



BACKGROUND AND POLICIES FOR THE USE OF THE ST. MARY MEMORIAL GARDEN AND COLUMBARIUM

BASILICA SHRINE OF ST. MARY

Background

The Catholic Church teaches that the bodies of the dead must be treated with respect, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The care of its members from birth and baptism through dying and death has always been accepted as a life-long responsibility of the Catholic Church.

In the past, body burial was the only option available to Catholics for fulfilling the corporal work of mercy, "to bury the dead". In 1963, the church approved cremation for Catholics who so choose.

Through the creation of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden, the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary is living this responsibility by providing on its grounds a final earthly resting place for our deceased members and their loved ones. Sacred to the memory of those who have departed from our world, it will also be a place for visitation, meditation and prayer.

Columbarium - Memorial Garden

A columbarium is a permanent structure built as a place to house the cremated remains (cremains) of the deceased. It is often a room or a wall with small openings (niches) which have space for one (or two) small urns to hold the cremains of one (or two) people. Niches are securely sealed and identified after the cremains are placed into them.

The St. Mary Columbarium will be a walled garden area along the Ann Street side of the basilica. Garden walls will contain niches; each designed to hold two urns. Memorial plaques will be placed on designated walls and throughout the gardens.

The St. Mary Memorial Garden and Columbarium is the property of the Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh.

All policies related to this space will be in harmony with the rules and regulations of the Diocese of Raleigh and with Canon Law as interpreted by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Policies

Eligibility

The St. Mary Memorial Garden and Columbarium is designed to honor the memory of parishioners of St. Mary and their loved ones. Only humans may be memorialized and only human remains may be placed in the columbarium.

Purchases of niches or memorials by individuals other than St. Mary parishioners must be approved by the St. Mary Pastor and non-parishioner rates apply.

Management

The Pastor of the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary is responsible for the management of this parish ministry. A St. Mary Columbarium Advisory Committee will serve to advise the Pastor on matters related to the Memorial Garden and Columbarium policies. A person or persons, appointed by the Pastor, will be responsible for overseeing the everyday operations of this ministry. The project is designed to be self-supporting.

Pricing

The purchase price of a niche includes 2 urns and engraving of the granite faceplate, the right of inurnment in the St. Mary Columbarium and perpetual care. No additional fees will be charged for openings or maintenance. The price of a niche is the same whether 1 or 2 urns are placed inside. Current rates are:

\$4000 Per niche for Registered St. Mary Parishioners

\$6000 Per niche for others

\$500 Per memorial - Purchase of a memorial includes inscription.

Both include the perpetual care in the Memorial Garden and Columbarium.

Funeral and cremation costs are not included in the price of a niche.

Niche/memorial pricing will be reviewed each year by the St. Mary Columbarium Advisory Committee and the Pastor will determine the need for a price change based on the Committee's review.

Niche Inscription/Urn

An inscription for each columbarium niche and memorial will be included in the cost. The font style of all niches and memorials will be the same throughout.

With each niche, bronze urn(s) will be provided by the parish. Only the urn(s) provided by the parish may be used for inurnment in the columbarium.

The inscription on the granite niche faceplate will consist of full name(s) and dates of birth and death. Inscription information provided on the Niche Application Form will be used for engraving the niche faceplate. Once completed, changes to the engraving will result in additional charges.

Memorial Inscription

Memorial inscriptions will consist of one(1) or two(2) lines to include full name of deceased and birth/death date or other designation. Information provided on the Memorial Order Form will be used for engraving the memorial.

The Columbarium Advisory Committee and the Pastor will have sole responsibility for choosing high quality materials, for maintaining uniformity and for procurement of all inscriptions.

Ownership

A niche or memorial will be available upon full payment of the price in effect at the time of purchase. The reservation of a niche or memorial and the payment of the fee gives the purchaser the right to be inurned or memorialized **but does not convey ownership of any property to the individual.**

No transfer of a reservation of a columbarium niche or memorial may be made to another person, estate or corporation.

The St. Mary Parish may repurchase a niche for just cause as determined by the Columbarium Advisory Committee and the Pastor. The repurchase price will be the original price less an administrative fee of \$100 plus any expenses incurred. Once an inscription has been cut into the stone, no refund will be made.

Records

A diagram of the columbarium and memorial plaques will be kept in the church office along with the records and vital statistics of all individuals who have been, or are to be, memorialized or inurned in the St. Mary Memorial Garden and Columbarium.

Flowers and Decorations

The Columbarium Advisory Committee, in cooperation with the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary Staff, will ensure that the Memorial Garden and Columbarium are perpetually cared for so as to maintain beauty and a sense of serenity.

Flags, flowers or other items may not be placed in the St. Mary Memorial Garden and Columbarium.

Right of Inurnment

The Right of Inurnment, guaranteed with the purchase of a niche in the St. Mary Columbarium, is executed by all of the involved parties for each columbarium niche. Its purpose is to assure control and clear understanding and to set forth the right of all of the parties. It includes specifically a provision granting full authority to the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary to move, remove, relocate niches with cremains, if, for any reason, the St. Mary Memorial Garden and Columbarium should be relocated.