



St. Michael the Archangel Columbarium Q&A

Q. What specifically is a columbarium?

A. A columbarium (columbaria) is a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cinerary urns (those holding a deceased cremated remains).

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

A. This is a personal choice. Most local cemeteries have columbaria structures available. Over the past several years, many Catholic Churches have constructed a columbarium on their grounds. Many people choose to be interned in their Church's columbarium because of a strong desire to be laid to rest on the grounds of a church that they loved and served. Those that choose to be placed in a Church columbarium like its religious focus and convenience for visits by loved ones.

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

A. Yes. Each niche can hold up to three (3) urns. If it is your wish, your non-Catholic spouse can have a Christian funeral rite in St. Michael the Archangel Church and then be placed in the columbarium niche. All funeral services, however, will be in accordance with the Roman Catholic rite.

Q. My family members are buried in another city. Can I remember them at the site of St. Michael the Archangel columbarium?

A. Yes. St. Michael the Archangel does have a Memorial Wall located on the east side of the Church building. Bronze plaques may be purchased and will be personally inscribed for the memorial Wall.

Q. Who may be inurned in the Columbarium at St. Michael the Archangel?

A. The columbarium is intended primarily for the use of the parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. However, with approval of the Pastor of St. Michael, the purchaser may inurn family members who are not parishioners. This is limited to immediate family including parents, grandparents, siblings, children and grandchildren of the purchaser.



Q. May non-parishioners purchase in St. Michael the Archangel Columbarium?

A. A limited number of niches will be available for purchase by active and registered Catholics from other parishes and may be purchased with the agreement of the Columbarium Committee and the approval of the Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. There is an increased charge for non-parishioners.

Q. What proof will I have that I purchased a niche?

A. A contract will witness the Right of Inurnment of cremains purchased with the payment of the appropriate fee for a specified niche in the St. Michael the Archangel Columbarium. A similar contract will be provided for purchase of a Memorial Wall plaque.

Q. If I purchase a niche for myself and I later decide to add another person, may I do so?

A. Yes, assuming the second person meets the qualifications previously described in this document.

Q. May more than two people be inurned in a niche?

A. Niches are physically designed and priced for two (2) urns. A third urn containing the cremains of a relative, as previously described, may be considered but permission must be given by the Pastor. If approved, an additional charge for the cost of an urn and additional engraving on the niche's granite front cover will be assessed.

Q. May I supply my own urn?

A. Yes, but it must be in keeping with the standards or worthiness set down by the U.S. Bishops and it must fit in the nominal 1 cubic foot niche. As part of the purchase price, two bronze urns of appropriate size are included. There is no reduction in price if you provide your own urn.



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

A. Assuming you no longer wish to have your remains inurned in the St. Michael Columbarium, upon receipt of your contract along with a written request to sell back your Right of Use to a specific niche in the St. Michael Columbarium, St. Michael the Archangel Church will provide a refund of your original purchase price less 25% administrative fee and incurred expenses, if any. The expenses incurred could include but are not limited to, the replacement of the engraved granite niche front.

Q. What happens if I want to transfer to a different niche within the St. Michael Columbarium?

A. In a case where someone wants to transfer the location of their niche within the St. Michael Columbarium, you will be required to :

- 1) sell back your niche as outlined above but with a 10% Administration fee
- 2) purchase the new niche at the current price (which may be more than the original purchase price of the original niche.)

Q. May I decorate the area near my niche with flowers, statues, etc.

A. The columbarium site will be perpetually maintained in a manner designed to be beautiful and respectful to all. Additional flower arrangements, flags, statues, or other decorations may not be placed on or near a niche or any other location in the St. Michael the Archangel Columbarium or the Memorial Wall. You may purchase a vase to be attached after engraving to the front of the niche to hold flowers.

Q. How are niches assigned?

A. You may choose an available niche at the time of purchase from any section in the St. Michael Columbarium where niches have been installed and made available for inurnment. During the initial pre-sale period for any phase prior to completion of construction, niches are purchased using a diagram of the niche walls.

Q. May anything be added to cremated remains such as the cremated remain of other persons, pets and/or other objects?

A. No. The principle of respect for the cremated remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the individuality of each baptized person before God. Separating or comingling of remains is not an accepted practice.



Q. I am interested in purchasing a niche in the St. Michael Columbarium. What is the next step?

A. Please contact the St. Michael parish office at 919-468-6100 and ask for the Columbarium representative to set up an appointment.

Payment in full for the niche is required at the time of purchase. Personal check and credit cards are accepted.