

### **Traditional Burial**

Traditional Ground Burial: The body is laid to rest in a casket. The casket is positioned into an outer container (vault), and then placed into the traditional ground burial space.

### **Cremation**

**Niche** – A niche is in an above ground columbarium, sized for an urn(s) containing the cremated remains of the body and allowing for identification and remembrance.

**Ground Burial** – Cremation (Urn and Vault) interred into a traditional ground burial space.

### **About the Columbarium**

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery has an outdoor granite columbarium. Each niche (single or double companion) has a granite door which can be personalized and engraved much like a traditional gravestone, with names, birthdates, and dates of death and an engraved picture. Columbarium is ancient in origin. From the Language the word columbarium literally means a nesting box for the dove. Christians believe the dove is a symbol of God's Spirit and of peace used to describe a structure of niches housing the ashes of the deceased during the time of the Roman Empire. In Italy there is the Roman columbarium, within the Etruscan site. There are the Etruscan tombs bored deep in all the surrounding hills. A Columbarium provides a suitable site for a Catholic burial by inurnment.

### **About Cremation**

The Code of Canon Law (1983) stipulates, "The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the dead be observed; it does not, however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching" (Can. 1176§3). Therefore, a person may choose to be cremated if he has the right intention. However, the cremated remains must be treated with proper respect and should be interred in a grave or columbarium as close to the Mass of Christian Burial as is possible.

### **Legacy of Faith**

The Catholic cemetery is a final resting place for the members of our Faith Community on our Journey to God. It is the gate of heaven. Burial in the consecrated ground of the Catholic cemetery allows you to share your faith values with future generations of your family. This Legacy of Faith is your gift to them. Catholic cemeteries are signs of hope that are places of prayer. They witness our faith in the Lord Jesus and the hope we share in his resurrections. The entire Catholic funeral liturgy—the vigil service, the Mass of Christian Burial and the Final Committal and Burial—offers to us a great reminder of our faith and aids in our healing. The death of someone we love is always hard to face; however, there is something good and comforting when we gather as a faith community in the presence of our Lord and the body of the deceased, and offer that loved one back to God.