



**ST TERESA OF AVILA** \_\_\_\_\_

# Cemetery & Mausoleum

\_\_\_\_\_ 136 Passaic Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901

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## Cemetery & Mausoleum

Our cemetery gates and mausoleum doors are open 7 days a week, including holidays, from 9 am to 4 pm.

## Sales Office

Monday - Thursday  
10 am to 3 pm  
Please contact the mausoleum office for an appointment.

## Contact

### MAUSOLEUM

908-277-3741  
cemetery@stteresaavila.org  
fax: 908-277-2914

### CEMETERY

908-598-9426



## ST TERESA OF AVILA

306 Morris Avenue, Summit, New Jersey 07901

P: 908.277.3700

## Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. This booklet provides you with information regarding the Cemetery and Mausoleum. In conjunction with what is required by the Archdiocese, our cemetery seeks to continue its long-standing tradition of providing families with dignified Catholic interments that are consistent with best practices, policies, and procedures that you can read more about herein.

St Teresa of Avila Cemetery was established in 1889 to provide a resting place for all of our parish's loved ones and has continued for nearly a century and a half. Our Mausoleum was dedicated in 1994 to provide our Catholic families with an alternative option to in-ground burial.

Our cemetery and mausoleum provides prayerful places for all to visit and mourn, heal, and be at peace with those who have gone before us. As Jesus is there in times of death in the Gospels, He brings those who have passed back to life. For us Catholics, we believe that those who have died now have life with Him, and here at the cemetery and mausoleum, we can be consoled by God's presence among us.

As always, we pray for our deceased family members, loved ones, and friends and know that they are still with us.

Blessings upon you and your family,

**Monsignor Robert S Meyer**  
Pastor



## CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

The long-standing funeral and cemetery tradition of the Catholic church flows logically out of fundamental tenets of the Catholic faith, ie:

- ◀ **The dignity of each human person.**
- ◀ **The importance of baptism into the faith.**
- ◀ **The reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- ◀ **The promise of Jesus that one day we will also share eternal life.**
- ◀ **The value and need to pray for the dead.**
- ◀ **The celebration of the Eucharist as the great act of memory and thanksgiving for redemption.**

Death is rightly celebrated at the parish church, the place of Baptism and Eucharist, the place where the bereaved must find comfort in the believing community and strength in the Eucharist that is celebrated for them on behalf of their deceased relative or friend.

In the context of these faith realities, death and burial are experienced and must be celebrated. The church provides the Order of Christian Funerals with three distinct elements as the proper and fitting way for the death of a Catholic to be observed.

The church offers the Vigil, usually observed as a wake for the deceased in the funeral home. The Mass of Christian Burial is celebrated for the deceased in the company of family, friends and the parish community at the parish church. Following the celebration of the funeral liturgy, it is proper that the Committal Rite and Farewell take place in a Catholic cemetery.

## CEMETERY PROGRAM

A Catholic cemetery is by definition a sacred space. The church offers it to help people face the hard reality of death within the context of the promise of eternal life. The church owns and operates cemeteries for the common good.

By encouraging frequent visits of families and friends of the deceased, the church seeks to foster an environment where love is remembered, hope rekindled and faith awakened and strengthened. This brochure explains some of the Rules & Regulations the cemetery has adopted to:

- ◀ **Ensure that the cemetery is respected as a sacred space;**
- ◀ **Provide a well-maintained, healing and inviting space for bereaved families and friends;**
- ◀ **Protect the rights and the privileges of the deceased, all families using the cemetery and those having loved ones buried here;**
- ◀ **Provide an environment that is safe and secure for those who visit the cemetery as well as those who work within it.**

A comprehensive set of Rules & Regulations govern the cemetery. The Certificate that is issued at the time of purchase contains excerpts from the Rules that have been adopted both for good order and to manifest the church's beliefs and teachings. All are subject to revision from time to time.

The church's practice of maintaining cemeteries flows from theology and history. At death we focus on Baptism and the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, nourished at the Eucharistic Table. When we visit the graves or crypts of our loved ones, we experience that same Eucharistic dynamic. Oftentimes we recognize the need for reconciliation with our beloved dead.

Rooted in that recognition, we can then remember our beloved and give thanks for the life we shared. Our cemetery manifests the "now/not yet" status of the Kingdom of God. We are now a people of history, a people redeemed but still in pain and sorrow. In the future, with both the general and particular judgment, we will experience the promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom. This is why we pray as Jesus did, "thy Kingdom come..."

