



# **ST ANTHONY THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH**

## **CEMETERY POLICIES**

**A HANDBOOK FOR BLESSED INTERMENT IN THE  
PARISH CEMETERY  
OF THOSE FALLEN ASLEEP IN CHRIST**

**66 ST ANTHONY WAY BOZEMAN, MONTANA**

Updated May 2026

“Let not your heart be troubled;  
you believe in God, believe also in Me.

In my Father’s house are many mansions;  
if it were not so, I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go to prepare a place for you,  
I will come again and receive you to Myself;  
that where I am, you may be also.”

John 14:1-3

Memory Eternal!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- I. Vision (page 4)
  - A. Cemetery Policy
  - B. Contact List of Cemetery Committee Members
  
- II. Burial Guidelines (page 5)
  - A. Cemetery Use
  - B. Who may be Buried Here?
  - C. Cemetery Ledger Book and Placement of Graves
  - D. Cost for a Right of Burial
  - E. Burial Vaults
  - F. Coffins
  - G. The Burial
  - H. Burial Placement
  
- III. Headstones (page 8)
  - A. Submitting Plans for Approval
  - B. Design
  - C. Dimensions
  - D. Material
  - E. Foundation for Headstone
  - F. Installation
  
- IV. Care of Grave Plots (page 10)
  - A. Temporary Care for First Year
  - B. Perpetual Care
  - C. Additional Decorations
  - D. Cemetery Responsibilities
  - E. Landscaping

## VISION

The vision for St Anthony The Great Orthodox Cemetery is to maintain a peaceful setting for the burial of Orthodox parishioners, for liturgical memorial services, and for prayerful visits from family and friends. This goal includes providing a perpetual Orthodox Christian burial place for as many Orthodox Christians as possible within a peaceful space.

### CEMETERY POLICY

Cemetery Policy (called Policy) are recommended by the Cemetery Committee and approved by the St Anthony Parish Council (called Council). The Cemetery Chair Head (called Cemetery Chair) communicates with families about Policy. All references to Cemetery are for the St Anthony Orthodox Church Cemetery at 66 St Anthony Way, Bozeman, MT.

The St Anthony Parish Priest (referred to as the Priest) and the Cemetery Chair communicate about anything that is unusual with regards to Policy. All Cemetery activities and Headstone designs are approved by the Priest and the Cemetery Chair, following the stated guidelines.

The Cemetery Committee will review and update the Policy including the cost to purchase a Right to Burial every 3 years, beginning May 2026. The Council will approve the updated Policy before any changes are enacted. Policies and/or the cost to purchase a Right to Burial may be updated by the Cemetery Committee and approved by the Council at any time, if needed.

Any organization and/or individual who desires to use the Cemetery will abide by the full sum of the current Policy. The organization and/or individual is responsible to ensure that all persons involved are following the most recent Policy.

The Policy is available two ways: online or by contacting the Cemetery Chair (or a Cemetery Committee Member).

### CONTACT LIST OF CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Cemetery Committee Members include the Priest, the Warden, the Cemetery Chair and other Members as nominated by the Priest and approved by the Council.

Parish Priest: Father David—406-600-7409

Cemetery Chair Head: Greg Maggard—406-595-1367

Warden: Adam Thuen—406-599-5856

Committee Member: Rachael Hicks

# **BURIAL GUIDELINES**

## **CEMETERY USE**

The Cemetery grounds are devoted to the burial of loved ones and their peaceful resting place; the conduct of all visitors should characterize this sacred place.

The Cemetery is open for visiting each day from half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset.

## **WHO MAY BE BURIED HERE?**

The Right to Burial at St Anthony Cemetery is reserved for baptized members of St Anthony Orthodox Church in Bozeman, Montana, who are communing members.

Those who fall into these two categories must have approval of the Cemetery Committee to be buried here:

- a. non-Orthodox Christian spouses of St Anthony Orthodox Church current members
- b. communing Orthodox Christians with extenuating circumstances and/or compelling reasons who wish to be buried in St Anthony's Cemetery can appeal to the Cemetery Committee.

