



Cremation in the Catholic Church

WHAT CATHOLIC FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

The Catholic Church permits cremation when it is chosen with dignity and accompanied by sacred placement in consecrated ground.



1. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PERMITS CREMATION

The Church permits cremation as an acceptable choice. It should not be chosen for reasons that deny our faith in the resurrection of the body. Catholic funeral rites, including the Funeral Mass, are an important part of honoring our loved ones and commending their souls to God.



2. WHY SACRED PLACEMENT MATTERS

Cremated remains should be placed in a sacred, permanent resting place, such as a Catholic cemetery or mausoleum, set apart for prayer and remembrance. This honors the dignity of the person and reflects our Catholic belief in eternal life.

- Conveys respect and dignity
- Provides a place for prayer and visitation
- Supports the healing and remembrance of loved ones
- Scattering cremated remains or keeping them at home is not in accordance with Church teaching



3. CATHOLIC CREMATION OPTIONS THROUGH CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

Catholic Cemeteries Association offers several beautiful and sacred options for the respectful placement of cremated remains.



INDOOR NICHEs
Secure spaces inside a mausoleum or columbarium.



OUTDOOR COLUMBARIUM
Located in peaceful outdoor settings.



CREMATION GARDENS
Beautiful gardens dedicated to remembrance and prayer.



COMPANION OPTIONS
Niches designed for couples to be together.



FULL BODY BURIAL
Cremated remains may also be buried with a loved one in a grave or crypt.



4. A PLACE FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND REMEMBRANCE

Having a permanent place in a Catholic cemetery allows families and future generations to visit, pray, and remember their loved ones. It becomes a sacred place where faith, love, and memories come together.



5. PREPLANNING WITH PEACE OF MIND

Preplanning your cremation and final resting place ensures your wishes are honored, reflects your Catholic faith, and provides peace of mind for you and your family. Our caring Family Service Advisors are here to guide you every step of the way.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can Catholics be cremated?

A: Yes. The Catholic Church permits cremation as long as it is not chosen for reasons that deny our faith in the resurrection and is accompanied by sacred placement in consecrated ground.

Q: Can cremated remains be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

A: Yes. Cremated remains may be placed in a mausoleum niche, columbarium, cremation garden, or other areas designated by the Church.

Q: What is a columbarium?

A: A columbarium is a structure with individual niches designed to hold urns containing cremated remains. It is a sacred place for permanent placement, prayer, and remembrance.

Q: Can couples share a niche?

A: Yes. Many of our niches are designed for two, allowing couples to remain together in eternal rest.

Q: Is a Funeral Mass still celebrated with cremation?

A: Yes. The Catholic Funeral Mass is celebrated in the same way as with full body burial, with the body present for the Mass whenever possible.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC CREMATION OPTIONS

We are here to help you make choices that honor your faith and your loved ones.



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Serving Hartford, New Haven and Litchfield Counties

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



Guiding families in faith