

Columbarium Inurnment

Planning for a Cremation Niche Inurnment at St. Michael Cemetery

Practical Information and Consideration of Options

**St. Michael Catholic Cemetery
3160 208th Street West
Farmington, MN**

(please note: this is not a mailing address)

Background

Cremation burial / inurnment is becoming ever-more prevalent at Catholic cemeteries. Catholic teaching is clear, however: cremated remains must be treated with the same reverence and respect that is accorded a body in a traditional burial.

This means that cremated remains may not be scattered, distributed among family, commingled, or treated in any other manner that detracts from the reverence that should be given to this former temple of the Holy Spirit.

About half of the committals at St. Michael Cemetery are cremation. A cremation burial / inurnment offers more options for the family and other loved ones of the deceased than a traditional full-body burial.

The intent of this booklet is to inform and guide as what to expect at the cemetery. It also allows several decisions to be thoughtfully considered and made in advance, so that the cemetery proceedings will occur in accordance with family desires, as well as meeting cemetery regulations.

Additional information regarding cremation for Catholics can be found in publications of The Catholic Cemeteries of our archdiocese, as well as other Catholic resources.

**General Information
Columbarium Inurnment**

Cremated remains are to be contained in an appropriate and respectful closed vessel. Frequently this is a decorative urn but can also be the container supplied by the crematory. Maximum nominal sizes for the containers in the majority of our niches: 10" W x 9" L x 10" H

For Columbarium #3, single and side-by-side double niches are uniquely configured. Discuss with cemetery staff the allowable vessel sizes.

Preparations at the Cemetery

A stand covered with a white linen cloth will be prepared for the vessel to rest upon during the committal rite. [If windy conditions exist, cemetery staff may decide to omit the cloth.]

A second stand is available on request for holding flowers and pictures.

Normally 6 - 8 chairs are set up for the comfort of those who may want to sit during the committal rite. Do you wish to have more, or fewer, chairs available?

If so, please let us know the number requested: _____

After Conclusion of the Blessing / Prayers

The family of the deceased has a number of options as to how they wish to conduct the final 1) farewell and 2) repose for their loved one at the conclusion of the final blessing and/or prayers. No one option is "standard" and the family is encouraged to decide which choices would be most meaningful for them. Following are several possibilities to consider.

Farewell at Graveside or Columbarium

_____ WALK-BY and TOUCH

Mourners respectfully walk by the cremated remains of the deceased and offer a loving touch, either as the container sits on the stand or is held in the hands of someone.

Who would the family choose to hold the container or stabilize it on the stand: a family member or friend (their name, please), the funeral director, or cemetery staff (please indicate)?

_____ HOLD, then PASS

With respect and care, mourners pass the urn of the deceased from person-to-person to offer their farewell caress.

_____ MOVE DIRECTLY TO FINAL REPOSE

After the final blessing and/or prayers, several respectful moments are spent in reflection or additional prayer, after which final repose occurs.

_____ DISPERSE BEFORE FINAL REPOSE

Mourners disperse after final blessing and/or prayers, and cemetery staff inurns the cremated remains of the deceased and closes the niche after all have left the cemetery.

_____ OTHER FAREWELL REQUEST

The family may have another request for conducting their final farewell, as noted below (please also discuss with the funeral director or cemetery staff in advance to assure appropriateness and that family expectations are fully understood):

Final Repose

Placement of the urn into a niche is quite straightforward.

Frequently a family member or close friend of the deceased is identified who will place the cremated remains of your loved one in the niche.

For placement in the bottom row(s), the individual would need to be able to kneel to accomplish this — we provide kneeling pads for comfort.

If this is the preference of the family, who would that person or persons be [their name(s), please]?

= OR =

Would the family prefer the funeral director or cemetery staff perform this step of the inurnment? _____ Yes

Mementos of an appropriate size and nature (e.g., cut flowers, letters, poems, pictures) are allowed to be placed in the columbarium niche next to the urn.

Closing

The inner cover of the niche is permanently affixed with a premium silicone sealant.

Single Niche: At the time of inurnment, sealant is applied around the entire recess of the niche liner for a permanent bond of the inner cover that is dustless and moisture-proof.

Double Niche: A semi-permanent application of silicone is made at the time of inurnment of the first-deceased.

At the time of inurnment of the second set of cremated remains, the niche will be opened and preparations made to allow for final closing and permanent sealing as described above.

All niche spaces have a heavy granite exterior face plate installed as the final step of the inurnment committal of your loved one. The granite plate covers two adjacent niches, and it is fastened to the overall structure with four sturdy security bolts at each of its corners.

[The integrity of each niche seal is periodically checked as part of the cemetery's ongoing maintenance plan. When necessary, it is augmented or replaced, as required, in perpetuity,]

Would family like to assist staff in affixing the inner and/or outer covers to the front of the niche? (Cemetery staff closely guides this process, so children of about age 6 and up could be considered.) _____ Yes

If this is the preference of the family, who would that person or persons be [their name(s), please]?

Questions or Concerns (please note these and call one of the gentlemen below to discuss them)

When this booklet is completed, please call one of the following cemetery co-managers prior to the day of burial so family wishes may be discussed:

- Conrad Adelman [651-696-6158 (cell); 651-463-2946 (home)]
- Dave Stanek [612-518-3633 (cell); 651-463-3162 (home)]