Two common burial practices are not accepted parts of the Orthodox tradition: cremation and embalment. Please follow these links for a further discussion:

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/christianending/cremation/>

<https://www.oca.org/questions/deathfunerals/cremation>

<https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/can-orthodox-christians-be-cremated/>

Plots for unbaptized, miscarried babies of mothers at St Anthony are located in a designated Child Section. The specifics of this burial section are still being discussed, with a final decision coming. Please see a Committee Member for further explanation.

## **CEMETERY LEDGER BOOK AND PLACEMENT OF GRAVES**

When a parishioner purchases a Right of Burial, the Cemetery Chair decides the placement of the gravesite. The Cemetery Chair maintains a site map of the Cemetery and coordinates with a surveyor for the correct placement of the grave.

The Cemetery Chair is the keeper of the Cemetery Deed Book and the Cemetery Death Register Book, which are necessary to maintain accurate records of who is buried in the precise plots and who has purchased a Right to Burial in a precise plot. The Cemetery Deed Book is in

addition to both the St Anthony Metrical Book (kept by the Priest) and the digital survey log (kept by the parish land surveyor).

### COST TO PURCHASE A RIGHT OF BURIAL

St Anthony Orthodox Church remains the sole owner of the Cemetery property. A Right of Burial is sold to individuals. Once the cost to purchase a Right to Burial is paid in full, the member will receive a Certificate of Deed. Payment should be arranged with the Cemetery Chair. Checks should be written to St Anthony Orthodox Church (memo note: Cemetery Fund), and the St Anthony bookkeeper will record the payment.

The cost to purchase a Right of Burial in the St Anthony Cemetery is \$1500.

The cost to purchase a Right of Burial for an infant or young child (not older than 2 years) is \$500. Burial cost for a miscarried baby is \$0 in the designated area.

This cost includes all of the following expenses: excavation, St Anthony Orthodox Church burial services, use of parish hall for memorial service, a temporary gravesite marker, and perpetual care of the gravesite.

This cost does not include the Headstone or its installation. Neither does the cost include the rental of a tent (if approved by the Cemetery Committee) for the memorial service or its setup, or any funeral home expenses outside the purview of St Anthony Orthodox Church.

Payment for a Right of Burial is required within one month of interment.

A payment plan for a Right to Burial is available only for the families who have experienced a sudden and unexpected death. They should communicate with the Cemetery Chair about their desire to pay the cost for the Right to Burial in a payment plan as agreed upon by the Cemetery Chair.

St Anthony Orthodox Church is not required by the State of Montana to file Right of Burial records with the County Clerk and Recorder. Therefore, the Cemetery Committee will not file these records.

Transfer of a Right to Burial to another person is not permitted. No refunds will be issued for a Right to Burial.

### BURIAL VAULTS

A vault is not required, but is helpful for ground stability.

## COFFINS

All interments will be made in hard containers (e.g., no burial in only linen, paper, wicker, cardboard wraps, etc.).

Wood coffins are recommended. The Cemetery Committee has a list of local craftsmen who can be employed to build a wood coffin.

## THE BURIAL

A notice to the Cemetery Chair of at least 48 hours must be provided to insure proper preparation of the gravesite and arrangements for services.

All funeral services are conducted by the Priest of St Anthony Orthodox Church, unless prior approval is granted by the Priest.

Religious ceremonies other than those of the Orthodox Church are not permitted in the Cemetery without permission of the Priest.

Burials will be single depth, as allowed by the underground, water table level.

In the event of two burials in one plot, only one marker or stone is allowed, inscribed with the information of both persons who are buried.

The family will arrange with the Priest for the timing of the services and for the use of the Parish Hall following the burial, if so desired.

