



SAINT EUGENE CATHOLIC CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN

P.O. Box 188 ~ 608 Lions Club Rd. Wendell, NC 27591

Phone: (919) 365-7114-Ext. 200

steugenecolumbarium@gmail.com

SAINT EUGENE MEMORIAL GARDEN INFORMATION

■ **What is a Columbarium?**

A columbarium is a sacred structure that offers a peaceful and dignified final resting place for the deceased. It is specifically designed for the permanent inurnment of human cremated remains (cremains) in individual compartments, known as *niches*.

■ **How many urns can each niche in our Memorial Garden columbarium accommodate?**

The cremains of no more than two people, in separate urns, may be inurned in any one niche. The cremains must be of two people from the same immediate family. Exceptions to the immediate family rule require the written approval of the Pastor.

■ **Where is the Saint Eugene Memorial Garden located?**

Adjacent to the sanctuary, the Memorial Garden is designed to foster prayerful reflection, privacy, serenity, and meditation, especially for those visiting their dearly departed loved ones.

■ **Who may be inurned or memorialized in our Memorial Garden?**

The Memorial Garden is intended primarily for the deceased members of Saint Eugene Catholic Parish of Wendell. Registered parishioners and their immediate family members will receive priority in the assignment of niches and memorial wall inscriptions.

■ **Do I need to ask permission to be cremated?**

No, but it is a good idea to inform the Pastor of your intention.

■ **Should I schedule a funeral Mass before or after cremation?**

The Church prefers cremation *after* the funeral Mass. However, an indult has been granted by the Holy See which provides for the celebration of the Mass with the cremated remains in church.

■ **My spouse is not Catholic, and I want to be inurned with him or her. Are there any provisions whereby we can be placed in the same niche?**

Yes. Spouses may be inurned together in one niche. All associated liturgies, however, will be in keeping with Roman Catholic rites. Exceptions require approval by the Pastor.

■ **Can an active registered parishioner of another Catholic parish without a columbarium purchase a niche in the Saint Eugene Memorial Garden?**

Individuals who are not registered parishioners of Saint Eugene Catholic Church may purchase a limited number of niches with the approval of the Pastor. Non-parishioner rates apply.

■ **What is included in the purchase price?**

The purchase price includes the niche, urn(s), niche cover inscription, opening and closing of the niche on the day of each inurnment, and the perpetual care of the Memorial Garden surroundings.

The urn(s) provided as part of the niche purchase meet the standards of worthiness established by the U.S. Bishops' Committee and are appropriately sized to fit within the niche. If you choose not to use the urn(s) included in the parish niche package, no refund will be issued for the unused urn(s). In such cases, it is the purchaser's responsibility to ensure that any alternate urn complies with all required size and material specifications.

Saint Eugene Catholic Church and the Memorial Garden Committee are not responsible for any additional expenses incurred by the family of the deceased, including, but not limited to, funeral home charges, cremation expenses, or other related fees not specifically listed above.

▪ **I purchased a niche to accommodate one person. If I later decide to add another person, can I do so?**
Yes. You will be charged the difference between the price you paid for the single occupancy niche and the price of a double occupancy niche that is in effect at the time you purchase it. In addition, you will be responsible for the cost of a replacement niche cover.

▪ **What happens if I purchase a niche and then move away?**

Saint Eugene Catholic Church may, upon written request of the purchaser, repurchase a reserved niche. If cremated remains have not been inurned in the niche, the purchaser shall be refunded 75% of the original niche package price paid.

▪ **What happens if a family desires to move the cremains inurned in the Saint Eugene Memorial Garden to another location?**

Removal of an urn will only be allowed for a permanent move to another facility. Upon a notarized written request by a family member or next of kin, a niche will be opened and the contents removed. Saint Eugene Catholic Church will rely on the notarized document showing evidence of authority and shall not be required to make further inquiry. Any opening of the niche will be done at a time convenient to the Saint Eugene Catholic Church. Any person requesting such opening and removal shall release Saint Eugene Catholic Church from any liability in connection with such action, shall agree to indemnify and hold Saint Eugene Catholic Church harmless from any cost (including legal fees and court costs) incurred in connection with such opening and removal. Following the removal of the cremated remains, 50% of the original niche package price paid will be refunded within one year of the approved request. The inscribed niche cover will become the property of the purchaser, family member or next of kin. Both parties will sign a document reflecting the actions taken.

▪ **May I decorate the area around the niche with flowers or other objects?**

No. The Memorial Garden area will be perpetually maintained in a manner designed to be beautiful, serene, holy and edifying. It is requested that you do not place any additional floral arrangements, flags, statues, insignias, or other decorations within, on, or outside of the Memorial Garden area. If such items are left, no attempt will be made to return such items to the family when removed. Any extraordinary expenses to remove items will be at the expense of the family.

▪ **May anything be added to cremains, such as cremains of other persons, pets, or other objects?**

No. Only human cremains are permitted to be inurned in the columbarium. Each urn may contain only the cremains of one person. No other objects other than the urn(s) will be allowed inside the niche. No exceptions to this policy will be made.

▪ **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 gravesite in a cemetery.

▪ **Must cremated remains be buried or inurned?**

Yes. Respectful final disposition of cremated remains requires burial, or inurnment in a columbarium, as a final resting place.

▪ **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 a private home is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Cremated remains, like a body, are to be placed in a sacred and permanent resting place.

▪ **My family members are buried in another city. Can I remember them at the site of Saint Eugene Memorial Garden?**

Yes. Eligible immediate family members of a registered parishioner may be memorialized on a Memorial Wall. All applications for the Right of Memorialization are subject to review and approval. The Pastor and Memorial Garden Committee reserve the right to deny any application that does not comply with Memorial Garden or parish policies.

For further information or to arrange a purchase appointment, please contact us at steugenecolumbarium@gmail.com. We will be happy to assist you with any questions and guide you through the purchase process.