



FAQs Columbarium

What is a Columbarium?

The word columbarium is derived from the Latin word *columba* and refers to the dwelling place of a dove. When early Christians, who had been relegated to Rome's catacombs, began using cliff-side niches to seal away ashes of the faithful, the term "Columbarium" took on its present day meaning as sacred compartments for storage of cremated remains.

Is Cremation Biblically Sound?

In the Christian faith, cremation is widely recognized and accepted as a theologically valid process for handling the bodily remains of the deceased. The Bible does not expressly commend or prohibit cremation. What the Bible does affirm is God's creative power in the resurrection of the dead. God originally created us from dust and the promise of the resurrection testifies to God's ability to create us anew for heaven's dwelling.

What are the benefits of a Columbarium?

It affords church members and their families the opportunity to select their final resting place in the shadow of the church, which has been central to their lives, a site of beauty and dignity where their loved ones can visit and meditate at any time. It eliminates the pressures of choosing a burial site, casket, vault and monument. It provides a place for inurnment immediately adjacent to the sanctuary eliminating the need to travel from the church to the cemetery or another locale. It provides a substantial financial savings. The combined cost of a columbarium niche and cremation is typically less than one-fourth the cost of a casket, vault, burial site, and gravestone.

Where exactly is the Columbarium located?

Two columbaria are located on church property. One is adjacent to the church in the shadow of the bell tower and the other is adjacent to the Parish Ministry Building.

What is a niche?

A niche is the final resting for loved ones in the columbarium. A niche measuring 8"X8" allows for 1 to 2 urns. A 12"X12 niche allows for 3 urns. Urns are custom made for St. Philip Neri columbarium. The granite stone front provides for inscriptions. The niches are encased in brick surrounded by benches and landscaping.

How much will a niche cost?

Single – 1 Urn	\$2,500.00
Double – 2 Urns	\$3,500.00
Triple – 3 Urns	\$5,500.00

The cost includes the urn(s), inscriptions and the opening and closing of the niche. Monthly payment options are available. Vases for the face of the niche are also available for \$90.00.

What can be engraved on a niche plate?

Each niche will be covered with an 8” X 8” uniform in size and color granite stone, which will be engraved with the name of the deceased, dates of birth and death.

How are veterans honored?

If provided, a veteran’s medallion will be affixed to the niche cover. Medallions are provided free-of-charge by the VA for eligible members of the US Armed Forces and can be requested using [VA Form 40-1330M](#). Please select the “Small Medallion” option (2"W, 1 1/2"H, 1/3"D), as only the small medallion will fit on the niche cover. Please contact the Parish Office prior to requesting a medallion.

Who owns the niche?

Legal title will remain with the Competent Authority, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, St. Philip Neri. The Licensee, the one purchasing a License, will be entitled to the right to use the niche, but there will be no ownership of niche by the Licensee.

What may be placed inside a niche?

Only the urn’s containing the remains of the deceased may be placed inside the niche.

Can I use a niche for a family pet?

Niches are for human remains only.

Are urns provided with the purchase of a niche?

Yes. Only those urns provided with the purchase of a niche are allowed.

Can I select the location of my niche?

Yes. Individuals may select their niche location.

Can I ever change the location of my niche?

No.

How do I schedule an interment service?

The family of the deceased may contact the Pastor to arrange.

Is the purchase of a niche refundable if I change my mind later?

If the License of a niche is surrendered, by the Licensee, back to the Parish prior to engraving, the amount paid for the license will be refunded, minus a \$100 administrative fee. Should a Licensee wish to surrender a niche, the cost is refundable less the cost of the engraving and an administrative fee of \$100.

What happens if the church ever moves or the Columbarium is relocated?

If, at the discretion of the Competent Authority, it becomes necessary or desirable to change the location of the Columbarium or to discontinue the use of any part of it, the Parish, at its expense, may have the urns and cremated remains removed and preserved in another suitable place.

How do I reserve a niche?

To inquire about the purchase of a niche, contact the Parish Office, 803-548-7282, to schedule an appointment.

Is the purchase of a niche considered tax-deductible?

Based on the purchase price of the License, at the time the License is paid in full, the purchase price over and above the fair market value may be considered a charitable donation to the Licensee.