

The Columbarium at
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
Swanton, Vermont



“In life and in death, we belong to God.”

What specifically is a Columbarium?

A Columbarium is an arrangement of openings either in a mausoleum, a room, or a wall, into which an urn or other worthy vessel containing the ashes (cremains) of cremated loved one are placed for a permanent memorial. The word Columbarium is derived from a Latin word that means “dwelling place of a dove.” The dove, of course, has long symbolized the embodiment of the Holy Spirit in the Christian tradition. What a lovely way to think of your family members sharing a space in the “dwelling place of a dove.”

Why choose the Columbarium over cemetery burial?

Historically, since the early days of the Church, Christians have laid their dead to rest in churches. Here they remembered, and their remains safeguarded. Burial within the church itself or in an adjacent churchyard was once a common practice. Until recently, most Americans chose burial as the way to create a final resting place for their loved ones. Now, however, cremation has overtaken burial as the preferred choice.

Why choose Holy Trinity Church’s Columbarium?

A Columbarium on church grounds provides a final resting place with special meaning for whom involvement in the church was an important part of life on earth. It also provides a spiritually meaningful place where families can memorialize their loved ones. Holy Trinity Church’s Columbarium provides a safe place where loved ones’ ashes may be placed and where family members can visit during any kind of weather. Holy Trinity Church’s Columbarium is inside and always cared for and remembered by the church.

Where is the Columbarium at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church?

The Columbarium is located within the South Alcove of the Holy Trinity Church's Bell Tower. The openings are called "niches." A niche 8 (H) by 10 (L) by 7.5 (W) inches. Each niche can accommodate up to two (2) Inurnment urns using Holy Trinity Church's standard brass urn container.



Who is eligible to purchase the right of Inurnment at Holy Trinity?

- Current and former communicants members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
- Current and former clergy of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
- Family members of the above two groups,
- Friends who have participated in the life and worship of the church,
- Others are at the discretion of the Rector and Columbarium Commission.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Contact Holy Trinity Episcopal Church office, Administrative Assistant, at (802) 868-7185 or e-mail holytrinityepi@holytrinityswanton.org



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