St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
Columbarium and Memorial Garden

The purpose of the Columbarium is to provide a sacred place on Church Property for the permanent repose of our departed loved one's cremated remains. The Columbarium is an answer to the age-old concern of the Christian community to participate in the proper disposition and identification of the earthly remains of those who have shared the fellowship of our Parish Family. This is a place especially for those who hold dear St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church and have a sense of closeness to it, which they would like to preserve after death. It shall be hallowed ground, sacred to the memory of those who have departed from our midst.

The cover shows an architectural rendering of Phase I of the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium and Memorial Garden. It consists of three sections containing four face walls of niches, landscaped in a garden setting, and located north of the Church and Faith Formation Center. Each niche has the capacity to hold two urns of cremated remains, and a single, stone face-plate for engraving of the name(s) and dates of birth and death.

As cremation and the proper disposition of cremated remains is a relatively new practice for Catholics, you will find articles in this booklet explaining the Catholic Church's position on cremation and the proper care of cremated remains.

We've included detailed information about purchase eligibility, urn and niche specifications, niche labeling and a glossary of terms. The last section of the booklet offers answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Inurnments will be scheduled following the completion and dedication of Phase I. Pricing, contract information and availability can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office at (734-429-5210).

Yours in Christ,
St. Andrew Columbarium Commission 

Spring 2011

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Columbarium
Commission Members

Fr. Francis Mossholder
Deacon Paul Ellis
Vickie Castel
Gerald Rushlow
Christopher Millio
James Peters
The practice and tradition of the Christian community for most of its two thousand year history has been to bury the bodies of the deceased. This is not necessarily the practice of the majority of human communities, nor was it a common practice at the time of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was, however, the way that Jewish people cared for their dead. The Christian community followed this practice and affirmed it as a witness to their belief in the resurrection of the body.

Today Catholic funeral rituals involve three major components: the wake, the Eucharist (Funeral Mass) and the committal service. The Church prefers that the body of the deceased be present at the wake and at the Funeral Mass, or the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass, because the body is the most potent sign of the human person. In the Order of Christian Funerals, the Church voices a most tender concern for the dignity of human beings (Order of Christian Funerals OCF-412).

In keeping with the Church’s concern for the dignity of human beings, if cremated remains are present at a Funeral Mass, then the Catholic Funeral Rite requires the cremated remains be brought into church in a “worthy vessel”. Also, the integrity of the cremated remains is to be respected. The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person for the Funeral Mass or to inter them in more than one place. Nor is it permitted to divide the cremated remains into memorial jewelry, pottery or other such trinkets. Such items are regarded as symbols that cheapen the respect for human life, and show a lack of proper respect and dignity for the dead.

Inurnment of cremated remains is considered per se permanent, although the removal of the cremated body from its place of interment may at times be necessary or appropriate. Although civil law recognizes that final disposition of the body ends at the crematory, it also requires familial authorization for the removal of cremated remains similar to that for disinterment of traditional earth burials.
Governing Policy

A comprehensive Governing Policy has been written for St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church’s Columbarium and Memorial Garden and has been approved by the Diocese of Lansing. While individuals purchasing columbarium niches will be given a complete copy of the governing Policy, the following highlights are hereby provided for your information and planning. All policies governing the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium and Memorial Garden fall under the jurisdiction of the Columbarium Commission and Pastor and are administered by the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium Sexton.

Eligibility

The St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium and Memorial Garden is primarily for deceased members of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Parish and their immediate family. The term “eligible person” or “immediate family” shall mean any current or formerly registered members of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, his or her spouse, their parents, siblings, children and grandchildren (i.e. natural, adopted or step-children), including any of these named relatives who may be non-Catholic. Loved ones of the aforementioned eligible persons who have been reposed elsewhere may also be memorialized with a Memorial Plaque.

The purchase of a niche entitles the purchaser to the right to inurn the person(s) for whom it is intended in the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium, but does not convey the purchase of any property, as the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium and Memorial Garden are the property of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing, Michigan. These terms are clearly delineated in the Columbarium Purchase Agreement.

Full payment of the purchase price is required in conjunction with the selection of a niche as, for a variety of reasons, installment payments are not available.
Required Documents

Documentation requirements will vary depending on whether a niche is being purchased for an immediate need or for future planning. If the niche is being purchased for future planning, the only requirement is that eligibility requirements have been met with satisfactory documentation when necessary. Although not a requirement, it is highly recommended that cremation intentions be discussed with family members in advance to ensure the intentions of the deceased are honored. A letter of acknowledgement from family members may be appropriate.

