

The Memorial Chapel at All Saints-by-the-Sea

About the Chapel

Our Book of Common Prayer speaks to the central role of our Sanctuary in our spiritual journey. Here we are baptized, we proclaim our faith at confirmation, we are married, we give thanks for the birth or adoption of our children and the other blessings in our lives. We gather in mystical communion for worship, formation and the fellowship of our faith community, and we commend to the Lord the souls of our loved ones. The Memorial Chapel will now allow us and our family members to be interred here and to memorialize here family members who are interred elsewhere.

The Memorial Chapel, to be completed by early 2020, includes a columbarium with niches for the interment of cremated remains and memorial walls with plaques for the remembrance of loved ones.

Location

The Memorial Chapel is being built in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary, in space that now houses pipes for our organ; these are being replaced with the purchase of a more compact instrument. The Chapel will have the feel of our beautiful Sanctuary itself, with a bay window looking out to the mountains and which mirrors the Baptistry at the Sanctuary's main entrance, rose windows on the east and west walls, and wood hammerhead trusses on the peaked roof reminiscent of the Nave.

About The Niches and Memorial Walls / Prices

The niches, being built by Eickhoff Columbaria, will be recessed in banks in the north, east and south walls. Each niche will be 8 inches by 8 inches and 15 inches deep, with capacity for up to two urns. The opening will be covered by Crema Marfil Italian marble on which the name or names and dates of birth and death of those interred will be inscribed. The Memorial Chapel has space for 410 niches, which we plan to build out one wall at a time, depending on the initial level of purchases. Each niche will be priced at \$6,000, which includes two urns, inscribing of the marble cover, the committal service and perpetual care.

The memorial walls, being built by Homecoming, Inc., will be on the inside west wall, to either side of the entrance door, and on the walls on the Nave side of the entrance to the Memorial Chapel. Each memorial wall will consist of 48 rectangles of Crema Marfil Italian marble, each 4 inches by 6 inches, on which the name and dates of birth and death of a Church member or family member will be inscribed. We plan to initially build out the

memorial walls on the inside west wall of the Chapel. Each memorial plaque will be priced at \$1,000, which includes inscribing the plaque and perpetual care.

Eligibility

Only members of All Saints-by-the-Sea may purchase niches or memorial plaques, which may be used only for members or their family members. Niches and plaques may be reserved singly or in groups by advance purchase.

Choosing Your Niche Location

Members of the parish are invited to submit their name to the Church Office from May through Homecoming Sunday 2017. At or shortly after Homecoming, a “Selection Drawing” will be conducted to determine the order that each family may choose their niche and/or plaque location. Following that drawing, members will go in the order that their name was selected to submit their signed contract and payment and then choose their niche and/or plaque location. This process is anticipated to take at least a few months, depending on the number of initial reservations received and response time of each member.

From that point on niche and plaque locations will be available on a first come, first served basis working with the Church Office.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who determines the pricing and eligibility rules?

The Vestry adopted the Policies and Procedures for the Memorial Chapel on April 29, 2017. They are available in the Church Office and are part of the purchase contracts. The Vestry may amend the Policies and Procedures, but no amendment, including price increases, would affect the purchase price paid by a member who has already purchased a niche or plaque.

How is “member” defined?

A member is any person at least 16 years old who regularly attends All Saints-by-the-Sea, is a baptized communicant and supports All Saints by pledges or gifts.

How is a “family member” defined?

It’s very inclusive: a spouse or domestic partner, grandparents, parents, children, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces or nephews, whether natural, adoptive or step.

Can two single members share a niche – as a way to lower the cost?

Yes.

Can I inter a favorite pet or keepsake?

Only the cremated remains of a member or family member may be interred in the Memorial Chapel.

Can I provide my own urn or urns?

You may if the urn has the dimensions required for the niche, although two brass urns are included in the price of the niche.

What do I need to do to buy a niche or plaque?

A purchaser selects the location of a niche or plaque (or contiguous niches or plaques) from those available and not already reserved, signs a contract of purchase and a reservation form designating the member and/or family members to be interred or memorialized, and pays the purchase price for the niche(s) or plaque(s). All of the forms are available in the Church Office and on the Church website, and we are happy to walk you through them. Initially, the order in which niche or plaque locations may be selected will be determined by a “Selection Drawing” anticipated to be held following Homecoming Sunday 2017.

Can I decide to change the people I have chosen to have a niche or a memorial plaque?

Yes, the reservation form that you sign with the purchase contract allows you to change the persons you wish to be interred or memorialized, and you also may appoint someone who has that authority after you die.

If I decide on other final plans, or move away and want to do something else, what happens?

You would be entitled to a full refund of your purchase price, as soon as your niche or memorial plaque location has been selected by another member.

If I have bought a niche for family members but after I'm gone they make some other arrangements, what happens?

If within 60 days after the death of the first member or family member designated in your reservation form, no arrangements have been made to inter the remains in the reserved niche, we will make that niche available for other members and refund the purchase price, as soon as the niche location has been selected by another member.

What if, after the interments, someone wants to move the urns to another location?

With the consent of the Rector and upon receipt of instructions from the person(s) legally entitled to make that request, the niche would be opened and the urn or urns made available for re-interment elsewhere.

If I purchase a niche for two people and one dies and has an inscription made on the marble niche cover, is there still a covering of the niche during the second inscription?

We will have a supply of unsubscribed 8 inch by 8 inch marble niche covers which we will use to temporarily cover the niche. We will send the inscribed niche cover to be inscribed with the second deceased's name, and when it is received back we will use it for the committal service for the second member or family member. The re-inscription process is very efficient.

Some columbaria have vases with each niche for flowers. Will we have that?

All of the columbarium vendors we interviewed recommended against individual vases as being messy and ununiform. We will consult with the Altar Guild regarding flower arrangements in the Memorial Chapel. Those who would like to donate to support that ministry for a particular day or week may do so.

What will the lighting be like in the Memorial Chapel.

The banks of niches will protrude from the walls of the Chapel 15 inches, and we are thinking of subdued up-lighting toward the upper walls and arched, wood-paneled ceiling from above those banks of niches, plus of course the natural light through the north-looking bay window.

Does purchasing a niche include the services of a crematory?

It does not, as we believe the family should make that decision. However, to help with the selection the Church Office has assembled information about the services and pricing of a number of local and other crematoria, including a national firm offering a policy insuring that if a policy holder dies anywhere in the world, all legal requirements of the place of death will be satisfied and the remains will be transported to Santa Barbara for interment in the All Saints-by-the-Sea Memorial Chapel.

What if the person who is to use a niche dies before the Memorial Chapel is completed?

All Saints-by-the-Sea will safeguard the cremated remains until the Memorial Chapel is completed and will then inter the remains in the niche reserved, with a proper Episcopal committal service.

What if the Memorial Chapel never gets built?

We have received initial permits and have raised the funds necessary to complete the renovation that includes the Memorial Chapel. But if the chapel is not built, everyone who has purchased a niche or memorial plaque will be promptly reimbursed in full.

What if the Sanctuary is at some point destroyed, or sold off for some other use?

We do not expect that to ever happen. The Memorial Chapel will be a poured reinforced concrete structure that is expected to withstand virtually any situation. We have planned for, and expect, the Memorial Chapel, and All Saints-by-the-Sea itself, to continue for a very long time, but if that cannot be, we are committed to relocating the urns and memorial plaques in the Memorial Chapel to another licensed, sacred space.