Normal procedure is for the Cemetery Chair to contact a preapproved excavator to open a gravesite. The cost of excavation is part of the purchase price of the Right of Burial. The purchase price is not reduced if the family uses their own excavator.

## BURIAL PLACEMENT

All remains buried in the cemetery will lie facing east (the head on the west side of the plot; the feet on the east side of the plot).

The Headstone will, therefore, be placed at the head (the west end of the grave plot).

## HEADSTONES

The Monument or Headstone is simply referred to as the Headstone.

The Headstone must be installed within one year from the interment.

A temporary marker identifying the interred will be placed by the Warden on the gravesite within one month of burial.

### SUBMITTING PLANS FOR APPROVAL

All plans for Headstones must be submitted with the approved form to the Cemetery Chair for permission prior to installation. The Cemetery Chair will confirm approval by the Priest. [Please follow this link for the Headstone application.](#)

The plans should include drawings of the proposed Headstones with clearly labeled dimensional measurements, material composition, the headstone company and the company performing the installation.

### HEADSTONE DESIGN

As stated above, the Headstone design must be submitted and approved prior to installation by the Cemetery Chair.

The Cemetery Chair communicates with the Priest about Headstone designs.

To preserve the character of the Cemetery, all Headstones must either be made in the form of an Orthodox cross or include an engraved image of a cross in traditional Orthodox Christian style. For inscribing, only an Orthodox cross or an approved Orthodox symbol is permitted on the Headstone. If not part of the Orthodox tradition, other cross designs and other symbols, whether Christian or secular, are not allowed.

[See the approved illustrations at this link.](#)

Bible references and/or brief verses and other texts are permitted on the Headstones after approval by the Cemetery Committee.

Headstones must be upright, beveled or slanted. No flat or ground-level Headstones are allowed. [See illustrations.](#) These examples depicted are to indicate headstone shapes only, not text, symbols, or inscriptions.

Examples of Upright Headstones: [click here.](#)

Examples of Beveled Headstones: [click here.](#)

Examples of Slanted Headstones: [click here.](#)

Each Headstone must have a suitable foundation which is approved by the Cemetery Chair. See the Foundation guidelines below.

Only one Headstone per grave plot.

The front side (which must face east) and the back side (facing west) of the Headstone may both be inscribed. At a minimum, the front side must be inscribed with the person's name and dates of birth and death.

### HEADSTONE DIMENSIONS

The Headstone is not to exceed 48 inches in height, 36 inches in width (from left to right), and 8 inches in thickness.

For a side by side, double grave (two adjoining plots), a single grave Headstone may be used, centered across both plots, but must not exceed 6 ft (72 inches) in width.

### HEADSTONE MATERIAL

The Headstone must be of stone or non-ferrous metal (i.e. bronze) only.

The use of wood (except for the temporary cross marker while awaiting the permanent Headstone), ferrous metal, concrete, glass, wire, or plastic is not permitted as a permanent grave Headstone.

### FOUNDATION FOR THE HEADSTONE

All Headstones must have a suitable foundation of cement which is the full size of the base stone in length and width. This expense is the family's expense.

The Foundation must meet the recommendation of the Headstone company and be at least 4 inches in depth (thickness).

The Foundation and the timing of its installation must be approved by the Cemetery Chair and the Warden.

### HEADSTONE INSTALLATION DETAILS

The family of the reposed will make arrangements with the Headstone company for installation.

Scheduling of Headstone installation must be verified by the Cemetery Chair and the Warden.

No installation will be permitted without prior payment in full for the grave plot.

No installation will be permitted without written approval from the Cemetery Chair for the Headstone design. See “Submitting Plans...” on page 8 for the link to the Headstone application.

Temporary crosses will be provided by St Anthony Orthodox Church to mark a plot while awaiting the permanent Headstone. These temporary crosses remain the property of St Anthony Orthodox Church.

## **CARE OF GRAVE PLOTS**

### TEMPORARY CARE

For the first year following the funeral, families are welcome to help with the maintenance of the grave plot. They may plant wildflowers or annual flowers over the fresh dirt. All these activities must be approved by the Warden.

