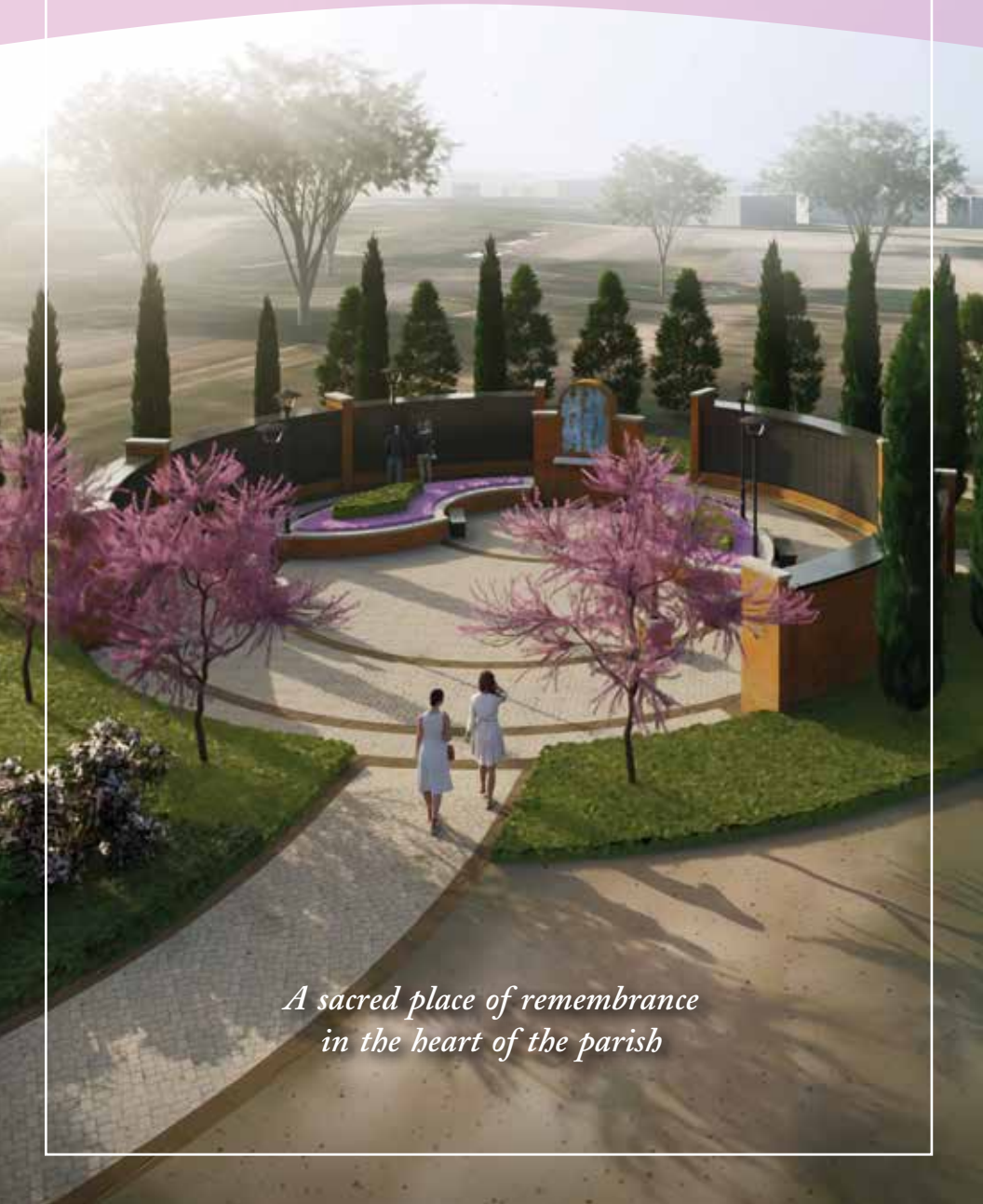
SAINT ANTHONY CHURCH

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

COLUMBARIUM



A sacred place of remembrance
in the heart of the parish

The Saint Anthony Columbarium

When someone we love dies, we want them near. The Saint Anthony Columbarium offers a resting place for the cremated remains of the faithful departed on the grounds of the parish church.

A columbarium is a wall of small compartments, called niches. Each niche holds an urn and is closed by a stone faceplate carved with the name of the person resting there.

It stands as an extension of Mary's Garden, which is being fully renovated for this purpose. Here families have a sacred place of remembrance close to the church where we worship, celebrate the sacraments, and commend our loved ones to the mercy of God.

A place of prayer, peace, and Christian hope in the resurrection.

Five words used in this booklet

Columbarium: A sacred structure containing individual compartments, called niches, for the permanent placement of urns holding the cremated remains of the deceased.

Niche the small compartment in the wall that holds the urn.

