


A  
CONSUMER'S  
GUIDE TO  
CREMATION



MT. ELLIOTT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION





A large, detailed stone eagle statue with spread wings, perched on a dark granite pedestal. The background shows a cemetery with green trees, a blue sky with clouds, and other graves in the distance.

There is growing interest in cremation, and many families still have questions — from the process itself and the options available to the many ways that cremation allows for memorialization.

The decision for cremation should be made with the same deliberation and forethought given to all of the most important “life” decisions we make. After all, these important life decisions will impact your family for many generations to come.

We embrace cremation as an option for memorialization and our goal is to make sure you have everything you need to make an informed decision. Please visit our website, call us, or ask about taking a tour of any of our cemeteries to learn more about available cremation options.





## Remembering a Life

By choosing cremation, you do not have to forego the ceremonies and traditions that bring comfort at the time of death. Churches, including the Catholic Church, allow cremation and welcome families for final services. Funeral homes also provide a spectrum of final services, from traditional to highly personalized, for those choosing cremation.

At each of our cemeteries, families are invited to use our chapels for final remembrances or they may opt for an outside service. Chapels are available at all of our cemeteries and range both in size and décor. From the historic stained glass beauty of Mt. Olivet's chapel to the elegance of Resurrection's Most Holy Trinity with its bronze Pieta, our chapels provide a sanctuary for remembering and honoring loved ones.

If the final service has not been coordinated beforehand, it is very important that you communicate your wishes to the funeral director and the cemetery as soon as possible.





More than 20 cremation niches can be available in private estates like this one, located at All Saints Cemetery.







## Private Estates

Beautiful and innovative designs are available with custom options, including a selection of more than 100 granite colors, bronze doors and stained glass windows.

Whether your preference is cremation, traditional burial or above ground entombment, private estates can accommodate any combination of burial type to meet your individual family member's wishes.







## Community Mausoleums

### *Glass Front Niche*

Glass front niches are available in our indoor, climate-controlled mausoleums. Glass fronts offer a distinctive way to truly personalize the memorial with family mementos or photographs, in addition to a view of the urn itself.

### *Wall Niche*

Wall niches are constructed of imported granite and are available in both our indoor and outdoor mausoleums. These memorials include an inscription and may contain one or two urns. Options for individualizing these niches may include bronze flower vases or photo frames.





The *Angel of Peace Mausoleum* at Guardian Angel is one of several indoor community mausoleums with crypt and niche options, and an indoor chapel.







## Community Mausoleums

### *Mausoleum Crypts*

There are also options for couples for whom one prefers cremation and the other does not, but they still wish to be laid to rest together. Our mausoleum crypts can hold and memorialize both a cremation urn and a traditional casket, honoring the final disposition requests of both while keeping the couple together.





## Cremation Gardens

Our Cremation Gardens are specially designed for the memorialization of cremated remains. These gardens are landscaped for both privacy and beauty and include many types of cremation memorials, memory benches, boulders, pillars and niches.

Like all of our cremation gardens, the *Cremation and Meditation Garden* at Guardian Angel offers families many options.





There are many options available with cremation that allow you to select a memorialization that is the right fit, including cremation boulders, benches and memorials of different designs.



*The Prince of Peace Cremation Garden at Resurrection first opened in 2017.*





## Ground Burial

Some families want cremation with a traditional ground burial. This is possible as urns or other containers can be buried in the ground, allowing for a traditional granite memorial to be included. We have found that some married couples have different personal preferences between cremation and ground burial. It is possible for one person to be cremated and his or her spouse to be given a traditional burial in a casket. Both the husband and wife can be memorialized together as part of a ground burial.







# Natural Burial

Cremation is available at our all natural or “green” cemetery, The Preserve at All Saints. Covering 30 acres, The Preserve borders Maceday and Lotus lakes, is adjacent to natural woodlands, and contains only plants and flowers native to Michigan.

With open spaces, rolling landscapes, a peaceful stream and protected marshland, cremation memorials are available in both visitation and non-visitation areas and families can choose the type of service they want. The Preserve offers families a sense of true conservation uninterrupted by statues and traditional headstones.






# Preplanning

Making your arrangements in advance is a simple process. You'll meet with one of our family service counselors who will provide you with all the information about your options.

Our mandate as a non-profit association is simple: help families make decisions that will ensure that their final arrangements are as they wished.

With preplanning you are able to lock in your prices before they rise while making the decisions you want – with your family. There are approximately 100 decisions that need to be made at the time of death – from details of the funeral and cemetery to selecting the music and scripture readings at a memorial. Preplanning can help lighten this decision-making process during a stressful time, allowing loved ones to celebrate a life well lived.





As a non-profit association serving southeastern Michigan since 1841, our sole mandate is to help families during difficult times and to honor family heritage in cemeteries that are recognized nationally as some of the most beautiful anywhere in the United States.

Each of our six cemeteries host multiple events that celebrate the impact of our veterans, importance of our loved ones, and the recognition of those holidays that bring us all together such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Christmas events, community fundraisers and more.

From the historic beauty of Mt. Elliott and Mt. Olivet cemeteries to the contemporary elegance of Resurrection, Guardian Angel, All Saints and The Preserve at All Saints, all our properties mark the lives of loved ones in distinctive environments.

Our properties feature artwork from around the world. For example, we feature one of the only exact replicas, cast from the Vatican archives, of The Pieta anywhere in the country. We maintain a well-funded perpetual care endowment that ensures our cemeteries are as beautiful centuries from now as they are today.





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