Please expect that the Warden, during the first year after the burial, will cover and level the gravesite, place a temporary grave marker, and seed the plot with grass. Establishing grass is a process: often several sessions of releveling (due to ground settling) are needed, seeding and reseeding are possible in the spring and the fall, and disturbed ground will sprout an abundance of weeds in the first year.

No borders or fencing of any kind are permitted on any grave plots.

No materials will be deposited on the surface of the grave plot (wood chips, stones, gravel, glass, bricks, etc.) except what is provided by the Warden. Family members may not move soil or seed grass or flowers without approval from the Warden.

### PERPETUAL CARE

The Warden of St Anthony Orthodox Church will maintain the gravesites. Please see the Perpetual Care Section.

### ADDITIONAL DECORATIONS

Orthodox vigil lamps are allowed only if they are enclosed and battery or solar powered.

No live flames are allowed under any circumstances due to fire danger.

No markers, identifiers, artificial flowers, or foliage are permitted on the grave plots besides the approved Headstone, with the following exceptions:

Vases for flowers attached to the headstone or sunk below the surface of the ground so as not to interfere with maintenance activities are allowed. No pottery or glass is allowed.

Fresh cut flowers may be placed adjacent to the Headstone in temporary containers at any time, with the express understanding that the flowers and containers may be removed without notice by the Cemetery for reasons which include scheduled mowing of grass, deterioration of flowers, and other funerals. The Parish is not liable for the loss or damage of containers.

Small flags are allowed, one or two per grave, on Memorial Day weekend and Veterans' Day. They must be removed after the holiday.

### CEMETERY RESPONSIBILITIES

Perpetual care means that the general preservation of the plots and grounds, Cemetery boundaries, and any structures will be reasonably cared for as a Cemetery grounds forever.

The Warden and Cemetery Committee of St Anthony Orthodox Church will maintain the Cemetery as they have the ultimate responsibility for upkeep.

This care includes the following:

1. Maintain any roads or paths within the Cemetery;
2. Build and repair boundary fence or boundary designations;
3. Plant and prune all trees, shrubs and other Cemetery landscaping;
4. Keep tools designated for Cemetery-only use in working condition;
5. Supply topsoil to fill in holes or level the gravesites, as needed;
6. Seed the gravesites with grass;
7. Minimal watering as discussed by the Cemetery Committee, Priest and Parish Council;
8. Mow the lawn, control weeds, and trim around the Headstones;
9. Place temporary grave crosses on fresh graves;
10. Remove dried flowers, damaged flower pots, memorabilia, garbage and debris from the cemetery;
11. Place any necessary signs.

St. Anthony Orthodox Church and Cemetery, the Warden, St. Anthony employees and volunteers will exercise due care in the upkeep of the cemetery. They are not responsible for loss or damage to Graves, Headstones, or decorations. This list includes but is not limited to the following:

Loss or damage to flowers, sod, vases, or other temporary decorations, even if allowed by this Policy,

Loss or damage to Graves or gravesite Headstones due to vandalism or theft;

Loss or damage to Graves or gravesite Headstones due natural disasters or weather events.

The Cemetery is not responsible for the upkeep of Headstones. The Cemetery does not financially insure the Headstones inside the Cemetery.

### CEMETERY LANDSCAPING

Many parts of the Cemetery landscaping are not completed and will not be completed until the St. Anthony Temple is built. At that time, the Cemetery Committee will revisit the Cemetery landscaping, devise a plan and submit the landscape design to the Parish Council.

During the process of developing the Cemetery landscaping, any contractor working on Cemetery grounds must be approved by the Council.

Contractors and/or their employees are not permitted to work on the Cemetery grounds on any day before dawn or after dusk. Neither may they conduct work on Sundays or major Orthodox feast days. All contractors will schedule their work with the Cemetery Chair and the Warden.