

Program Summary:

A church columbarium structure with visitation space.

Program Statement:

col·um·bar·i·um : a structure or wall with compartmentalized spaces (called niches) used for respectful public storage of funeral urns containing cremated remains.

The church desired a new columbarium to address the needs of the congregation. The architect explored various locations on the church campus with input from a small committee, resulting in the selection of an existing courtyard as the preferred location.

The courtyard is bordered on three sides by the cathedral, parish house and school and serves numerous church and school functions throughout the year from spring fairs to weddings. The challenge was then how to incorporate seemingly incongruent functions into the same space. Visiting lost loved ones is private and personal and suited to small, intimate spaces. The solution divided the needed 384 niches into eight (8) small structures – 8 ft. long x 4 ft. tall x 2 ft. deep - and placed them along existing brick sidewalks around the perimeter of the courtyard. The roughly eight (8) foot separation between the existing building walls and columbarium fronts creates the ideal space for paying respects to the dearly departed.

The structures were placed so that their fronts, with engraved name plates, face walls of the cathedral and school. The back of the structures, with a simple elegant Flemish bond brick pattern matching that of the cathedral, face the courtyard and act as a neutral backdrop for other courtyard functions. Cast stone detailing replicates existing campus limestone. Strategically placed benches, LED accent lighting and low-level landscaping complete the project.

SP-310.01

Building Area: (sf)
128 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
\$2,886.00

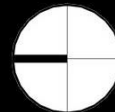
Construction Cost
\$369,400.00

Date of Completion:
March 21, 2025

SP-310.02

PLAN KEY

- 1 Existing Buildings
 - 1A School
 - 1B Parish House
 - 1C Cathedral
- 2 Existing Portico
- 3 Existing Courtyard
- 4 Visitation Space w/ Seating
- 5 Columbarium Structures
 - 4 Bays at North
 - 4 Bays at South



SP-310.03

View of north end of Courtyard.

The rear elevation of the Columbaria serves as a neutral backdrop for the Courtyard.



SP-310.04

View of north end of Courtyard.

The Columbarium row connects with the existing Portico.



SP-310.05

View of north end of Courtyard.

The Columbaria face a visitation space, which connects with existing Portico.





SP-310.06

View of the Columbarium face with
niche compartments.

SP-310.07

View at north end of Courtyard.

The visitation space, with benches, connects to the existing Portico.



SP-310.08

View of south end of Courtyard. with
visitation space.



SP-310.09

View of north end of Courtyard.

Columbarium row with lighting at dusk.





SP-310.10

A church procession through the Columbaria visitation space.