

CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT MAUSOLEUM

INFORMATION SHEET

- + **The Design:** The Cathedral Mausoleum is unique in its design. It replicates the tradition of the early Church to place the remains of the faithful at the site of the Church. While the Mausoleum is actually at street level (Harrison St.), the elevation drops to give the feeling of descending into the catacombs below the Cathedral. The design of the Mausoleum utilizes a processional ramp that descends to a space just below the altar in the Cathedral. Translucent glass has been laid into the floor of the Cathedral to allow light to flow into the Mausoleum symbolizing our connection to eternal life. Symbolically, a catafalque which was formerly an altar from St. Francis de Sales Cathedral has been placed for the placement of a casket or cremation urn at the time of a committal. The floor is made of Impala Black granite with a finish that imparts the feeling that the Mausoleum has been carved out of the earth. This dark material is offset with Carrara White marble shutters from Italy and Desert Gold marble shutters from Egypt, a material used in the ancient pyramids. These lighter colors allow for a bright contrast for the inscriptions that are engraved upon them as the deceased are laid to rest. Opaque Onyx shutters have been placed at the Bishop's Crypts as well as around the six restored stained glass features in the St. Mary's and St. Joseph's corridors. The Onyx is backlit to provide a warm glow to the interior space of the Cathedral Mausoleum.
- + **Crypts and Niches:** The Mausoleum is comprised of 882 single and double crypts and 1856 single and double niches. A crypt is an above ground burial space for placement of a casket. A niche is for the placement of cremated remains. There are marble fronted niches for inscriptions and glass front niches that are designed to allow families to place personal artifacts for viewing within the niche space.
- + **Christ the Light Remembrance Program:** This program allows for the placement of a memorial plaque on a cenotaph wall for loved ones who are not interred in the Cathedral. In addition, there is a free community crypt for the placement of cremated remains. There is a tax-deductible fee charged for the plaque as well as the interment of the remains. This program is intended to reinforce the Churches teachings that our mortal remains should be interred in a cemetery awaiting the Resurrection.
- + **Stained Glass Artwork:** Six Stained Glass pieces (St. Simon, St. Francis de Sales, St. Matthew, St. James Minor, St. Patrick, St. Thomas) from the original St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. These masterpieces have been painstakingly restored.
- + **Marble Statuary:** The St. Joseph Statue is made of Carrara White marble from Italy and was hand carved by Italian artisans. There are gifting opportunities for three additional life size statues that will be placed in the St. Mary and St. Joseph corridors.
- + **Bronze Statuary:** Four 3- to 4-foot bronze statues are planned for the niches rooms. The four Evangelists have been chosen to be represented in each room and are gifting opportunities that may be considered when purchasing a niche in one of these locations.
- + **Crucifix:** The Crucifix located at the end of the processional ramp in front of the Bishops' crypts was originally located in St. Andrew - St. Joseph Parish and later moved to the home the Catholic Parish of Christ the Light at St. Mary's Church. It has been refinished and placed as a symbol of our connection to the communities that comprise our new Cathedral parish.
- + **Catafalque:** The Catafalque (an altar-like structure) is located at the end of the processional ramp below the altar that is located above in the Cathedral Church. This Catafalque is a white granite table that served formerly as an altar in St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. The casket or urn shall be placed upon the Catafalque for the Committal service before final interment.
- + **Entry Way Fountains:** The fountains symbolically connect to the Baptismal font located directly above in the Cathedral Church. Located directly below the Baptismal font they remind us as we enter in the Mausoleum of our Baptism as the beginning of our eternal life in Christ. The fountains are constructed of opaque Onyx which is translucent allowing for light to reflect through.
- + **Cenotaph Walls and Artwork:** There are four cenotaph walls which allow for the memorialization of those whose cremated remains have been placed in our community crypts as well as those who we are interred elsewhere. Four Post-Resurrection scenes have been chosen for the artwork. The first will be placed prior to the opening of the Cathedral and the others will be gifting opportunities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

+ What is a crypt?

A space in a mausoleum used or intended to be used for the entombment of casketed human remains. Prices begin at \$9,000.

+ What is a niche?

A space in a mausoleum or columbarium used or intended to be used for the inurnment of cremated human remains. Prices begin at \$1,500.

+ What is the Christ the Light Remembrance Program?

Many people don't know what to do with their loved ones cremated remains. Christ the Light Remembrance Program offers an opportunity to memorialize those who are interred elsewhere as well as the interment of cremated remains within a Cathedral community crypt. The cost for the interment is \$500 and the memorial plaque is \$1,000. These are tax-deductible fees.

+ What is a community crypt?

The Cathedral community crypt will be a shared resting place for the cremated remains of those in the Remembrance Program.

+ How much does it cost to memorialize a loved one that is interred elsewhere?

The fee is \$1,000 and is tax-deductible.

+ Who can be interred in the Cathedral Mausoleum?

All baptized Christians are welcome to be interred at the Cathedral Mausoleum.

+ What if I have family members that are not Catholic?

The non Catholic spouse and children of a baptized Christian are welcome to be interred at the Cathedral Mausoleum.

+ Is my contribution tax deductible?

A significant portion of most niche and crypt purchases are tax-deductible based upon IRS guidelines.

+ May I donate a niche or crypt for the poor?

Yes. This is tax-deductible as well.

+ Can I donate artwork?

Yes. There are opportunities for statuary and tapestries.

+ Can I have my funeral in the Cathedral?

You are welcome to have your funeral in the Cathedral. Please contact your Parish priest or Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services for details.

+ Does the Diocese offer mortuary services?

Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services is the Diocesan-owned and operated mortuaries and funeral centers. You may speak with Bob Mallon, Director of Cathedral Mausoleum Sales, at (925) 946-1440 or by calling Holy Angels at (510) 537-6600.

+ Where do the revenues go that are generated by the Cathedral Mausoleum?

Revenues generated by the Cathedral Mausoleum are being used to develop an endowment care fund for the long-term care and operation of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

+ Who do I contact to purchase a crypt, niche or cenotaph plaque?

Please contact Bob Mallon, Director of Cathedral Mausoleum Sales, at (925) 946-1440.

+ Who do I contact to pre-arrange my mortuary and funeral services?

Please contact any of the Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services offices throughout the Diocese or by calling (510) 537-6600.

Mausoleum Services Provided by these Oakland Diocese Ministries

(offices located in the Mausoleum)

Roman Catholic Cemeteries

Providing Sales and Interment Services

Contact (925) 946-1440

Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services

Providing Funeral Services to the Cathedral

Contact (510) 537-6600