We are a people who come to our cemetery to be reminded of our history, our Catholic beliefs and practices and our community. We, as a community, profess our beliefs and value system, even in the silence of the grave.

In our Catholic cemetery, our deceased relatives and friends are laid to rest among members of the same faith community who preceded into eternal life and profess the same sure conviction that one day the body will be reunited with the soul in glory to be with the Risen Lord. Then the Kingdom of God will be fully realized.





## PRE-NEED PLANNING

At the time of a death in a family, there are many obligations that fall upon the survivors. Our Cemetery Program highly recommends that all families consider the purchase of grave, crypt or niche spaces in advance of immediate needs. This allows the time surrounding a death to be devoted to family members supporting one another and proper planning for the liturgical rites that will celebrate the deceased's movement to eternal life.

Contact with our cemetery/mausoleum office will begin the flow of information about burial alternatives, associated costs and provide answers to questions that can help reduce the stress often associated with burial arrangements.

## BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

For Catholics, burial in a Catholic cemetery is a baptismal right. For those who do not possess this right, it is a privilege. The Catholic cemetery is intended for the interment of Catholics, catechumens and members of their families who have this right to Christian burial according to the rules of the Roman Catholic Church. Questions concerning the burial of a non-Catholic member of a certificate-holder's family should be referred to the pastor. Burial arrangements are typically facilitated through the funeral home selected by the family. The Certificate of the Right of Interment is the governing cemetery document.

When space on an existing lot is available and the certificate holder is deceased and has not specifically passed the certificate rights through a will, a legal order of succession is followed. The succession begins with the surviving spouse and the owner's children. In the absence of both, then rights pass to the owner's parents. If no parents are living, then the succession passes to the owner's brothers and sisters equally, then to the owner's closest next of kin. Further detail can be found in the Archdiocese Official Cemetery Rules & Regulations.

An interment space is used for ground burial, crypt entombment or niche inurnment. For new selections, the cemetery/mausoleum staff can explain the various available alternatives. When a family wishes to include cremated remains in a plot or mausoleum crypt space, the number of burials allowed in the particular space is determined by space availability, memorialization capability and the discretion of cemetery management. It is expected that all Catholic committals will be celebrated by a priest, deacon or pastoral minister.

At the time of interment, cemetery management reserves the right to limit the number of floral tributes. Except as specified, no flowers are permitted inside the mausoleum. Flowers placed on a grave at the time of burial will remain at the discretion of management and the cemetery cannot ensure how long these items will remain in place.

## MEMORIALIZATION

Everyone deserves to be remembered by name. Since the cemetery protects the common good of all certificate-holders and uses the cemetery to teach Catholic belief, memorialization is carefully regulated.

Placement of monuments or the additions or changes of any inscriptions thereon must be authorized by the legitimate certificate holder and approved by cemetery management.

Death date, season of the year and the family's first contact with a monument dealer impact when a memorial can be placed. Prior to the manufacture of any memorial, monument companies must receive cemetery approval for material, design, size and any inscriptions or artwork. Every memorial must include a cross, the Catholic sign of redemption. All memorial work must meet established cemetery standards, as provided by cemetery management.

Foundation and permit fees must be collected by cemetery management prior to any installation or alterations of memorials. Required structural repairs to any monument are the responsibility of the deed holder or his designee. Arrangements for repairs must be made with an authorized monument dealer and coordinated with cemetery management.

## CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM DECORATIONS

We honor the tradition of visitors expressing their love and devotion by decorating graves where loved ones are buried. Catholic practice is to adorn burial spaces with flowers. Decorating, however, must be done in a way that does not create a safety hazard; impede proper maintenance; infringe on other graves; diminish the Catholic character of the cemetery or offend others.

To maintain a place of lasting beauty and to accommodate the many families who share the Right of Interment in our cemetery, the following summary of uniform and practical policies have been adopted:

