



Holy Infant Memorial Garden and Columbarium F.A.Qs (Pre-sales/ Pledge info)

What is a Columbarium?

The word Columbarium is derived from the Latin term Columba, meaning "dovecote or dwelling place of a dove." In Christian tradition, the dove, has long symbolized the embodiment of the Holy Spirit. It is a place of contemplation, remembrance and prayer.

A **Columbarium** is a permanent structure comprised of small vaults or niches to contain cremated remains. It can be an indoor or outdoor wall, an entire building, a room, a wall along a corridor or a series of special alcoves or halls in a mausoleum, chapel or other dedicated property. A **niche** is a shelf-like space in the columbarium structure used for the interment of cremated remains. Urns are placed in these niches as a final resting place for cremated remains.

A Columbarium is an extension of the church where those who have worshipped and prayed together in life now await the resurrection of the body. It provides a final resting place with special meaning for church members for whom involvement in the church was an important part of life on earth. It is considered a blessing for a Christian to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Each niche in our Columbarium is a cube-sized space measuring 12 inches square by 12 inches deep. Initially, approximately 240 niches will be available.

If I choose to be cremated, what are the advantages of choosing the columbarium as opposed to a cemetery?

This is a personal choice. Many people choose to be buried in a columbarium at their church because of a strong desire to be laid to rest on the grounds of the church that they loved and served. Those who choose to be placed in a columbarium at the church often are attracted by its religious focus and the nearness to the church. The proximity makes it convenient for visits by loved ones and for periods of meditation and reflection.

The fee for being placed in one of the niches is usually less than the cost of interment in a cemetery. Other factors that may influence your decision to choose interment in a columbarium are concerns about the environment, space available in a cemetery, and the flexibility cremation offers in ceremony planning and in the disposition of the remains.

Where will Holy Infant's Memorial Garden and Columbarium be situated?

The Memorial Garden and Columbarium is on the church grounds. The location is between the existing church and the new church. The columbarium provides an attractive location for grieving, prayer and meditation.

My spouse is not a Catholic and I want to be buried with my spouse. Are there any provisions whereby we can be placed in the same niche?

Yes. Each niche holds two urns. Your non-Catholic spouse can have a funeral Rite in Church and then be placed in your columbarium niche. All funeral services, however, will be in accord with Roman Catholic rites. Exceptions require approval of the Pastor.

Who may be interred in Holy Infant's Columbarium?

The columbarium is intended primarily for parishioners of Holy Infant Parish. However, with approval by the Columbarium Board, the purchaser may inter immediate family members who are not parishioners. This is limited to the spouse, parents, grandparents, siblings, children and grandchildren of the purchaser. The family members do not have to be Catholic.

Note: Parishioners in good standing will receive a discount of 50% of the full price of a single or double niche. See price list below.

May non-parishioners purchase a niche in Holy Infant’s Columbarium?

A limited number of niches are available for purchase by active and registered Catholics from other parishes and may be purchased with the agreement of the Columbarium Board and the approval of the Pastor. There is a higher cost for purchasers who are non-parishioners.

My family members are buried in another city. Can I remember them at the site of Holy Infant’s columbarium?

Yes. Special memorial brick pavers will be provided in our Memorial Garden and Columbarium. There is a plan to include memorial brick pavers for those loved ones who may be interred elsewhere. Each pavers will be inscribed with their name. **The cost of each memorial paver will be \$300.00**

What is the cost of a niche?

The price of a niche in the columbarium is:

Niche Type	Cost for parishioner in good standing	Cost for Catholic Non-Parishioner
Single niche with one brass urn	\$2,500	\$5,000
Double niche with two brass urns	\$3,000	\$6,000

Will these prices ever change?

These are today’s prices and may be raised at any time without notice. However, once you have purchased a niche there will be no further charges, even if the price should rise in the future.

What proof will I have that I purchased a niche?

A contract will witness the *Right of Interment* of cremated remains, purchased with the payment of the appropriate fee for a specified niche in the Columbarium.

I purchased a niche for myself. If I later decide to add another person, can I do so?

Yes, assuming the second person meets the qualifications previously described.

May more than two people be inurned in a niche?

No. There is not sufficient space in a niche for more than two urns.

May I supply my own urn?

Yes, but all urns must meet the standards of worthiness established by the U.S. Bishop's Committee and will be appropriately sized to fit inside the niche which is typically 12 inches square by 12 inches deep. There will be no reduction in price if urns other than those provided in the cost of the niche are used. The Pastor must approve all exceptions.

What happens if I purchase a niche in the columbarium, then move away?

Upon receipt of your contract for the niche, it is the intent of Holy Infant Church to provide a refund of your original purchase price, **less 10% non-refundable deposit and incurred expenses, if any**, for those who have purchased the Right of Interment but no longer plan to exercise this right. However, the Columbarium Board will decide each case individually based on the Policy Statement of the Columbarium Board.

How are niches assigned?

You may choose an available niche at the time of full payment for a niche. You may select a niche from any section in the columbarium where niches have been installed and made available for interment by the Columbarium Board. If you choose not to select a niche location, the Columbarium Board will select one for you.

I am interested in purchasing a niche. What is the next step?

1. Complete the "Letter of Intent" stating that you are *interested* in reserving a niche in the Holy Infant Columbarium.

A non-refundable deposit of 10% of the cost of the niche is required to reserve a niche until further paperwork is completed at the Parish office.

