

WINTER AND INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND PRIORITIES

Cemeteries of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish January 2019

St. Mary's Cemetery, Geneseo, NY and St. Patrick's Cemetery, Mt. Morris, NY

PRIORITY – Safety is our primary concern.

- A) Whenever possible, please refrain from visiting the Cemetery when snow and or ice cover the ground or roadway in the cemetery as The Cemetery (refers here and throughout the document to both St. Mary's and St. Patrick's cemetery individually and collectively) will not be responsible for injuries sustained during inclement weather conditions.
- B) Due to the inherent nature of plowed roadways remaining slippery and to terrain of uneven ground, hidden stones and many trees, the Cemetery can be treacherous when snow and ice accumulate and/or high winds prevail.

Objective -The Cemetery seeks to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective winter maintenance and snow removal of the entrances and roadways of The Cemetery property for the safety and benefit of visitors and staff.

Procedure -The above stated objective is best achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures and tasks outlined in Part B of this policy: Winter Operations and Inclement Weather/Snow Removal Procedures of The Cemetery.

Level of Service- Due to the nature of the materials used for the entrance and roadways in our cemeteries it is not possible to maintain a snow and slip free entrance and/or roadway during inclement weather.

- A) The Cemetery will, to the best of its ability, provide safe access to the property during and after winter storms, within its available means. If inclement weather, such as a snow event, occurs on the day before or after Thanksgiving or Christmas, The Cemetery will make the greatest effort possible to provide safe access for visitors.
- B) As a general policy, The Cemetery will have limited maintenance from mid-November through early April.
 - a. It will start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of 4 or more inches of snowfall.
 - b. Based upon weather reports or prevailing conditions, The Cemetery may, at its own discretion elect to not move snow until greater amounts have accumulated.
 - c. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New York weather, each storm or weather event may require a slightly different effort or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks which, together, determine the overall winter maintenance and snow removal strategy.
 - d. Please remember even after the entrance and roadways of the cemetery have been cleared of most of the snow when winds blow drifting across cemetery roadways is likely to occur. The Cemetery roadways may become impassable in these weather conditions. Unless deemed necessary (i.e. section needed for a funeral) these areas will not be re cleared of drifted snow.
- C) Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, snow removal treatment operations may be suspended at any time when continuing operations would pose a hazard to person or property.

Direction -The Cemetery, or it's designee, shall direct all winter maintenance activities for the Cemetery.

Implementation -This policy, including the standard operating procedures set forth in Part B, is intended to serve as the normal procedure for winter maintenance and snow removal for The Cemetery.

- A) One or more of the following events or circumstances, which may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy, may affect all or any part of normal Winter operating procedures for The Cemetery:
 - Equipment Breakdown
 - Snow Accumulation of more than one inch per hour
 - High Winds
 - Freezing Rain or Other Icing Conditions

- Traffic Congestion
- Emergencies
- Personnel Illness
- Other Events Beyond the Reasonable Control of the Cemetery

Notice -This policy may be posted in appropriate public place in the Cemetery, on Parish social media sites and/or respective Parish Office(s) as determined by the Parish Administrator and/or the Cemetery Manager. All visitors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the contents hereof as it describes conditions that one might expect to encounter before, during and after a storm or inclement weather.

PART B: WINTER OPERATIONS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER/SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

STANDARD SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES and REGULATIONS (for Entrances and Driveways of The Cemetery)

Equipment and Personnel

1. The assets available for winter snow removal are established within the parameters of the annual budget approved by the Parish Administrator under the guidance from the Cemetery Advisory Committee(s).
2. In formulating the budget, the Cemetery seeks to allocate enough funds for this purpose, however, variable weather conditions may make budget projections inaccurate.
 - a. When weather conditions require additional funds beyond those established in the budget, The Cemetery will undertake such actions that are reasonably necessary to address such conditions.
 - b. The Cemetery will utilize available assets as needed to address snow emergencies.
 - c. *It is possible that the Cemetery may not have its entrance and roadways plowed after each snow event.*
3. The use of private contractors to provide all winter maintenance related to snow removal may be used.
 - a. *PLEASE NOTE: If a private contractor is used snow removal of the cemetery may not happen as timely as one might wish. Certain snow events may require that priority be given to the safety of people in their homes and businesses first.*

Materials for Ice Treatment – Due to the composition of the roadways and the fact that monument foundations are near the roadways in The Cemetery, de-icing agents/ treatments will not be utilized as these de-icing agents/ treatments have the potential to harm the roadways of The Cemetery roadways and monument foundations within the Cemetery.

Damage to Private Property -The descriptions of immunity and potential liability in this section are not intended to waive any immunity or to extend any liability that may exist under law: but are intended solely for convenience.

1. The Cemetery assumes no responsibility for damage to private property that is located within the public right-of-way as such property is deemed an encumbrance that is not permitted to be in the right-of-way.
2. In the event of property damage occurring as a result of winter maintenance activities conducted by The Cemetery, The Cemetery may be held responsible only for damages as allowed by law arising from negligence or another fault properly attributable to the Cemetery. In any event, The Cemetery will not be responsible for the repair or replacement of damaged property that is within the right-of-way.
3. The Cemetery will also not be responsible for damage to any vehicle which may be damaged during winter maintenance if the vehicle is parked in violation of any State Law or local regulations, including any winter or snow removal parking or driving restriction periods, or is otherwise improperly or imprudently located or operated. The Cemetery will also not be responsible for damage to any vehicle if a State of Emergency is declared by Livingston County that restricts or forbids driving in the county.