In cases of immediate need the following documents are required:

1. A certificate of cremation from the crematory.
2. A basic information form on the deceased (including obituary).
3. An authorization form to inurn from the individual(s) legally responsible for making arrangements.
Wall Section—street view
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
Columbarium and Memorial Garden
Columbarium Construction Sequence & Niche Identification

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<th>Number of Wall Sections</th>
<th>Number of Niches</th>
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Niche Identification Example

Niche Columns

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Niche Rows

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Wall Section I

Niche Selected
Niche Section
Niche Row
Niche Column

Example: X = 1A.1
        += 1C.10
Niche Faceplate Samples

WASHINGTON
George
2/12/1732 - 12/14/1799
Martha
6/2/1731 - 5/12/1802

(2 URNS - MARRIED COUPLE)

BUCHANAN
James
4/23/1791 - 6/1/1868

(1 URN - SINGLE INDIVIDUAL)

MILLER
Arthur
10/17/1915 - 2/10/2005

MONROE
Marilyn
6/1/1926 - 8/5/1962

(2 URNS - MARRIED W/DIFFERENT NAMES)

WOLLSTONECRAFT
Mary
4/27/1759 - 9/10/1797

SHELLEY
Mary
8/30/1797 - 2/1/1851

(2 URNS - MOTHER/DAUGHTER)
Urn Criteria
A Worthy Vessel

The urn is the vessel containing the cremated remains that are placed in the columbarium niche as the final resting place for our departed loved one. Just as the columbarium structure has been designed to reflect the dignity and sacredness of its purpose, the urn should reflect this same dignity and sacredness. While there is no specific definition regarding the shape or size of the urn, it must be a vessel designed and made of a worthy material for the purpose of containing cremated human remains and, preferably, reflect in some way a sign of our Christian heritage. Individualized engraving on urns is permitted.

Each niche in the St. Andrew Columbarium is designed to hold one or two urns. The interior dimension of each niche is 11-7/8” high by 11-7/8” wide by 12” deep. However, the niche opening is only 10-3/8” wide by 10-3/8” high. When selecting an urn, care should be taken to ensure that it can be accommodated by these dimensions, particularly if the niche is to contain two urns.

Dual chambered urns are sometimes used for married couples, and may be used in the St. Andrew Columbarium. There are, however, restrictions on how dual chambered urns are to be used in the Rite of Christian Burial.

Niche Labeling Standards
[See examples of faceplates on previous page.]

In the interest of maintaining a clean and uniform appearance throughout the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium, all niche faceplates will be engraved in the same style, although unusually long or hyphenated names may require an adjustment in the font size. Only the names and dates of birth and death of those inurned will be engraved on faceplates. No other inscriptions or epitaphs are permitted. In addition, the policy of the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium Commission is that no embellishments or projections, e.g. flower vases, photographs, wreaths, etc. are to be affixed to or hung from the niche faceplates. While these personalized mementos may bring a level of comfort to those visiting the Columbarium and Memorial Garden, the overall appearance is distracting and in some cases may obscure the visibility of surrounding niches.

The cost of engraving faceplates is not included in the price of the niche. All engraving will be arranged by St. Andrew the Apostle Church.
What is a Columbarium?
A Columbarium is a structure, typically a wall of brick, stone, granite, marble or other material containing niches used to hold the cremated remains of the departed.

Why a Columbarium at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Saline?
In our ancestors’ day, the deceased of the parish were buried in “God’s Acre” surrounding the church where they had worshiped. The remains were interred in this consecrated ground with a simple, dignified ceremony. Stone markers symbolically honored the life and faith of the departed, while serving as reminders to the living of their own mortality.

Now, within our crowded contemporary urban environment, this practice is almost impossible. However, the concept of burial at church is in revival. The idea is so appealing that many churches are providing columbaria for the cremated remains of departed members. The church is, once again, the central site for the major milestones of life: baptism, confirmation, marriage, death and burial.

In returning to the idea of burial at the church, our parish formed a committee to develop a Columbarium here at St. Andrew the Apostle in which the cremated remains of the dead may be placed.

The objective of the parish is not to promote cremation, but to provide an affordable, consecrated final resting place for the faithful departed. Cremation is a personal matter to be decided within the family.

Can Catholics be cremated?
Yes. In May 1963, the Vatican’s Holy Office, (now the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith), lifted the prohibition forbidding 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, and then take the body to the crematorium. Most recently, the bishops of the United States and the Holy See have authorized the celebration of a Catholic funeral liturgy with the cremains, when the body is cremated before the funeral.

What are the benefits to our congregation?
A niche in a columbarium is modestly priced, aesthetically pleasing, and ecologically sound. The ambiance of a well designed columbarium creates a comfortable meeting place for families and friends to gather in love and remembrance, a consoling link between life and death.