Right of Interment the right your family buys: the right to have a loved one rest in that niche.

Entombment the day itself, when the niche is opened and the urn is placed inside.

Committal the short prayer service in the garden that goes with the entombment.

Why a columbarium at Saint Anthony?
For many families it is a comfort to know that their loved ones rest at their parish church. The columbarium allows the faithful to remain close to the spiritual home that nourished them in life and that continues to pray for them in death.

Every Sunday the parish gathers only steps away. In every Divine Liturgy the Church remembers the faithful departed by name and commends them to God. Although separated by death, we remain united with our loved ones in Christ. Through our prayers, especially in the Divine Liturgy, we continue to express the bonds of faith and love that death cannot destroy. They are still among us.

A parish columbarium offers

- a holy and permanent resting place
- a sacred setting for prayer and remembrance
- a way to remain connected to the life of the parish
- a practical and dignified option for Christian burial

Cremation and the Church

The Church has always treated the bodies of the deceased with reverence. Through baptism, chrismation, and the Holy Eucharist, the human person has been sanctified by God's grace. Even in death, the body deserves respect as the body of one called to the resurrection.

The Church also permits cremation. Cremation does not take away God's power to raise the dead, and it is no obstacle to the resurrection. It may not, however, be chosen for reasons that contradict our faith.

The ashes are treated with the same care as the body. For that reason the Church asks that they be laid to rest in a sacred place, such as a cemetery or a columbarium. They are not to be kept at home, scattered on land or sea, divided among family members, or made into jewelry or keepsakes.

If your family has already made other arrangements, please do not let that keep you away. Speak with the pastor. He will help you find a good way forward, quietly and without embarrassment.

A parish columbarium answers this need simply and beautifully. It gives the ashes a holy resting place, a name carved in stone, and a community that keeps on praying.

See *CCEO* can. 876 §3; *CIC* can. 1176 §3.

A Place of Prayer and Hope

The columbarium is more than a practical arrangement. It says out loud what we believe: that the dead will rise, and that we remain one family with them in Christ.

Here we remember our beloved dead with gratitude, entrust them to the mercy of God, and wait for the day when Christ will raise us up with them.

The funeral and the committal

When a parishioner dies, the funeral is celebrated in the church as always. Afterward the family and friends walk out to the garden for the short rite of committal. The urn rests on the altarpiece while the prayers are said, and it is then placed in the niche.

The parish office will help the family plan every step. There is no need to make these decisions alone or in a hurry.

A rendering of the columbarium design.

Niche Options and Pricing

The columbarium holds 426 niches: 264 twelve-inch and 162 eight-inch. Twelve-inch niches hold two urns. Eight-inch niches hold one urn. Prices differ by tier. The center tier is at eye level.

Pre-construction reservation pricing

Tier	Twelve-inch	Eight-inch
Top	$4,000	$2,250
Center	$4,500	$2,500
Bottom	$3,750	$2,125

Niches paid for before construction cost $500 less. These prices hold until the first entombment in the columbarium. The parish will announce the closing date well before it arrives.

Prices as of 1 October 2026 and subject to change.

How the price is paid

Upon execution of the agreement and payment of the purchase price, a specific niche will be designated in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

What Is Included

The purchase price of a niche includes:

- the right of interment in the niche purchased, on the terms set out in the agreement
- care of the columbarium and the garden
- the first opening and closing of the niche
- the first entombment, on a weekday
- a certificate of interment rights

Care of the columbarium

Part of every purchase goes into the Columbarium Perpetual Care Fund. This fund keeps the niches, the faceplates, the garden, and the walkways in good repair for years to come. Families are not asked to pay for ordinary upkeep. The agreement lists the only charges that can be made later.

What a niche is, and is not

Buying a niche does not buy a piece of land or any share of parish property. It gives your family the right to have the cremated remains of your loved one placed and kept in that niche, under the care of the parish, on the terms of the written agreement. Please read the agreement before you sign it, and ask about anything that is not clear.

Memorial Opportunities

Besides the niches, the following may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one:

Memorial	Available	Gift
Altarpiece	1	$35,000
Planter	3	$10,000
Bench	8	$5,000
Paving brick	150	$250

The altarpiece is the stone on which the urn rests during the committal service. The eight granite benches, the planters, and the paving bricks are set within the renovated garden, where visitors may sit, pray, and rest.

A memorial gift of this kind is not tied to the purchase of a niche. Families whose loved ones are buried elsewhere, and who still wish their memory to be kept at Saint Anthony, are warmly invited to consider one.

Each memorial gift is marked by an inscription in the form approved by the parish. To reserve a memorial, please contact the parish office.

Inscription and Entombment

The name on the faceplate

The standard inscription gives the name of the deceased with the year of birth and the year of death. In a twelve-inch niche, the same standard form is used for both persons. Engraving is not included in the purchase price. It is arranged through the parish office and paid for by the family.

