

SAID ED August 27, 2017

Our Columbarium

About a year ago, Fr. Michael asked me if I had considered being laid to rest in our parish Columbarium when my time comes. The truth is that I had considered being cremated and then having my mortal remains placed in our Columbarium, but until he asked the question I hadn't taken any action on this idea. His question (and willingness to share the niche with me) prompted me to talk with Mike Mason about purchasing a niche. I picked out a place in the top row next to my predecessor, Fr John Norris (and his sister, Kathleen Norris Glatz). I have joyfully lead this parish community for almost 17 years, and it seems only right to inter my remains here after I've gone to God. Recently I made my last payment on my reserved niche. I am grateful for the vision of my predecessor Fr. Norris, who was a leader in building a church that provided for this option for people. It just seems right to me to be here among you when my time comes.

Many of us were raised with the teaching that cremation was not allowed in the Catholic Church. In times past the Church opposed cremation in various cultures because it was looked upon in as an act of defiance and rejection of our belief in the resurrection of the body. (Recall that we profess our belief in the resurrection of the body every week at Mass when we pray the Nicene Creed.) The opposition stems back to the early days in pagan Rome during which forbidding cremation was a statement about our belief as well as an act of civil resistance. Things have changed since then. The Church now endorses cremation as an acceptable form of burial.

In 1982 when our new church was built, Fr Norris very farsightedly included a design for our Columbarium--a resting place for the ashes of the people who chose to honor the remains of their loved ones in this way. We are blessed that the designers of our church included this option. Recently, we employed the original architect to design the plan for the second floor of our present Columbarium, in anticipation of the future demand. (The room is now a store room.)

Frequently on a Sunday morning, several people can be found praying quietly in the Columbarium, as they remember their loved ones. People come into this sacred space to commend the dead to God and to cherish the fine memories they have of those whom they have loved and who have gone before them. The Columbarium is convenient for parishioners; it is indoors and is easily accessible in all weather.

Arrangements for the Columbarium can be made at the Parish Office, the cost is \$2,600 and includes a niche for the mortal remains of two people. With a 20% down payment, the balance can be paid off in monthly installments over 24 months with no interest. Our Columbarium is 80% sold out of the original 485 niches, and is ready for expansion when the time arises. If you are thinking of using our Columbarium, I encourage you to stop by and visit the Parish Office with any questions you may have. There are now 102 niches still available on the first level, and we would be very happy to make arrangements with anyone who is interested. I hope this information is helpful. If you have any further questions don't hesitate to call Mike Mason, our Director of Maintenance at 585-749-4991.

Have a great week
