

St. Mary Cemetery

DEKALB, ILLINOIS

COLUMBARIUM BURIAL

Frequently asked questions

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is an above ground structure, commonly made of granite, with compartments called niches, used for permanent cremation burial.

As a Catholic, may I be cremated?

Yes. The Church's preference is for burial of the body. However, cremation is permitted before or after the celebration of the funeral mass. More information can be found at the website for Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockford, www.rockfordcemeteries.org or by asking your pastor.

Are the niches weatherproof?

Yes. A weather proof liner protects the burials.

Can more than one person be buried in a single niche?

Yes. The intention for more than one burial must be decided at the time the niche is purchased and is only available to husband and wife. The cremated remains of each person must be in separate containers. Special urns are needed in order for both burials to fit inside the niche.

Can the burial urn be removed once it is placed inside the niche?

No. After a burial is placed inside, the niche is permanently sealed. The only exception is if a single niche is to hold 2 burials.

Can there still be a memorial marker?

Yes. The door covering the outer opening of the niche is a granite plate. It will be engraved with the name(s) of the deceased and the dates of birth and death and a Christian cross.

Can any personal memorial be engraved with the name and dates?

No. The only exception is for special recognition of veterans. This is to maintain the dignity of all the burials in the columbarium. The cemetery will handle the engraving arrangements and discuss fees with niche purchasers.

Can I still bring flowers as a grave decoration?

Unfortunately, to maintain the uniformity of the columbarium, no decorations on the columbarium will be allowed.

What is the cost of burial in a columbarium niche?

See the current St. Mary Cemetery price list. There is an additional fee for engraving and for an optional flower holder.

St. Mary Cemetery

DeKalb, IL

A cost effective alternative for cremation burials 48-
niche Columbarium



Constructed of premium granite, the St. Mary Columbarium houses 24 niches on each side, each measuring approximately 11" x 11" x 10"

Each niche has a granite cover which will be engraved with the name of the deceased

Remains of two persons can be housed in one niche if small urns are used

Contact the cemetery office at 815-758-5432 x6 for availability and pricing