2. After your completed "Letter of Intent" is received by the Director of Operations & Finance **or** Director of Liturgy & Music at the parish office, you will be contacted by the Director of Operations & Finance. You will be provided all follow-up information to complete the process. Alternatively, you may contact the Parish Office at 919-544-7135.

The staff at the office will arrange for a member of the Columbarium Board to contact you and provide any assistance you need including a copy of all documentation relating to the Columbarium and available methods of payment.

3. When you are ready to purchase your niche, you may:

- **reserve a specific niche in the Columbarium.**
 - Payment in full for the niche is required.

- **reserve an unspecified niche in the Columbarium.**
 - As an alternative to payment in full up front, partial payment over a 12-month period may be used. 10% is required up-front.
 - Remaining payments are due over the next 11 months.

A contract for purchase of the *Right of Interment* will be provided to witness the transaction.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Note: The Director of Liturgy & Music can help you with all concerns regarding funeral preparation decisions.

Here are some FAQs:

CHURCH AND CREMATION

Do I need to ask permission to be cremated?

- **No**, but it is a good idea to inform the Pastor and/or Director of Liturgy & Music of your intention.

Can I scatter the ashes? May I keep the ashes on my mantle?

No. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or a friend, are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Cremated remains, like a body, are to be placed in a final permanent resting place.

May anything be added to cremated remains such as cremated remains of other persons, pets or objects?

No. The practice of respect for the cremated remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the individuality of each baptized person before God. Throughout history, the mingling of remains has never been an accepted practice except in extraordinary circumstances.

When should cremation take place?

The Church prefers that cremation take place after a funeral liturgy with the body present. The body most clearly brings to mind the life and death of the person and better expresses the values that the Church affirms in its rites. Nevertheless, it is permitted to have a funeral liturgy with only the cremated remains present.

ABOUT CREMATION

How do I make my wishes known?

You can make your wishes known by informing the loved one who will be responsible for your funeral arrangements or in documents designed to help plan and prepare your funeral. You may also pre-plan your funeral with the Director of Liturgy & Music and a funeral home in the area. Feel free to call our parish office for more information. It is not a good idea to specify your funeral arrangements in your will, as it may not be read until some time after the funeral.

Must I honor my parent's or spouse's desire for cremation?

Out of respect for loved ones, you will want to do all you can to carry out the wishes of the deceased concerning funeral services, provided they are in keeping with Church practice. You should keep in mind, however, the therapeutic value to the survivors of celebrating the funeral liturgy with the body present. This may outweigh your reasons for a liturgy with only the cremated remains present.

Is it necessary to embalm?

When cremation is to follow soon after death, embalming is not necessary. When cremation follows the funeral liturgy, embalming is usually required. Each state has its own regulations in this matter, but generally the rule is that a deceased human body that is not buried or cremated within 24 hours is to be embalmed or refrigerated.

Is it necessary to purchase a casket if I am to be cremated?

No. It is not necessary to purchase a casket for cremation. If you choose to have the body present for the funeral Mass with cremation later, the rental of a casket is an option. Most funeral directors offer casket rental.

What is the proper container for cremated remains?

The U.S. Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy has determined that urns must be simple and unadorned. Ostentatious urns, statuary, and space capsules are examples of "designer" containers now being offered that are unacceptable in

Catholic funeral practices. It is also unacceptable to have any part of the cremated remains made into jewelry, dishes, art works, etc.

If I choose cremation, is it necessary to call a funeral home?

Yes. In North Carolina, a registered funeral director always performs the cremation. It is important to note you are not required to have a viewing of the body at the funeral home.

Can a family member be present at the cremation?

Although not customarily done, family members may choose to be present during cremation.

How are the cremated remains transported to the church?

Typically, the cremated remains are delivered directly to the church by the funeral director at the time of the funeral. A family member may also do this.

Must cremated remains be buried or interred?

Though this is not the law, as per Catholic teachings, respectful, final disposition of cremated remains requires burial or interment in a Columbarium.

FUNERAL RITES

What funeral rites are celebrated when a person is cremated?

In the Order of Christian Funerals, the United States bishops have included prayers that are used when the cremated remains are present in a church. The following rituals may be celebrated:

- Prayers After Death
- Gathering in the Presence of the Body
- Vigil for the Deceased
- Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass
- Rite of Committal

What duration of time occurs between death, cremation, and the funeral Mass?

This depends on various factors such as the place of death, scheduling a time for cremation, the Church calendar, and the schedule of the parish. Consult your funeral director and the parish office for details.

What happens at the funeral Mass with cremated remains?

A journey, which began at baptism, comes to conclusion as we enter into eternal life. Significant attention should be given to the primary symbols of the Catholic funeral liturgy, as stated in the Order of Christian Funerals and its

commentaries. The Paschal Candle and sprinkling with holy water are primary symbols of baptism and will be used during the Mass.

During the funeral Mass, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as a deceased body. The cremated remains are sealed in an urn and set on a table in the location where the coffin would normally be placed.

How much time elapses from the funeral Mass until the remains are interred in the Columbarium?

If the body is present at the funeral Mass, the funeral director will advise you on the time necessary to do the cremation. Usually, it is a day or two. The interment then follows shortly thereafter. If the cremated remains are present at the Mass, the interment will usually occur immediately after Mass.

Is a ritual conducted when the remains are interred in the Columbarium?

Yes. The Rite of Committal is very similar to the service conducted at a grave site in a cemetery.