- ◀ Wreaths and artificial decorations may be placed at the head of a grave in the non-growing season of October 15 – April 1.
- ◀ Artificial decorations are not permitted during the growing season (April 1 – October 15) as metal backing damages mowers and equipment.
- ◀ A limit of one decoration to a grave is recommended.
- ◀ Decorations to be saved should be removed promptly by the family. Christmas greens not removed by February 1 and Easter decorations not removed by May 1 will be removed by cemetery staff.
- ◀ Annual plants may only be placed in a 12" bed directly in front of the memorial and must not exceed the width of the memorial. The family should provide regular care for all their plantings.
- ◀ Bushes and evergreens are not permitted in the grave space. Such plantings will be removed.
- ◀ Jars, vases, bottles, glass and crockery are not permitted. These items are subject to damage and/or freezing and are dangerous when broken.
- ◀ Statuary, vigil lights and other ornaments are not permitted.
- ◀ Outlining a grave or memorial with metal or plastic frames, stones or crushed stone is not permitted. These items are destructive to mowers and equipment and can cause serious injury if hurled by mower blades.
- ◀ The use of cemetery rubbish containers is appreciated.
- ◀ The grave space of a loved one is precious and cherished. Parking, therefore, is restricted to the roadway.
- ◀ Safety and moderation are the norms. No standing water is allowed. Flowers that are placed in urns, pots or self-draining vases should be dignified and tasteful. Items affixed to the outside of containers or to monuments will be removed.
- ◀ Flowers, other decorations and items are not permitted in and around the perimeter of the mausoleum. Items left will be removed by the staff.
- ◀ The cemetery reserves the right to remove any decorations which become unsightly, damaged or encroach the adjoining space or which are not consistent with our uniform plan.

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Since the cemetery is open to the public, the staff cannot be responsible for any damage to or disappearance of decorations.

These guidelines are only effective if observed by both visitors and staff.

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## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

St Teresa of Avila is committed to maintaining its cemetery in a fashion that reflects the church's teachings about the dignity of every human person. A Cemetery Endowment Fund is maintained to guarantee this commitment.

This endowment fund ensures that responsible staff will be available to maintain the cemetery to an established standard. Staff responsibilities include regular mowing of grass, trimming around monuments and memorials and weed control.

The fund also enables the cemetery to sod or seed new graves, repair older graves and repair monument foundations if and when needed. For reasons of uniform beauty as well as safety and insurance concerns, only employees may cut, sod or add chemicals to the landscape.

**Shrubbery:** When shrubbery overshadows names on monuments, infringes adjoining graves or interferes with cemetery operations, it is removed without notice. Families are urged to monitor items and personally remove or request cemetery management to remove any offending growths.

**Water:** During all but freezing months, water outlets provided in the cemetery enable families to tend to flowers and plants placed on graves. Outlets are not intended for lawn sprinkling devices. When found, these will be removed. In compliance with New Jersey Health Statute 26: 3B-6, standing water is not permitted in the cemetery.

**Refuse:** Because of recycle and disposal challenges, we are a "carry-in/carry-out" facility. However, a number of receptacles are available at various locations throughout the cemetery for limited use. Trash should never be abandoned within the cemetery or on roadways.

**American Flags:** Small flags are permitted on individual graves from Memorial Day through Flag Day and Veterans Day. Veterans Day flags may be placed 3 days prior to the holiday and remain one week after the holiday. All flags must be presentable and will be removed and disposed of according to the norms of the Quartermaster General of the United States Army. Shaft-type veteran and fraternal organization emblems are not permitted as flag holders.

# Clean-Up Schedules

## Regular Maintenance:

Items that are considered unsightly, broken or damaged are removed by the cemetery staff as a matter of routine. It is recommended that families return to their gravesite or mausoleum space after a reasonable time has elapsed to retrieve/discard any items no longer considered attractive.



## Cemetery General Clean-Up:

Christmas grave blankets and other remembrances are removed by February 1. Easter Palm and other Easter remembrances are removed by May 1. Flags and other holiday remembrances are removed within a reasonable time frame to allow for routine lawn care by our staff.



## Decorations Not Complying With Rules:

Cemetery staff are responsible for maintaining the beauty and safety of the cemetery. As instructed by the Rules and Regulations and for the safety of all who visit the cemetery, they are expected to remove decorations which are not in compliance.



## Wind and Theft:

Decorations may also be removed by either of these causes. The cemetery does not assume liability for decorations. When items are blown about, the cemetery staff has no choice but to dispose of them as replacement at specific sites is not possible.



