring for any plants; the care of ornamentation or other decorations on a Plot; the maintenance, repair, or replacement of Markers; nor the care for individual Plots beyond the filling of substantially settled graves.

IV. Burial Charges

Burial Charges are set annually by HTOC.

V. Vaults

A concrete vault is preferred by HTOC for the proper maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

- a. A vault is required for the burial of any person who has been embalmed.
- b. A person may elect to be buried without a vault provided:
 1. The body has not been embalmed.
 2. The grave is dug to a depth of 6' to insure the remains are below the frost-line, with any increased digging cost being paid by the family of the deceased.
 3. The additional Vaultless Burial Fee, set by HTOC, is paid at the time of death. This fee covers future backfilling needed for additional settling in a vaultless grave.

VI. Markers

A Marker is any monument, head-stone, foot-stone, or other permanent indicator that marks a plot and identifies the person buried there.

- a. Every Plot must have at least one Marker. Several Plots may share one Marker provided the name of each person is engraved on a Marker.
- b. All Markers must fit within the bounds of the Plot(s) they mark.
- c. The composition of at least one Marker for each Plot must be of a durable material. (For example, a Plot with a main monument of wood must then have a foot-marker of stone.)
- d. The use of trees, bushes, or shrubs as a Marker is prohibited.
- e. HTOC reserves the right to remove, repair, or replace damaged, unsafe, or unsightly Markers without notice.
- f. See the Cemetery Guidelines for additional information concerning the area around Markers.

VII. Cremation

- a. The Orthodox Church prefers a person be buried whole, that is, without cremation. Nonetheless, HTOC will accept cremated remains for burial provided full Burial Charges are applied and all Burial Policies are followed (including II.a), the single exception being that a vault is not required.
- b. Under no circumstances are cremated remains to be deposited, spread, or otherwise placed anywhere on HTOC grounds except in accordance with all of the above Burial Policies.

VIII. Policies

- a. The CC retains the right to make decisions in situations not covered by these Policies.
- b. These Burial Policies may be changed at any time by the CC.

Adopted **August 26, 2012**