

The St. John Neumann Columbarium

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Columbarium? A columbarium is an arrangement of openings (niches) in a wall into which an urn is placed for the inurnment of cremated remains. The openings are 12 inches square and provide space for 1 or 2 urns.

What are the Advantages of Using a Columbarium at SJN? Many people choose burial in their parish's columbarium because of a desire to be laid to rest at the church they loved and served. It also provides for more frequent visitation, meditation, and prayer; all in a secure location with handicap access and perpetual care included. And, finally, the cost of inurnment in the parish columbarium is lower than the cost of burial in a cemetery.

Where is the SJN Columbarium located? SJN's Columbarium is located in a walled-in area between Reynolds Hall and the Religious Education building (to the right as you leave the hall lobby).

Who May be Buried in SJN's Columbarium? The columbarium is intended primarily for the parishioners of St. John Neumann. However, niches are available for purchase by relatives of SJN parishioners, friends of the parish, and Catholics from nearby parishes.

How Are Niches Assigned? At the time of purchase, you will select a specific available niche with the assistance of the parish columbarium manager.

How Are Niches Marked? Each niche will be covered with a black granite slate on which the following is inscribed: the deceased's legal name, date of birth, and date of death. All niches are inscribed in a uniform manner and all orders are processed directly by the parish.

What is the Price of a Niche and what does the Price Include? The price of a niche for a single urn is \$3900 and for two urns is \$5800. This includes the urn(s), the niche inscription, and opening/closing of the niche.

Is a Ritual Conducted at the Time of Inurnment? Yes, the Rite of Committal is similar to the one that would take place at a gravesite in a cemetery.

May I Decorate the Area Near My Niche? The Columbarium is designed in a manner to be beautiful and serene. Additional decorations are not permitted in the area. Live flowers can be placed on the floor below a niche.

What are the Columbarium visiting hours? The Columbarium visiting hours are 7a-8p Sunday-Saturday.

May Anything be Added to the Cremated Remains? No. The principle of respect for the cremated remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the holiness of the human body and the dignity of the individual believer before God. Cremated remains of the deceased are never mixed with those of another person or pet, or any other memorabilia.

May I scatter or divide the ashes? No. The practice of scattering cremated remains in the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or dividing the ashes among family members is not the reverent disposition required by the Church.

May I keep the ashes in my home? Only temporarily. The Church requires an approved sacred memorial for human cremated remains.

Please call Mike Crowell at the church office (770-923-6633) for more information.