## PARISH HISTORY

- ◀ The first record of the establishment of St Teresa of Avila parish is June 8, 1863, on land donated by George and Mary Ann Manley to Bishop Bayley of the Diocese of Newark.
- ◀ The cornerstone for a tiny stone church was laid in 1863. St Teresa of Avila parish was officially incorporated in 1874 with Rev W M Wigger, later Bishop of Newark, its first resident pastor.
- ◀ The construction of the second church of St Teresa of Avila began with the cornerstone laying ceremony in 1886. The original little stone church was converted to serve as its sacristy.
- ◀ Rev Giovanni Vassallo served as pastor for the next thirty years.
- ◀ St Teresa Cemetery was dedicated and consecrated in 1889. The first burial recorded was on September 6, 1889. Prior to that, St Teresa parishioners were buried in neighboring parish cemeteries.
- ◀ The laying of the cornerstone for the third and present church took place in 1924 with Rev Michael J Glennon as pastor. At that time, the second church was moved across the street and is now known as Memorial Hall.
- ◀ The present rectory was erected and dedicated in 1961 under the pastorate of Rev George T Smith.
- ◀ Our mausoleum was built on the parish cemetery grounds in 1994 and dedicated on the feast of St Teresa of Avila on October 15 with Pastor, Monsignor Anthony F Bogdziewicz officiating.
- ◀ In June, 1966, Rev Msgr Robert E Harahan was appointed Pastor. He undertook a program of extensive renovations of our historic church; Memorial Hall and school building as well as major changes on the campus grounds.
- ◀ Father Brian Plate joined the parish as Pastor in June, 2008.
- ◀ Msgr Robert S Meyer was appointed Pastor in October, 2017.

*St Teresa of Avila's philosophy of life was penned in a Breviary found after her death:*

<b>*Be thou by naught perturbed</b>	<b>Be patient and at last</b>
<b>Of naught afraid</b>	<b>Thou shalt of all fulfillment find</b>
<b>For all things pass</b>	<b>Hold God</b>
<b>Save God</b>	<b>And naught shall fail thee</b>
<b>Who does not change</b>	<b>For He Alone is All.*</b>



## Who is St Teresa of Avila?

Born in Avila, Spain on March 28, 1515, St Teresa was one of ten children born to a local merchant and his second wife. She was a delightful human being who loved to dance to the castanets and played a fairly good game of chess. She also struggled with problems and conflicts which she faced and resolved from early childhood to adulthood.

Teresa was entrusted to the care of Augustinian nuns in her early teens and in 1538 joined the Carmelite Order. She spent a number of relatively average years in the convent. It was here that she suffered a severe illness that left her legs paralyzed for three years and where she experienced a vision of the sorely wounded Christ. This changed her life forever.

From 1560 until her death in 1582 she dedicated herself to the reformation of her order. She struggled to establish and broaden the movement of "shoeless" Carmelites. St Teresa left many new convents to posterity.

A born writer, she has left a significant legacy of writings which established benchmarks in the history of Christian mysticism.

## Catholic Cemetery Conference Creed

*We acknowledge that the Catholic cemetery is established to carry out the sacred religious function of the burial and care for the resting places of the deceased.*

*We accept the responsibility of implementing this religious function under the direction and supervision of the local Church authority.*

*We believe in and are firmly committed to the teachings and rich tradition of the Catholic Church with regard to the deceased and the sacredness of the cemeteries in which their bodies rest.*

*We recognize the deep religious significance of the Corporal Work of Mercy involved in the burial of the dead and reverence for the deceased.*

*We are dedicated to the respectful care of the people of God who even in death remain a part of the whole Christian community.*

*We are committed to encouraging Catholic prayer and devotion for our deceased brothers and sisters especially in our cemeteries.*

*We will promote efforts to strengthen and enhance Catholic teachings that relate to death, burial and reverence for the faithful departed.*

*We will proclaim through our words, work and example the sacredness of the human body, belief in the Resurrection and the Christian virtue of hope.*

### Prayer For the Deceased:

*Almighty God and Father,  
it is our certain faith that your Son,  
who died on the cross, was raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep,  
grant that through this mystery  
your servant: \_\_\_\_\_  
who has gone to rest in Christ,  
may share in the joy of His Resurrection.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

### Prayer For The Grieving:

*Father of mercies and God of all consolation,  
you pursue us with an untiring love  
and dispel the shadow of death  
with the bright dawn of life.  
Comfort us in our sorrow.  
Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord,  
and lift us from the depths of grief  
into the peace and light of your presence,  
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by dying has destroyed our death,  
and by rising has restored our life.  
Enable us therefore to press on toward Him,  
so that, after our earthly course is run,  
He may reunite us with those we love,  
when every tear will be wiped away.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

## FAMILY GRAVE / CRYPT / NICHE LOCATIONS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_ Block/section/plot

Mausoleum \_\_\_\_\_ Section/tier/crypt/niche number

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*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen.*





## **St Teresa of Avila Cemetery & Mausoleum**

136 Passaic Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901

Cemetery: 908-598-9426

Mausoleum: 908-277-3741