Epiphany’s Columbarium in the Resurrection Chapel

“See, I am making all things new”
“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

(Note: This brief brochure is only intended to provide general information in answer to frequently asked questions about Epiphany’s Columbarium. The Columbarium Rules, approved by the Parish’s Vestry and available from the Parish Office, govern all aspects of the Columbarium’s use in detail.

What is a Columbarium? “Columbarium,” a term derived from the Latin word columba, or dove, a symbol of God’s spirit and peace, is a consecrated area reserved for the inurnment of cremated remains (or “cremains”) of the deceased. Each separate compartment within the columbarium is called a “niche”.

Why should I choose the Columbarium? Historically, Christians have laid to rest in churches, where they are remembered and their remains safeguarded. The Columbarium at Epiphany offers a final resting place for parishioners and their family members, and a tranquil area to reflect and honor the memory of the deceased.

Where is the Columbarium located at The Church of the Epiphany? The Columbarium is located on the east and west sides of Resurrection Chapel behind the chancel area and iron screen at the front of the church. The columbarium contains 132 niches and each niche can accommodate one or two sets of cremains.

Who is eligible to reserve a niche in Epiphany’s Columbarium? With certain exceptions, a baptized person who has been a member on the rolls of the Parish for at least two years may apply to reserve a niche in the Columbarium. This person is called the “Subscriber.”

Whose cremains may be inurned in a reserved niche? The Subscriber and specific immediate family members designated by the Subscriber. These people are called “Designees.”

What is the niche capacity? Each niche is limited to two urns. The dimensions of each urn should generally not exceed 5.5” (d) x 9.5” (w) x 10.5” (h).

May I choose a niche location in the Columbarium? Yes. Niches are offered on a “first come, first served’ basis. Upon payment of the reservation fee, the niche Subscriber may specify the desired niche or niches on the Request for Columbarium Use form.

What is the cost to reserve a niche? Please refer to the enclosed fee schedule.

How are niches marked? A bronze plaque purchased from the parish (and in accordance with the parish’s specifications) shows the name(s) of the deceased person(s) and years of birth and death. See attached fee schedule for cost.

Will urns be provided? The Church of the Epiphany will not supply urns or any engraving thereon.
**Will the urn need to be marked?** The decedent’s name and date of death should be permanently marked on the urn.

**Will I need to present a cremation certificate?** A cremation certificate from the crematory that performed the cremation must be submitted to the Parish prior to inurnment.

**Will a funeral or committal service take place?** Arrangements may be made with the Rector for a committal service at a mutually convenient time.

**Can flowers be placed in or near the Columbarium?** No flowers, plants, flags, signs or other decorations may be placed in or near the Columbarium. Family members and friends who wish to place flowers at or near the inurnment site are encouraged to contact the Parish Office to offer floral arrangements to be placed in the altar/chancel area.

**Will there be information about deceased persons whose cremains are inurned in the Columbarium?** Yes. A Book of Remembrance will be made available containing brief information about the deceased.

**What if I decide to make arrangements for burial or interment someplace else? May I get a refund?** No, reservation fees are non-refundable, so subscribers should be certain that they and their family wish to use a niche before making a reservation.

**What if a family wishes to move the remains of someone inurned in the Columbarium to another location?** Removal of cremains from the Columbarium is generally not permitted except in certain circumstances in accordance with the parish’s Columbarium Rules.

**In addition to the cost of reserving a niche, are there other costs associated with using the Columbarium?** Fees for the opening and closing of a niche each time an inurnment takes place and for casting and installation of bronze niche plaques need to be paid prior to inurnment. Please refer to the attached fee schedule.

**What else do I need to know?** This brief brochure is only intended to provide general information in answer to frequently asked questions about Epiphany’s Columbarium. For a complete copy of the Columbarium Rules, answers to other questions, and additional information, please email the Columbarium Committee at columbarium@epiphanydc.org or call the Parish Office 202-347-2635.

The Church of the Epiphany  
1317 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-3102  
columbarium@epiphanydc.org  
www.epiphanydc.org

2/1/2017
Columbarium Fee Schedule
Approved by the Vestry January 2014

Niche Reservation: $3000
Inurnment: $250
Memorial Plaque: $320