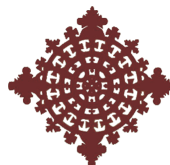

What is a Columbarium?

A columbarium is a permanent resting place for cremated remains. *Columbarium* is a Latin word for dovecote - a nesting place for doves. The Early Christians in Rome used the term to describe the catacombs where they not only interred their dead but shared the liturgy during times of persecution.



Who can I talk to about funeral plans?

Pre-planning your own funeral is a way to relieve your family and friends of stress and demonstrate your love and care for them. The staff of St. Gregory's encourages everyone to make funeral plans and keep them on file in the parish office. Any member of the staff can talk to you about the details of your funeral.



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SAINT GREGORY OF NYSSA

The Columbarium



What you need to
know about burial
at the church

Where is it located?



Our columbarium is located outside the church, just to the south of the font. It is a sacred space for prayer and meditation, as well as a place the community gathers for baptism. On the monumental door of the columbarium the image of the resurrected Christ reaches out his arms of love to all who pass by. The icon tells us that this is a place of resurrection.

How is it used in the burial service?

The Book of Common Prayer says, “The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

“The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.’

“This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.”

At the end of the burial liturgy – following communion – the ashes of the deceased are carried out to the columbarium where they are interred in a niche. We say prayers for the dead and solemnly close the door. Then we return to the church for the final hymn.

Who can be buried here?

The same welcome that we make at communion applies to the columbarium. Just as Jesus welcomes everyone to join him in the eternal life of resurrection, we welcome anyone to be buried here. You do not have to be a member of St. Gregory’s to be buried in the columbarium.

What does it cost?

A donation of \$2500 is accepted by Saint Gregory’s for the interment of the cremated remains of individuals in the columbarium. This donation is required to reserve a niche.

How do I reserve a place?

A sample contract outlining the fees and rules governing the columbarium is available at from the parish office, office@saintgregorys.org.

