CREMATION

The Catholic Church’s practice of burial goes back to early Christian days. A strong belief in the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, as well as the belief in the resurrection of the body, support the Church’s continued respect for the human body after death. From early Christian days cremation was viewed as a pagan practice and a denial of the doctrine of the Resurrection. That’s why cremation was expressly forbidden by the Catholic Church until recent years.

On March 21, 1997, the Vatican granted permission for the cremated remains of a body to be brought into Church for the Liturgical Rites of Burial.

Their final disposition is equally important, say the instructions: “The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. 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 friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.” The instructions also state that, if at all possible, the place of entombment should be marked with a plaque or stone memorializing the deceased.

“The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.”
(Canon 1176)
COLUMBARIUM

The St. Mark Columbarium is a sacred resting place on holy ground for cremated remains with the same dignity of a cemetery. A place for our loved ones to rest until our Lord comes again, a place close to our beloved community and Church. Our columbarium offers a very prayerful space for you to come and pray and ask God to intercede for your loved one.

The opportunity is here for you to purchase one of a limited number of niches in the St. Mark Columbarium. Each niche can contain two urns. The urns are supplied by the parish and are included in the purchase price of $2500 per niche.

Our beautiful sacred resting place is located on the west side of the sanctuary. You are welcome to visit it anytime the church doors are unlocked.

QUESTIONS

What is a Columbarium?
A Columbarium is a resting place for human ashes or cremated remains. The ashes are placed in an urn in the niche. Each niche holds two urns. A standard urn is available from the parish, however you may provide your own as long as it conforms to the niche size restrictions. The cremation process requires the services of a Funeral Home at an additional expense.

Whose ashes can be interred?
Any parishioner and or close relative may be placed in the Columbarium, but only human remains can be interred. The niche cannot be sold or given to anyone other than who originally paid for it. The Pastor has sole discretion as to whose ashes can be laid to rest.

What can I put on the niche?
The name of your loved one and their birth and death dates will be placed on the plaque.

Can I move the ashes at a later date?
Yes, A refund may be given upon removal of the ashes, but it is the discretion of the pastor as to what kind of refund will be available.

“We believe that all ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel at death.”
(Funeral rites)

Death is not the end, nor does it destroy the bonds that forge our lives.