



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY CEMETERY

16330 Grotto Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
(301) 447-5318

Frequently Asked Questions

Niche Policies

1. Can I bury/mix cremated ashes of another person or my pet with me/my loved one?
No. As per Catholic Teaching, ashes may not be mixed out of respect of the person being buried. Also, we have a strict no pet policy at Mount St. Mary's Cemetery.
2. Can I spread ashes at the Grotto?
No. As per Catholic Teaching, all ashes must remain together, and may not be spread in air or sea out of respect for the body.
3. Can I inter some of the ashes, but keep some at home?
No. Again, as per Catholic Teaching, all ashes must remain together.
4. How many urns can be buried on top of a casket in each plot?
Only one urn.

Columbarium Specifics

5. What material is the Columbarium made of?
Our columbariums are constructed of gray stone and marble.
6. What type of Urn is required?
There is no specific type, but it must be exactly 11" X 11"X 11" or smaller.

Funeral/Interment Specifics

7. Can I have a funeral service at the Cemetery?
No. The funeral service must be at your home parish. You may have a small prayer service with your family, a priest who you contact, or a priest from the National Shrine Grotto.
8. Do you have a priest available for the interment?
Yes, the National Shrine Grotto Chaplain is available upon request. There would be a fee or a donation request for his services. He would need the request in advance as to add the interment prayer service to his schedule.
9. How do I notify you when we want to inter someone?

Please call the National Shrine Grotto: 301-447-5318 and ask for the Cemetery Manager.

10. Are vaults allowed?

Vaults are required by law according to the State of Maryland. Please speak to the funeral home to select a vault. Certain types of vaults affect how long it takes for the soil to resettle and the grass to be reseeded.

11. How long will it take for a new grave to be reseeded with grass after the soil has been resettled?

The soil resettling and seeding of new grass process takes around three months.

Engraving Specifics

12. Where do I go for the engraving?

Codori Memorials in Gettysburg does all of our engravings. The font style and size should be uniform with all of the Niches. You can reach Codori Memorials at (717) 334-1413.

13. What can I put on a niche?

Name, birth, and death dates are all permitted.

14. When can I have the memorial stone engraved?

After you receive your certificate of ownership, you may order an engraving. (You have to have paid for the niche in full before engraving a memorial).

Niches and Finance

15. Can I sell back a Niche?

Yes, you can sell back a Niche. If it is still empty and no engraving has been done, we will refund you the entire purchase price. If an Urn has already been placed in the Niche, we will reimburse the purchaser the entire purchase price less the expense to open, clean and close the Niche as well as the cost of a new stone if it has already been engraved.

16. Can we choose the Niche or is it assigned?

You may choose the Niche, but please ask if a certain one is available as not all are marked on the columbarium.

17. What does the cost of the Niche include?

The cost of the Niche includes opening, cleaning, and closing of the Niche.