

Here are some commonly-asked questions:

Q. Where, exactly, is this expansion area?

A. The expansion area is an (approximately) 2-acre vacant parcel at the southeast corner of the cemetery. It's bordered on the north by our existing cemetery and bordered on the west by Hazelwood Cemetery.

Q. Why is this expansion being done?

A. One of the primary reasons is to provide niches, or spaces, in free-standing columbaria which will be used to house urns containing the ashes of those who have chosen cremation. But it will also include space for in-ground placement of urns, as well as traditional, full-body burials, just as our existing cemetery provides.

Q. Isn't the Catholic Church opposed to cremations?

A. At one time, it was. But the Church now permits cremations as long as the process and the inurnment ritual is done with respect and in accordance with the guidelines established by the Church. In fact, Catholic cremations are now almost as frequent as traditional, full-body burials. Online sources such as our Archdiocesan website or the US Council of Catholic Bishops website provide details regarding the conditions and rituals applying to Catholic cremation.

Q. How much will a cremation niche cost?

A. The cremation niches come in two sizes: 10 inch by 10 inch spaces, and 12 inch by 12 inches. Prices range from \$1,750 to \$2,850. That cost includes the cost of engraving the niche with names and dates. Each niche is highly secured and can house two cremation urns.

Q. When will this project start?

A. The project begins as soon as the City of Bayport completes a final review of the plans. Contractors have been selected, and various municipal approvals, including everything from conditional use permits to watershed management calculations have been secured. You can expect to see sitework beginning prior to the end of May.

Q. How many columbaria and grave sites will there be?

A. Phase One of the project, which will be completed by this fall, will have two columbaria, dedicated to St. Gabriel the Archangel and St. Raphael the Archangel, respectively. Once sitework has been finished, the in-ground burial plots will be made available. Eventually, ten columbaria with niches for 1,500 urns as well as 668 traditional grave plots and 386 in-ground cremation urn graves are planned for this area.

Q. How much is this going to cost the three parishes?

A. The Cemetery Committee was extremely fortunate and blessed to receive a \$150,000 grant from the Richard Huelsmann Family Foundation. In addition, we have been required to file requests with the Archdiocese prior to spending cemetery-related funds on this project. This ensures that Archdiocesan officials have reviewed and approved our financial disbursements. Income will be generated by sales of graves and niches, but we also ask all parishioners to consider a donation to this project. Help us create a beautifully-landscaped area that will serve as a peaceful and sacred place for generations to come.

Q. How can I get more information?

A. Call the St. Charles Parish Office at (651) 439-4511. Ask for Luke Przybylski or Claudia Baldwin. They will be glad to help you.