

**MOUNT ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY CEMETERY**

16330 Grotto Road

Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
(301) 447-5318

Frequently Asked Questions

\*Please consult Mount St. Mary’s Cemetery Policy Booklet for more detailed information.

**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 for the person being buried. Also, we have a strict no pet policy at Mount St. Mary’s Cemetery.

1. 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.

1. Can I inter some of the ashes, but keep some at home?

No. Per Catholic Teaching, all ashes must remain together.

1. How many urns can be buried on top of a casket in each plot?

Only one urn.

**Columbarium Specifics**

1. What materials make up the columbaria?

Our columbaria are constructed of gray stone and marble.

1. What type of urn is required?

There is no specific type, but it must be exactly 11” x 11”x 11” or smaller.

**Funeral/Internment Specifics**

1. 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 at the time of interment with your family, a priest who you contact, or a priest from the National Shrine Grotto.

1. Do you have a priest available for the interment?

Yes, the National Shrine Grotto Chaplain is available upon request. He would need the request two weeks in advance as to add the interment prayer service to his schedule.

1. 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.

1. Are vaults allowed?

Vaults are required by law according to the State of Maryland. Mount St. Mary’s Cemetery requires a concrete vault that seals for all full burial interments. Please see the Mount St. Mary’s Cemetery Policy booklet for specifics.

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

During warmer months, around three to four months. Reseeding of grass is not done in colder months. There is no guarantee when soil will be completely regrown and soil completely resettled.

**Engraving Specifics**

1. Where do I go for the engraving of columbarium niches or procuring of tombstones for plots?

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

1. What can I put on a niche?

Name, birth, and death dates are all permitted.

1. When can I have the columbarium stone engraved or purchase a tombstone for plots?

Once you have paid in full for the niche/plot, and have received your Certificate of Ownership, you may order an engraving for your niche cover or a memorial marker for your plot.

**Niches and Finance**

1. Can I sell back a niche?

Yes, you can sell back a niche. Please contact the Cemetery Manager for further details. A refund of 80% of the purchase price will be given.

1. Can we choose the niche or is it assigned?

You may choose the niche with the assistance of the Cemetery Manager.

1. What does the cost of the niche include?

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