St. Lawrence Martyr Church

Columbarium Phase 1

Frequently Asked Questions
The Columbarium at St. Lawrence Martyr
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What is a Columbarium?
A Columbarium is an arrangement of openings (Niches), either in a mausoleum, a room, or wall, into which an Urn or other worthy vessel is placed for permanent memorial.

If I choose to be cremated, what are the advantages of choosing the St. Lawrence Martyr Church Columbarium as opposed to a cemetery?
This is a personal choice. Many people choose to be buried 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. Those who choose to be placed in a Columbarium at the Church often are attracted by its religious focus and the nearness to the Church. 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 at St. Lawrence Martyr can be less than the cost of Interment in a cemetery. Other factors that may influence your decision to choose Inurnment in a Columbarium are concerns about the environment, space availability in a cemetery, and the flexibility cremation offers in ceremony planning and in the disposition of the remains.

Where will the Columbarium be located?
The Columbarium will be located in the Narthex of the Church (the entrance off Prospect Avenue).

How will the Columbarium be funded?
The costs for building and maintaining the Columbarium will be self-funded from the proceeds of the sale of the Right of Inurnment in designated Niches.

When will the Columbarium be available?
The Columbarium will be finished in the Summer of 2020.

How many Niches are available?
Each side of the Columbarium will have 89 Niches in three sizes, for a total of 178 Niches:
144: 8x8, 28: 12x12 and 6: 12x8.

Who may be inurned at the St. Lawrence Martyr Columbarium?
The Columbarium is intended for the use of St. Lawrence Martyr parishioners and their immediate families.
If I purchase a Niche and then change parishes, can I still use my Niche when I die?

Yes. If you are a St. Lawrence Martyr parishioner at the time of purchase, you may use your Niche even if you are no longer a St. Lawrence Martyr parishioner at the time of your death.

How many people can be inurned in a Niche?

Each Niche can hold one or two Urns. The purchase price will include the cost of the Urns. If the Urns included with your Niche are not used, Holder must be sure their Urn(s) fit within the dimensions of the Columbarium Niche. Typically, vase style Urns will not fit in the 8” x 8” Niches.

What are the Niche interior dimensions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8” x 8”</th>
<th>12” x 12”</th>
<th>8” x 12”</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Width: 7 5/8”</td>
<td>Width: 11 1/2”</td>
<td>Width: 11 1/2”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Height: 6”</td>
<td>Opening Height: 10”</td>
<td>Opening Height: 6”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Height: 7 3/4”</td>
<td>Interior Height: 11 3/4”</td>
<td>Interior Height: 7 3/4”</td>
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My spouse is not Catholic and I want to be buried with my spouse. Are there any provisions whereby we can be placed in the same Niche?

Yes. Each Niche can hold one or two Urns. Your non-Catholic spouse may be placed in your Columbarium Niche on St. Lawrence Martyr Church grounds.

I am single. Is there a price difference?

No.

I purchased a Niche for myself. If I later decide to add another person, can I do so?

Yes, assuming the second person meets the qualifications previously described.

May I select the Niche that I want?

Yes, depending upon availability at the time of purchase. Niche location will be recorded on the Right of Inurnment Certificate and the Parish’s internal records.
**What is the cost of a Niche?**

Niches will initially range in price from $5,000.00 to $15,000.00. Location in the Columbarium determines the final purchase price. A Pricing Sheet is available with the Sales Packet. The purchase price covers all costs directly associated with Inurnment which includes: the use of the designated Niche, the Urn(s), inscription on the Niche marble faceplate in accordance with Attachment 2 of the Agreement, and the perpetual care and maintenance of the Columbarium. The Pricing Sheet may be amended by the Committee at its discretion. Current Holders will neither be reimbursed nor assessed additional costs if the Pricing Sheet changes.

The costs of cremation, funeral fees, transportation and other off-premises costs are not included.

**Is financing available?**

No. Niches must be paid for in full at time of purchase in order to obtain a Right of Inurnment Certificate. Credit cards are accepted.

**Will these prices ever change?**

These are today’s prices and may be raised at any time without notice. However, once you have purchased a Niche, there will be no further charges, even if the price should rise in the future.

**What will happen with the proceeds of the sale of the Niches?** Proceeds will be used for the costs associated with building and maintaining the Columbarium, future phases of the Columbarium and other Church needs.

**Does the Archdiocese of Los Angeles take a portion of the proceeds?** Yes. They take 25% of our proceeds – 10% as Ordinary Income and 15% for their Catholic Cemeteries and Mortuaries services.

