

COLUMBARIUM GROUNDS POLICY FOR St. Ann Santee Parish

In our effort to maintain a reverent area to pray for our faithfully departed, and to offer consolation to a family who experiences the death of a loved one, the Parish has invested a great deal of time and expense in the establishment of a Columbarium and the design and details of its landscaping. To preserve the dignity of the Columbarium grounds, it has become necessary to expand on the basic rules and regulations. These policies have been established by the Pastor of the Parish and approved by the Parish Pastoral Council.

Due to the number and proximity of each of our niches and the increasing number of people who are being interred in the Columbarium, it is difficult to display more than one floral tribute at a time for any one niche. Therefore, multiple floral arrangements are not allowed.

We welcome a small fresh-cut flower arrangement or a small live potted plant (plastic, basket or paper mache containers only), as a remembrance of a birthday, anniversary, Christmas, Easter, Memorial, July 4 or Veterans Day. Items left at a niche must be floral in nature and may not stand taller than the height of the bottom niches. Other items, including, but not limited to hazardous materials, glass containers or bottles, metal, toys, pictures, candles, electric or battery operated lights, balloons, books, letters, signs and flags are not permitted. An American flag is, however, allowed at the niche site for Memorial, July 4 and Veterans Days, and may be displayed the day before through the day after. Unauthorized items will be removed immediately. Flowers will be removed when spent, or for maintenance and to maintain the landscape design, or if damaged by weather or wildlife. Due to the open nature of the grounds, we cannot guarantee against theft, vandalism or the effects of nature.

During the Advent and Christmas season (Thanksgiving through January 10), a live or artificial potted plant, small fresh or artificial flower arrangement is permitted, but may not be attached to a niche.

During Easter Week, a small live potted plant, small fresh flower arrangement may be placed in front of the niche beginning on Holy Thursday. Items will be removed by the maintenance staff one week after Easter Sunday or when spent. During the Spring and Summer months when flowers are naturally in bloom, artificial flowers are unnecessary and detract from the natural beauty. Standing floral arrangements and large baskets are allowed only at the time of interment, and they will be removed when spent.

In order to preserve the dignity of the Columbarium, please observe the following rules of behavior while visiting the Columbarium grounds:

- Digging and/or planting, cutting flowers/trees, or otherwise damaging any area of the grounds, are not permitted. Floral arrangements must be placed on the bricks in front of the wall, and not next to the Columbarium wall.
- Flowers are not to be picked.
- Pets are not allowed on the grounds at any time.
- Soliciting or distributing of materials is prohibited.
- Sports or recreational activities of any kind are prohibited (especially skateboarding, climbing on the walls, benches, fountain, Stations of the Cross or fences)

- Food or drink is not allowed, except water.
- Littering is not allowed—please use the receptacle provided at the entrance.
- Smoking and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Damaging or tampering with any stationary item is not allowed (e.g. lighting, benches, statues and Stations of the Cross).
- Boisterous activity, including the playing of loud music is prohibited.
- Altering a niche in any manner is prohibited (i.e., marking, attaching flowers, photographs, objects or keepsakes, etc.).
- No overnight sleeping in the garden is allowed.

Please note that our Columbaria grounds is a fully operational cemetery. If there is an interment in progress, please maintain a respectful distance.

The above policies supersede and replace all prior policies adopted by the Parish with respect to the Columbarium and surrounding grounds.

We thank you in advance for providing the respect our loved ones and their families are due by observing the above listed rules. Our faithfully departed deserve no less than an honorable, prayerful and pristine landscape as their holy and final earthly resting place.

TPGL 4514233v4