



Columbarium Frequently Asked Questions

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is a vault with niches (compartments) for urns containing ashes of the deceased.

Does the Catholic Church approve of cremation?

Yes. Cremation has been allowed by the Church since 1963. For further information on Catholic burial traditions, please see Burial Options: Cremation and the Catholic Church (found under Resources on the Columbarium web page of our site.)

Why did the Parish build a columbarium?

There were no plots available in the Parish Cemetery and many parish members have expressed an interest in being inurned in the Parish Cemetery.

Where is The Columbarium located?

The columbarium is located inside the Parish Cemetery, along the Edgerton Avenue cemetery perimeter. The niches face the cemetery, not the street.

How will the cost of a niche be determined?

The cost of a niche – and related services like interment and disinterment – will be comparable to the prices charged by other Catholic cemeteries in Milwaukee. For current pricing information, see the Fee Schedule.

What is the anticipated cost of a niche in St. Mary's Columbarium?

The average cost is about \$3,000. The actual cost varies, depending on the location of the niche in the Columbarium.

Can a niche be paid for in installments?

No. Niches are purchased in full by cash or check.

How many urns can one niche hold?

Two urns can be placed in one niche.