How are arrangements for cremation and inurnment made?
First, a visit to the Church should be made to discuss the pending funeral and inurnment. The parish office will assist in arranging the funeral rites and provide urn specifications and confirm the inscription to be engraved on the faceplate of the niche. Arrangements for cremation are made through a Funeral Home. The Funeral Home will return the urn with the cremains to the family or executor for the deceased’s estate, for the final services.

Will there be a funeral/committal service?
Yes. Traditional rites take place as usual in the Church, and may include the committal service at the Columbarium. The burial service will be as prescribed by the Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, in consultation with the family and in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church.

How does the cost of cremation and inurnment compare with the cost of traditional burial?
The cost of inurnment in a columbarium is typically less expensive than a traditional burial. A traditional funeral is generally 2-3 times the cost of cremation and inurnment.

May a particular niche be chosen?
Yes. Niches may be selected from among those available at the time of purchase.

Q & A—(Continued on page 11)
How will the niches be marked?
The name and dates of birth and death of the person(s) inurned in the niche will be engraved in a uniform style on the stone faceplate covering the niche. All engraving will be arranged through the Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.

How will the niches be offered? Who can be inurned here?
Arrangements for a niche will be made through the church office. The columbarium is reserved for the use of members of the Parish and their families as defined by the St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium Governing Policy.
Only human remains may be inurned at the columbarium. Our four-legged friends will need another final resting place.

What happens once all the niches are sold out?
The columbarium is designed in such a way that it can be expanded. Once the first phase is filled, the second phase will be constructed to continue and maintain the original design of a quiet and peaceful place. (See plan on page 7.)

Will there be niches available for unexpected inurnments?
We will plan the installation of niche wall sections so that there will always be a number of unsold niches available.

Who will pay for the Columbarium?
The St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium and Memorial Garden will be funded solely by the sale of the niches. No money will be drawn from church funds. The only exception to this will be the initial construction cost, which will be taken from the overall fund raising program. That amount, when established, will be repaid to the parish from columbarium sales.

What about maintenance and permanency?
The Columbarium & Memorial Garden will have perpetual care with trust funding established through the sale of the niches.

Who will administer the activity of the Columbarium?
The St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium Commission will be the parish board which will direct the operation of the columbarium under the supervision and direction of the Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church. A staff member (Sexton) will be responsible for the day to day operations of the columbarium.

Do I need to ask permission to be cremated?
No, but if you have questions regarding cremation you may wish to discuss them with the Pastor of St. Andrew Church. Also, do not forget to discuss with your family your wish to be cremated. Put your directive in the form of a legal document, such as a will or a living trust.

How do I make my wishes known?
If you desire that your body be cremated, you can make those wishes known in your will and in documents designed to help plan and prepare your funeral.

Do I have to honor my parents’ or spouse’s wish to cremate them?
Out of respect for loved ones, you will want to do all you can to carry out the wishes of the deceased concerning the funeral service, provided they are in keeping with Church practice.

May I scatter the ashes?
No. “The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition the Church requires.” (Order of Christian Funerals, Appendix II #417)

What lengths of time are there between death, cremation and the Funeral Mass?
The answer to this question depends on various factors, just as in the case of funerals with the body. These factors may include the place of death, the location of the crematory, scheduling a time for cremation, the schedule of the church, and other circumstances impact the timing of a funeral.

Q & A—(Continued on page 12)
What funeral rites are celebrated when a person is cremated?

All the usual rites that are celebrated with a body present may also be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains. The United States’ bishops have written new prayers and printed them as an appendix to the Order of Christian Funerals. During the liturgies, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body.

What is a Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass?

In the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass, the community gathers to hear the message of Easter hope proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word, and to commend the deceased to God. Ordinarily celebrated in the parish church, the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated in the home, parlor, chapel of rest, or cemetery chapel. This rite may be used for various reasons:

- When the Funeral Mass is not permitted on the following: solemnities of obligation, the Easter Triduum, the Sundays of Advent and Lent, and the Easter Season.
- When in some places or circumstances it is not possible to celebrate the Funeral Mass before the committal, (e.g. if a priest is not available).
- When, for pastoral reasons, the pastor and the family judge that the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass is a more suitable form of celebration.

Are Memorial Masses permitted?

A Memorial Mass that is a Funeral Mass, is not permitted without the body or the cremated remains of the body present. In some unusual circumstance (e.g. donation of a body to medical science, a disaster where a body has been lost or destroyed), permission may be requested of the bishop for the celebration of a Funeral Mass without the human remains present. The parish must ask for permission for each individual circumstance.

What happens at the Funeral Mass with the cremated remains?