Extra wording, symbols, custom engraving, or lettering other than the standard form may be requested with the approval of the parish and carries an added charge. The parish office can show you samples and tell you the current pricing.

The day of entombment

The purchase price includes the first entombment on a weekday. This covers the first opening and closing of the niche and the careful, prayerful placing of the urn inside it. When a twelve-inch niche is opened a second time, a fee applies.

Saturday entombments, when available, carry an added fee. Entombments are not scheduled on Sundays or on holy days of obligation. The parish office will tell you the current amount.

Who May Purchase a Niche

Niches are available to parishioners of Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church, to their family members, and to others with the approval of the pastor.

Niches are sold by size and by tier. You choose the particular niche when you sign the agreement.

How to reserve

- Contact the parish office and ask for the agreement and the current availability.
- Choose the size and the tier that suit your family.
- Sign the agreement and pay the full price. Your niche is chosen the same day.

You do not need to decide today. You are welcome to take this booklet home, pray over it, and talk it through with your family. The parish office will gladly answer any question, large or small.

Common Questions

May I buy a niche before there is a need?

Yes, and many families do. Deciding now spares your loved ones from having to make these choices in the days after a death.

May two people share a niche?

Yes. A twelve-inch niche holds two urns. The second name is added to the faceplate when the second person is entombed. A fee is charged for the second opening and closing, and the engraving is at the family's expense.

When do I choose my niche?

You choose it when you sign the agreement, from the niches still available in the size and tier you have purchased. If you would rather not choose, the parish will assign one for you.

What happens when the second person is entombed?

The niche is opened again and the second urn is placed with the first, and the second name is added to the faceplate. A fee is charged for the second opening and closing, and the second name is engraved at the family's expense. The parish office will tell you the current amounts.

May a niche be transferred? May I get my money back?

A niche may not be sold or transferred to anyone outside the family arrangements set out in the agreement. You may change the persons named for the niche at any time before an entombment, with the approval of the parish. If your family decides you no longer want the niche, you may return it to the parish before any entombment has taken place, and the parish will repay half of what you paid. Once an entombment has taken place, the price is not refunded. The agreement sets out the full terms.

Must I be a parishioner?

Niches are for the benefit of parishioners and their family members. Others may purchase with the approval of the pastor.

May I give a memorial if my loved one is buried elsewhere?

Yes. Benches, planters, paving bricks, and the altarpiece are open to any family that wishes to keep a memory alive at Saint Anthony.

For More Information

To ask about availability, reserve a niche, or request more information, please contact the parish office.

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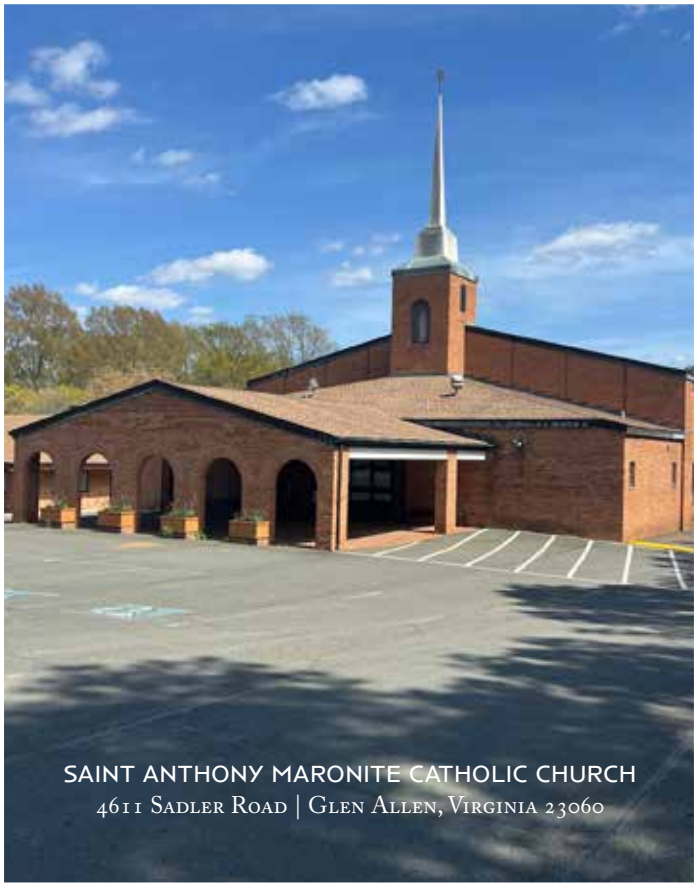
A Prayer for Our Beloved Dead

Lord of life, you have called our loved ones by name and gathered them to yourself. Keep them in your peace. Let this garden be a place of quiet hope for all who come here, until the day you raise us up together and wipe away every tear. Amen.



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