

## Frequently Asked Questions: Ignatius House Columbaria

### **What is a Columbarium?**

A columbarium is a place for cremated remains, constructed as a wall that contains individually reserved niches, each capable of holding urns. Each niche is sealed with a plaque that marks the name(s) and date(s) to memorialize individuals contained within. A "columbaria" is a collection of walls.

### **Is cremation allowed in the Catholic faith?**

Yes. Per the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, the Church prefers that the body of the deceased remain intact for funeral rites, with cremation to occur after the funeral Mass. Whenever a Catholic is cremated, the remains are to be buried or inurned, not scattered. Ignatius House has permission from the Society of Jesus and the Archdiocese of Atlanta to offer a Columbarium for cremated remains.

### **Who is permitted to be inurned at Ignatius House?**

The ashes must be human cremated remains. There are no other requirements.

### **What does my purchase price include?**

The price of a niche is \$6,000 and provides a 1'x1'x1' niche, two urns, memorial plaque, and a Rite of Committal liturgy, which is similar to a graveside burial blessing. Each niche may hold up to two urns.

### **How much does it cost for one urn? Can I purchase a single niche?**

The price of a niche is \$6,000 regardless of the number of urns contained within. Those who need only one urn may choose to donate the second urn and/or the second space to Ignatius House. Through the Ignatian Spirituality Project and community partners, we will provide your donation to someone in need of dignified burial but without the means to afford one.

If you are purchasing a niche for one, simply complete the Agreement form for a single Purchaser. The niche will be yours and yours alone, unless you elect and specify that a second urn may be placed in your niche.

### **Can I purchase a niche if I don't know the names of the people who will be inurned?**

Yes. You may purchase as many niches as you wish to make available to loved ones. You will sign the Agreement forms as the Purchaser. Simply write "not yet assigned" in the form field(s) marked "Inurnment of the Cremains of the Human Body of..." As additional individuals are determined by you, contact Ignatius House at 404.255.0503 to update your file.

### **How do I select my niche location within the Columbarium wall?**

Assignments are offered on a first come-first served basis, in sequential order as contracted. A niche need only be reserved with a 50% deposit and not yet paid in full to choose a preferred location within the Columbaria.

### **What can I engrave on my niche?**

Each niche faceplate may be engraved with the family surname, first name, middle name or middle initial, date of birth and date of death. Hyphenated names are possible. Space limitations may reduce the size of the inscription or font size.

### **May I bring existing ashes to the Ignatius House Columbaria?**

Yes. Ignatius House will provide you with a specially-designed urn suited for your niche if you do not have an existing urn that fits the 1'x1'x1' niche. In the event that your own urn does not fit, you will be provided a new urn by Ignatius House which you may take to a funeral home where the transfer of ashes should be performed.

### **What happens after I die or a loved one dies? What kind of service can I have at Ignatius House?**

You will arrange for cremation services independently of your niche purchase at Ignatius House. At the time of death, contact us at 404.255.0503 to request an urn, then provide that to the organization performing the cremation. (Alternatively, you may take possession of the cremated remains in a temporary urn, then provide that to Ignatius House for transfer into the urn included in your purchase.

Ignatius House recommends that funeral masses be held prior to cremation and at the parish of your preference. Because we are a retreat house, our chapel is not quickly and readily available for funeral masses. Following a funeral, Ignatius House offers an inurnment service, which is a Rite of Committal (similar to a graveside service). It may be performed by the clergy member of your preference, a Jesuit priest at Ignatius House, or a member of the Ignatius House pastoral staff. To schedule an inurnment date, call Ignatius House at 404.255.0503 and ask to speak to a member of the Columbaria Committee.

### **What happens if Ignatius House closes?**

The Society of Jesus is committed to Ignatius House. Those inurned here will remain under the care of the Society of Jesus. Should the Society ever choose to vacate Ignatius House, cremated remains will be offered to next of kin first or may be transferred to another Jesuit property with permission from your next of kin. Please refer to the "Columbaria Agreement."

### **How will the property be maintained?**

The Columbaria will be maintained through ongoing care of Ignatius House via its general operating budget and also via a restricted fund for perpetual care and relocation. The restricted fund will preserve a portion of your purchase for maintenance into perpetuity.

### **What else should I know?**

Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy. In addition to purchasing a niche for you, we invite you to consider donating a niche for the poor - a portion of which may be a tax-deductible. Through the Ignatian Spirituality Project and community partners, Ignatius House can extend a dignified burial to someone in need who lacks the means to afford one. If you

would like to participate in this ministry, please contact us at 404.255.0503 x227 or email [columbarium@ignatiushouse.org](mailto:columbarium@ignatiushouse.org)

## How do I begin?

To act immediately, complete the online paperwork found at <https://ignatiushouse.org/columbaria/> and provide a \$3,000 deposit via check or online. To make your deposit online, use the "Donate" button found at <https://ignatiushouse.org/donate/> and choose the field marked "Columbaria niche."

### Donation Options

Select an option below. To give in another way, contact Tara La Bouff at [development@ignatiushouse.org](mailto:development@ignatiushouse.org)

Use my gift wherever it's needed most.: other ▾

I'd like my gift to support a retreat for someone in hardship.: other ▾

Use my gift for a particular program, specified on the next page.: other ▾

Please put this toward my Columbaria niche.: other ▾

**Continue**

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powered by 

To donate by check, please write "Columbaria deposit" on the memo line and mail to:

**ATTN: Tara La Bouff**  
**Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center**  
6700 Riverside Dr. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30328