

## 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.*



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**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, family members and friends. The Garden area is intimate and tranquil and complete with several beautiful outdoor works of art including *The Pieta*, *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 inside the Garden area to identify those whose cremains have been placed in the Garden. Family members are able to stop by for prayer, meditation, or to spend time 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 by members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and their families desiring their cremains interred near the parish community's place of

worship.

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 or a plant, however, you may **NOT** plant into the ground any flowers or plants.

The Memorial Garden has been purposefully placed in a controlled space that will never conceivably be used for anything else. More information about the Garden, including the cost for burial, can be obtained by contacting the church office at (941) 497-2931.

