

## Columbarium Project Details

Our proposed Columbarium project is modeled on that adopted by St. Augustine of Canterbury in Rocklin under the guidance of Pastor Liz Armstrong and the Reverend Tom Gartin. We have obtained their simple Policies & Procedures to cover the legalities and a record keeping system to manage the assignment of niches. Although there are a few areas that need minor cleaning up, the hard work has been done and they can easily be adapted for our use.<sup>1</sup>

*The major advantage of having the columbarium inside, besides cost, is that no permit is necessary from the county authorities.<sup>2</sup>*

St. Augustine currently has two phases of its columbarium in place, with plans for a third phase in the future as needed.<sup>3</sup> The columbarium is set up along the back wall of the sanctuary facing the altar, to your left as you enter. It is envisioned that we could set up ours in a similar location, along the side wall (east) on your left as you enter the sanctuary.

As installed, the columbarium consists of 64 niches (i.e., the space for one person's ashes). The cabinetry work, which covers

the structural framework, was done by Jim Higbee.

This is what it looks like:



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<sup>1</sup> This would be a simple task for me with my attorney and editorial career background, should Vestry so desire.

<sup>2</sup> This requirement is governed by individual county. Placer County does not require a permit for an indoor columbarium of the type acquired by St. Augustine. Per my discussions and email correspondence with Don Knight of El Dorado County's Community Development Agency, Development Services Division, Building Services (see attached), based upon the

Code requirements and the picture I sent him to the right, above, a columbarium of this type would be exempt from any review and permitting requirements.

<sup>3</sup> The third phase is planned as sort of a cap piece ,seven niches wide and two more niches tall on the ends, one along the very top, outlining the central cross, for a total of 9 more niches that would have space for 36 more person's ashes. At today's prices, this would cost +/- \$ 3,707.

(As you can see from the second picture, St. Augustine also has a kneeler in the corner that can be pulled out and placed in front of the columbarium for devotions (a prie-dieu); we could have a similar or more elaborate structure perhaps that would allow for family members to light candles and have the effect of sort of a mini chapel for use during the funeral portion of our service and for later remembrances by family members.)

Four niches come in one box-like container with a faceplate. Companion niches (holding two urns each) also are available in some designs. Urns are included. Engraving of names and dates can be done by Armento or by a local shop like Arnold's for Awards for a nominal cost. St. Augustine chose a very nice wheat pattern for its faceplates, which looks like this:



The columbarium was purchased from Armento Liturgical Arts (<https://www.armento-columbarium.com/>). Basically, because it's a modular type system with many alternative components, the company will design the system to whatever specifications we want.

The total cost for St Augustine's entire columbarium in its current state (exclusive of Phase III) was about \$21,000, which includes whatever nominal fee Jim Higbee charged for his beautiful cabinetry work and materials (probably all donated), and shipping. For our purposes, we can plan on approximately \$323/niche (it was \$298 for St. Augustine) and shipping (St. Augustine paid \$800). Armento offers a 3 percent discount on the entire order for full prepayment. Full payment is due on receipt.

64 niches @ \$323 each	\$20,672
Shipping	800
Total if paid on receipt	\$21,472
Total if paid in advance	\$20,852

Eligibility would be limited to members of Faith Episcopal Church and their family members. St. Augustine surveyed other churches in the area and decided to charge \$750 per niche, which appears to be the going rate (and is a great benefit to parishioners, both spiritually and financially). Unlike St. Augustine, we have no designated grants or accounts we can borrow against for seed capital, so we would have to "sell" approximately 28 to 29 of the total 64 niches in advance to raise the funds necessary to place the order. As a result, "sales" of the remaining 35 to 36 remaining niches would result in surplus capital to use for engraving the plates (approximately \$12 per), maintenance costs (which should be minimal, if any), and/or possible future expansion of space or relocation as desired. In addition, we would have the financial wherewithal from banked restricted columbarium funds to provide "scholarships" in the discretion of the Priest in Charge or Rector for those for whom internment costs would be a financial burden.

The beauty of going with this type of project is that it can be expanded in any number of ways at a reasonable cost and can be relocated later if desired, subject to permitting and inspection requirements by the county. Here is an example of an outdoor columbarium that could be a possibility in the future, which also shows placement of an ornamental central cross available from Armento Liturgical Arts, if we wanted to eventually move in that direction.

