



As Catholics, we believe that death is not the end but the beginning of a new life.

The Catholic Church stands strongly for placement of cremated remains in a manner that is: **reverent, public, permanent, marked & integral.** These five important terms mean:

reverent — As a human person, the remains should be treated and handled with reverence.

public — a columbarium is an appropriate place for long-term visitation and commemoration.

permanent — the placement undisturbed.

marked — the burial place should memorialize the person's life with name and dates of birth and death.

integral — the cremated remains should not be scattered or divided, but kept as one.

COLUMBARIUM

A columbarium is a special place on church grounds for the interment of ashes of deceased church members and their immediate families. Columbarium is Latin for a nesting place for doves. For centuries the dove has symbolized the Holy Spirit. Early Christians, therefore, associated the small compartments occupied by domesticated doves with storage facilities for cremated remains of their loved ones and friends.

In May 1963, The Vatican's Holy Office (now the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith) permitted Catholics to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the revised Code of Canon Law of 1983 (Canon # 1176), as well as into the Order of Christian Funerals. It then became standard practice to celebrate the funeral liturgies with the body present, with cremation taking place after the liturgy. Most recently the bishops of the United States and the Holy See have authorized the celebration of a Catholic funeral liturgy with the cremation remains present. The Church encourages placement of the cremated remains in a final resting place.

The Catholic Church allows cremation, but counsels that remains should never be treated in an undignified manner. Accordingly, the Church instructs that the decedent's remains should never be divided or scattered, but rather, interred or inurned in their entirety in a cemetery columbarium.

For more information on the Columbarium at St. John Fisher, please contact the parish office at

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St. John Fisher
Catholic Church

Columbarium

Love God. Love all people. Make disciples.

*God's gift of peace ...
... a Sacred Place awaits.*



THE *St. John Fisher* DIFFERENCE.

A niche in the SJF Columbarium is modestly priced, aesthetically pleasing, and ecologically sound. It offers an attractive and viable option to currently available choices.

Sacred Space. Believers in Jesus Christ form a community of disciples founded on a shared faith in the Resurrection. A niche at the SJF Columbarium continues that sense of community even in death. The sacred site proclaims your faith wishes and assures that your burial takes place in a community where all await the Lord's call to a new life.

Memorialization. The ambiance of the columbarium creates a comfortable meeting place for families and friends to gather in love and remembrance, a consoling link between life and death.

Advanced Planning Offers Emotional Control. Your burial, memorialization and Christian funeral decisions can be made thoughtfully, intelligently and free from pressure, without grief and anguish.

Convenience. Being on church grounds offers the added advantage of convenient visitation - before or after Mass services.

Peace of Mind For Loved Ones. Knowing that you have helped make a difficult time easier by prearranging your cemetery, memorialization and Christian funeral needs gives you true peace of mind.

Economic Benefits. There are limited spaces available on the SJF Columbarium; making the investment now assures you of a reserved space. Additionally, investment pre-need may be tax deductible (Please seek the advice of your tax accountant or lawyer).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q What are the advantages of choosing the columbarium at the church as opposed to a cemetery?

A This is a personal choice. Many people choose to be placed in a columbarium at their church, because of a strong desire to be laid to rest on the grounds of a church that they loved and served. They like the simplicity of the process and want to preserve a nearness to the church and perpetuate a relationship that has been a lifelong pursuit. The proximity makes it convenient for visits by loved ones and for periods of meditation and reflection. Also, the fee for being placed in one of the niches is usually less than the cost of interment in a cemetery.

Q Why a columbarium at SJF?

A The building of the new church presented an opportune time to provide a wonderful pastoral service to our parishioners to allow cremated remains to be interred on the premises through the construction of a columbarium.

Q Who may be interred in the St. John Fisher Columbarium?

A The Columbarium is intended primarily for the use of St. John Fisher parishioners and their family.

Q How many people can be interred in a niche?

A Each niche can hold up to two urns. All urns must meet the standards of worthiness set down by the U.S. Bishop's Committee and should be appropriately sized to fit inside the niche.

For More Frequently Asked Questions, Visit www.sjf.org