



The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has allowed cremation since 1963, with certain rules.

When a loved one has been cremated, their ashes must be treated the same as one would treat a body. The ashes may not be separated or scattered but should be placed in a proper vessel (urn) and interred in a proper place, such as a cemetery or church.

Cremation with inurnment in a columbarium can be an economical alternative to a traditional funeral with embalming, casket, vault, etc. while still maintaining the proper respect due a member of the Body of Christ.



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*Eternal
rest grant
unto them,
O Lord...*

*St. Mary of the
Visitation
Columbarium*

St. Mary of the Visitation was established in downtown Huntsville in 1861, a “mighty fortress of faith.” The Columbarium Garden is an enclosed place on the church courtyard, a peaceful place of rest for the deceased and of prayer and contemplation for the living.

Benefits of the Visitation columbarium include:

- Perpetual care, including facility maintenance, recordkeeping, lighting and landscaping.
- The deceased will be remembered at all the Visitation Masses in the month of November, with a special Mass on All Souls’ Day November 2 at the Columbarium.



Who is eligible to use the Columbarium?

- Registered parishioners and their immediate family members
- Former registered parishioners and their immediate family members
- Others with prior approval of the Pastor and the Columbarium Board.

Immediate family members do not need to be Catholic to be interred in the Visitation Columbarium.

What do I get when I buy a niche?

The niches are designed for one or two urns, which will be supplied by St. Mary of the Visitation. Faceplates engraved with the name, date of birth, and date of death for the deceased are also included in the price of a niche. Cost of cremation is NOT included. Cremation must be done in accordance with the applicable state laws.



What about the Funeral Mass?

The Order of Christian Funerals allows for either the traditional Mass before cremation or the liturgy adapted for use with cremated remains. A funeral director can answer your questions on “cremation caskets” and other options. Following the Mass is the Rite of Committal.

Should I buy now or later?

There is a limited number of niches, and it is very likely the cost of a niche will increase. If you change your mind, Visitation will buy back your niche, less a handling fee. You may not sell the niche to another party.

It is a kindness to your loved ones for you to plan your funeral, to decide on what you want and where your final resting place should be, rather than leaving the decision to those who may not know your wishes, at a time of stress and grief.

