

Saint Joan of Arc Memorial Garden

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How will people know my ashes are buried in the Garden?

A. Names of those whose ashes are buried in the Garden will be engraved on the church wall sometime after the burial. Timing for engraving depends on the schedule of the engraver and is done no more than two times/year during warm weather months.

Q. Are there burials when the ground is frozen?

A. No, we do not have equipment required to allow for burials when the ground is frozen. Burials are typically scheduled Mid-April through Mid-November.

Q. How do I schedule a burial if it's not at the same time as the funeral?

A. Call the St. Joan of Arc Parish Center and ask to speak to the priest you would like to preside at the burial to schedule a time with him.

Q. Can non-parishioners have their ashes buried in the garden?

A. Yes, but we assume that applications will be primarily for parish members or their designees. This is an official Catholic Cemetery, even though it is only for cremated remains.

Q. Can I have the name of a loved one who is buried elsewhere memorialized in the Garden?

A. Yes. Pavers may be inscribed with the names of loved ones. Only those buried in the garden are engraved on the Church wall.

Q. How can I be assured that the check I write now will reserve a space for the burial of my ashes at some future date?

A. The Purchase Agreement is a legally binding contract that you complete and sign when you reserve a space for burial in the Memorial Garden. Once the Purchase Agreement is signed by you and the Pastor, and you have made your payment, you are guaranteed a space in the Garden.

Q. Can I reserve a specific location in the Memorial Garden? For example, can I be buried next to my spouse or partner?

A. This is not possible. In order to avoid disturbing the remains of those already interred in the Garden, we must follow a grid and bury each

person in the order of the spaces available. The Purchase Agreement reserves a space, not a specific place or plot, in the Garden.

- Q. Will there be a plaque to indicate the exact location of my loved one's or my ashes?
- A. There will not be plaques indicating individual burial spots. However, there is a plot grid and the parish will keep permanent records indicating the specific location of buried remains.
- Q. What kind of container may I use for my ashes?
- A. We use biodegradable containers in this Garden. The cremation vendor has biodegradable plastic bags and the idea is to use containers that will decompose quickly. The container must be no larger than 11" x 11" to fit into the hole that is opened in the Garden.
- Q. What is the money I give actually used for?
- A. A portion is used to reserve a space for your ashes – like buying a burial plot at a cemetery. Another portion is used to cover the costs associated with opening and closing the grave and upkeep of the Garden. The fee also covers the inscription of the name and birth year-death year on the church wall. Cremation costs are separate and are the responsibility of the family.
- Q. Is it possible to pay over time for the interment of my ashes at some future date?
- A. We prefer one payment at the time the contract is signed, but if there is a need to do otherwise, payment arrangements will be handled on a case by case basis.
- Q. If I change my mind and decide not to be buried in the Memorial Garden, can I get my money back?
- A. No, your payment is non-refundable.
- Q. I thought the Church forbade cremation.
- A. There was a time when cremation was forbidden by the Church. However, the Vatican approved cremation in 1963 and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis approved it in 1967.
- Q. Who will maintain the Garden?
- A. The St. Joan of Arc Staff and the Memorial Garden Committee are responsible for the overall maintenance and decisions made regarding

the care and planting of the Garden. The St. Joan of Arc maintenance staff and volunteers will be responsible for day to day care.

Q. Would I be able to move the ashes of my loved one after they have been interred?

A. No, there would be no way to move the ashes without disturbing the other ashes in the garden.

Q. Whom do I call with other questions?

A. Call the Parish Center, 612-823-8205. The Memorial Garden Administrator can answer Memorial Garden questions. The Pastor or the Funeral Coordinator can answer Funeral Planning and burial questions.