Significant attention is given to the primary symbols of the Catholic Funeral Liturgy, as stated in the Order of Christian Funerals and its commentaries. The paschal candle and the sprinkling with holy water are primary symbols of baptism that are used during the Funeral Mass. Photos and other mementos may be used at the vigil, but are not appropriate for the Mass.

During the Mass, the cremains should be treated with the same dignity and respect as the body. They are to be sealed in a “worthy vessel”. They may be carried in procession and/or placed on a table where the coffin normally would be placed, with the Easter candle nearby. The body is always laid to rest with solemnity and dignity. So too, the order of Christian Funerals provides for the interment of cremated remains. (Order of Christian Funerals, #428)
Glossary of Terms

Active Member
Established registered members (current or previous) of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.

Certificate of Burial Rights
The document by which the Cemetery conveys a right of inurnment for burial space. It is in effect a receipt for full payment and the description of the location of the designated niche for burial.

Columbarium
A structure or arrangement of niches or inurnment of cremated remains. The niches at St. Andrew the Apostle Columbarium and Memorial Garden are designed to accommodate two urns of cremains.

Columbarium Agreement
The written Agreement is the sole Agreement between St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church and any purchaser with respect to the use of the niche in the Columbarium. The full payment and signing of the Columbarium Agreement gives the person(s) the right to reserve a niche(s), use of the niche for inurnment, and perpetual care of the Columbarium. It does not convey ownership of any real property to the individual(s) who are party to the Columbarium Agreement.

Cremains
Another term for cremated remains.

Cremated Remains
The bone fragments that are left after the cremation process. Cremation does not result in ashes as much as small bone fragments, which can subsequently be pulverized into a coarse powder.

Cremation
The reduction through extreme heat and evaporation of the human body to its basic elements. Cremation is a means of preparing the human body for disposition and memorialization.

Crematory
An establishment containing a furnace (called a retort) used for the cremation of human remains. A crematory may be owned by, or deal directly with funeral homes, or may have open access to the public. Also called a crematorium.

Eligible Person or Immediate Family
Any current or formerly registered members of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, his or her spouse (including non-Catholic spouses), their children (i.e. natural, adopted or step-children) and their parents.

Glossary—(Continued on page 14)
**Inurnment of Cremains**
The placement of cremated remains in a grave or niche, after being placed in an urn.

**Niche**
A designated space in the Columbarium used for the inurnment of cremated remains. Urns are placed into these niches as a final resting place for cremated remains.

**Perpetual Care**
The maintenance of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden grounds include the landscaping, walkways and granite.

**Purchaser**
The purchaser is the person who arranges for the selection and prepayment of a niche, and executes the Columbarium Agreement with St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.

**Pre Need**
The selection and payment of a niche before the time of death.

**Rite of Committal**
The prayer service that concludes the Order of Christian Funerals, following the Vigil and the Mass of Christian Burial. It completes a journey that began at birth, and another journey that began at the deathbed. Also called the Rite of Committal, it takes place at the Columbarium at the time of inurnment.

**Right of Inurnment in a Columbarium Niche Agreement**
Referred to as the Columbarium Agreement. The contract between St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church and any eligible person who wants to use the Columbarium for inurnment.

**Sexton**
The designated representative of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church responsible for day to day operations of the Columbarium.

**Worthy Vessel**
A vessel or worthy container specifically designed for the sole purpose of holding cremated remains with the same degree of respect given to a human body, thus offering reverence, dignity, purity and honor.
Canon Law on Cremation

Canon 117
S1 – Christ’s faithful who have died are to be given a Church funeral according to the norms of law.

S2 – Church funerals are to be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical books. In these funeral rites, the Church prays for the spiritual support of the dead. It honors their bodies, and at the same time, it brings to the living the comfort of hope.

S3 – The Church earnestly recommends that the pious customs of burial be retained. It does not forbid cremation, unless it is chosen for reasons that are contrary to Christian Teaching.

A common practice is the entombment of the cremated remains in a “columbarium” (an arrangement of niches, either in a mausoleum, a room or wall into which an urn or other worthy vessel is placed for permanent memorial).

Reference Information

Michigan Funeral Directors Association at www.mfda.org
Rules and regulations regarding the cremation process vary by state. Regarding specific questions, you may wish to refer to the Michigan Funeral Directors Association website.

Diocese of Lansing at www.DioceseofLansing.org
A guideline for the celebration of the funeral rites can be found at the following address on the Diocese website: www.dioceseoflansing.org/worship/celebrationfuneralrite.pdf

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org
A helpful summary of the Church’s teaching on cremation may be found in the 1998 statement of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, "Reflections on the Body, Cremation and Catholic Funeral Rites."

Architectural Concepts
pages 1, 6, 20
Hobbs+Black Architects
100 N. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104