**How will the Church insure the perpetual care and maintenance of the Columbarium?**

The Church will set aside 5% of the proceeds in a care fund for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the Columbarium.

**What proof will I have that I purchased a Niche?**

A Right of Inurnment Certificate will be issued to a Holder after the payment of the appropriate purchase price for a specified Niche in the St. Lawrence Martyr Columbarium and after a duly signed Agreement has been approved.

**When I buy a Niche, do I receive a deed?**

No. The purchase of a Niche is a purchase of the Right of Inurnment in a designated Niche. You’re not really purchasing the Niche itself - that remains the property and responsibility of St. Lawrence Martyr Church.
What happens if I purchase a Niche in the Columbarium, then move away?

After a Right of Inurnment Certificate has been issued, but before engraving of the name or Inurnment of Cremains, a Holder may relinquish his or her rights back to St. Lawrence Martyr. At its sole option, the Columbarium Advisory Committee may return a portion of the Holder’s original purchase price (less 15% for administrative fees). No portion of the purchase price will be returned unless and until the Committee has resold the Inurnment right for the Holder’s Niche. The Columbarium Advisory Committee will decide each case individually.

What are the Niches made of?

The Niche fronts are Crème Marfil marble. The cross Niches are Emperador Light marble. All fronts have a polished finished and are fire and rot proof.

May I decorate the area near my Niche with flowers?

The Columbarium site is perpetually maintained in a manner designed to be beautiful, serene, holy, and edifying under the direction of the Columbarium Advisory Committee. The Church Staff may, from time to time, add floral arrangements to the space to mark a special occasion. Additional floral arrangements, pictures, flags, statues or other decorations may not be placed on or near a Niche or any other location in the Columbarium.

I am interested in purchasing a Niche. What is the next step?

The next step is to contact the parish office at (310) 540-0329. The Church Staff at the office will arrange for a representative of the Church to contact you and provide whatever assistance you need, including a copy of all documentation relating to the Columbarium and pricing. The purchase price will depend on the Niche location. To reserve a Niche, full payment is required at the time that the Agreement is signed.

What is the timing for Phase 2?

Plans for Phase 2 have not been decided as yet.

What if there is a conflict between this information and the Agreement?

The answers and information herein are subject to change. In the event of a conflict between the answers and information herein and the terms and conditions set forth in the final Agreement, the Agreement will control.
The Church and Cremation

As a Catholic, may I 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 Holy See have authorized the celebration of a Catholic funeral liturgy with the Cremated Remains when the body is cremated before the funeral.

Do I need to ask permission to be cremated?

No.

Who decides if I am cremated?

In most cases you make the decision to be cremated. However, your survivors may decide to have you cremated, generally due to special family circumstances…but rarely against your will.

How do I make my wishes known?

If you desire your body to be cremated you can make those wishes known in your will and in documents designed to help plan and prepare your funeral.

Must I honor my parent’s or spouse’s wish for cremation of their body?

Out of respect for loved ones, you will want to do all you can to carry out the wishes of the deceased concerning funeral services provided they are in keeping with Church practice.

Can I scatter the ashes? May I keep the ashes on my mantle?

No. The practice of scattering Cremated Remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping Cremated Remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (Order of Christian Funerals, Appendix II). Burial at sea of Cremated Remains differs from the scattering of ones ashes. Burial at sea is permitted as long as the Cremains are inurned in an appropriate and worthy container, heavy enough to be sent to its final resting place in the sea.

May anything be added to Cremated Remains such as cremated remains of other persons, pets, and other objects?

No. The principle of respect for the Cremated Remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the individuality of each baptized person before God. Throughout history, the mingling of remains has never been an accepted practice, except in extraordinary circumstances.
What is the proper container for Cremated Remains?

Appropriate containers (not necessarily expensive) such as a classic Urn are proper for the Cremated Remains. At the present time the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy has determined only what is not a proper container. Although jewelry, dishes, statuary and space capsules are now being offered, they are unacceptable in Catholic funeral practices. It is also unacceptable to have your Cremated Remains made into jewelry, dishes and the like.

Must Cremated Remains be buried/entombed?

Yes. There are many beautiful options for Cremated Remains which include a family grave in a cemetery marked with a traditional Memorial or an Urn garden, a special section in a cemetery with small, pre-dug graves for Urns, or a Columbarium.

What funeral rites are celebrated when a person is cremated?

All the usual rites which 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 have 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.

Is a ritual conducted when the remains are inurned in the Columbarium?

Yes. The Rite of Committal is very similar to the service conducted at a grave site in a cemetery.