

The Church's position on cremation

The Catholic Church continues to emphasize a preference for burial of the body. However, cremation is permitted. Whenever possible, the body is to be present at the Mass of Christian Burial prior to cremation. Sometimes, however, this is not possible for economic, geographic, ecological or family reasons.

Cremains are to be treated with the same respect which is given to the corporeal remains of a human body. Both the body and cremains are to be buried or entombed appropriately.

The practice of scattering cremains on the Gulf of Mexico, from the air, on the ground, or keeping the cremains in the home, is contrary to Church discipline.

*Eternal Rest grant
unto them Oh, Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon them.
May they rest in
peace. Amen.*



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
1301 Center Road • Venice, Florida 34292
941•497•2931



**Our Lady of Lourdes
Memorial Garden
Of the Resurrection**

Memorial Garden

Many may not realize that the beautiful Garden area adjacent to the Church and Chapel is the final resting place for many beloved parishioners and family members. The Garden area is intimate and tranquil and complete with several beautiful outdoor works of art including *The Pieta*, *Celtic Cross*, *St. Anthony*, *Guardian Angel*, and *Memorials to the Holy Innocents and Those who died in Service of Country and Community*.

Individual name plates are placed on a large plaque on the wall along the covered sidewalk to identify those whose cremains have been placed in the Garden. Family members are able to stop and spend time for prayer and meditation in the Garden whenever they wish.

For centuries it was traditional to have graveyards on church grounds where deceased parishioners could be buried. Over time, however, zoning laws prohibited this practice. Upon completion of the church in 1996, Our Lady of Lourdes sought different avenues for reinstating on-site burial for those seeking an alternative to burial in a public cemetery. Through these efforts a beautiful Memorial Garden was developed. The Garden was dedicated for use as sacred ground for the members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Interment will be made by a priest or deacon from the parish. Members of the family are invited to be present.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

When you visit your loved one in the Memorial Garden, you may leave fresh flowers, however, refrain from leaving glass containers and refrain from planting any plants or flowers in the ground (including artificial). Please do not place trinkets. The flowers or trinkets will be removed after a few days so they are not run over by the lawn mower. Our Memorial Garden area is professionally taken care of by an outside maintenance company. Thank you.

More information about the Garden, including the cost for burial, can be obtained by contacting the church office at (941) 497-2931.

