What is a Columbarium?

For thousands of years civilizations have built resting grounds—cemeteries—as permanent places to inter and remember their loved ones. In addition to offering traditional ground burial, many cemeteries have a columbarium, which is a building or structure dedicated to holding remains of those who have chosen cremation. Urns holding cremated remains are placed in niches within the columbarium.

Cremation Options at Bellefontaine

In addition to offering traditional ground interment of cremated remains, Bellefontaine has two columbaria. The historic Hotchkiss Chapel was designed by Eames and Young and dedicated in 1909. It is named for Almerin Hotchkiss, the cemetery’s first Superintendent and landscape designer. It was restored in 2009 and a columbarium was added. The chapel, which seats 75, is set on the bluffs along the Mississippi, in a beautiful landscape of rolling hills and mature trees. Both the Chapel and the columbarium are intimate, light-filled spaces. Memorial services and concerts are often held in the chapel.

Bellefontaine’s second, open-air columbarium, Lakeside, is set between Cypress and Cascade lakes. A separate brochure describes its features.

Hotchkiss Chapel Columbarium Overview

- 665 niches: wood front and glass front
- Niche size 12 x 12 x 12 inches. Urn size 11 7/8th inches or less
- Niche costs—
  - Wood front: Tiers A, B and C (bottom 3 rows): $3,500
  - Tiers D, E and F (top 3 rows): $4,000
  - Glass front: additional $500
- Inscription: Niche price includes six lines of engraved text, gold-etched, up to 20 letters per line. Inscription for glass-front niches is on interior brass plaque
- Second right of inurnment: $1,200
- Tributes glass front niches may display a photo and a tribute item, with approval from the cemetery

For more information please call: 314-381-0750.
Memorials and Events

Both the Lakeside Columbarium and Hotchkiss Chapel are available for memorial services or as a gathering place before or after an inurnment. We are happy to assist in planning, including arranging for caterers, florists, musicians and other service providers. They are also available for other events including concerts, weddings, private dinners or group meetings.

Directions & Hours

Exit 245B from I-70 either direction.

To get to the Chapel drive straight through the gates and follow the signs.

Visiting hours: 8am-5pm daily. Business hours: 8am-4:30pm Monday–Friday or by appointment.