

The Garden

“As well a well-wrought urn becomes
The greatest ashes, as half-acre tombs.”

John Donne, 1572-1631

I went to the garden today
to touch your name - and remember

In gardens, perhaps, heaven itself touches earth,
the nearest we come to heaven on earth.
The old story says that in the beginning
there was a garden,
where Time itself began
and God walked in the cool of the day.

Maybe heaven itself is a garden,
otherwise why call it by that
Old Persian name for a walled garden -
Paradise.

Like that first garden
this garden, too, was created by Love,
here where you wished to be,
nestled beneath a wall of the church you loved,
embraced by those you embraced,
cared for by those you cared for.
We in your presence, you in ours.
Now community is complete,
the circle unbroken.

For Love, stronger than Death,
can breach his great wall.
You, on that side the wall, among spruce and pine,
azalea and birch, coral bell and coneflower,
learning the silence of flowers,
the great patience of trees, can hear,
from beyond the wall, children at family mass,
choir practice in the evening dark,
the hum of voices at soup suppers.

And we, this side the wall, know you are there,
in long spring rains, when bud and blossom burst,
on warm summer nights, under an October moon,
in the rustle of leaves or a hushed snowfall.

It is well-wrought, this garden;
it becomes you, this living memorial.
And God is in the garden.

- Roger Dick



SAINT
JOAN
OF
ARC
Catholic Community

WE WELCOME YOU WHEREVER YOU
ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY

**Saint Joan of Arc
Catholic Community**

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**Memorial
Garden**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Memorial Garden of Saint Joan of Arc is to embrace the Paschal mystery of death in our Christian community by creating a place for proper internment, memorialization and perpetual care of the remains of our members. The presence of the Memorial Garden will assist our joyful community in the celebration of life and give comfort to those who mourn as well as provide a place for solace and inspiration as we face the challenges of living the Gospel of Jesus.



History

Concerned about simplicity, economic and environmental issues involved in funerals, the Memorial Garden Committee of Saint Joan of Arc proposed establishing a Memorial Garden on the grounds of the parish. With the approval and blessing of the Archbishop, as well as a designer of sacred spaces and a cemetery administrator, the committee established the space, design, rules and financial policy for the garden. The garden is on the north lawn of the parish property and has space for thousands of burials. The names of those buried in the Garden are engraved on the wall of the church building. The garden has been embraced by the community and incorporated into liturgies, prayer services, while providing a place for quiet reflection. Our spiritual home.



Policies

- ◆ Only cremated remains will be buried in the garden.
- ◆ All cremated remains will be placed in a suitable container as approved by the Saint Joan of Arc Memorial Garden Committee.
- ◆ Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community and the Memorial Garden Committee will oversee the management and perpetuity of the garden.
- ◆ Plaques or headstones are not permitted as memorialization of names will occur on the wall of the Church building.

Costs

Any parishioner interested in purchasing a space in the Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community Memorial Garden may do so by calling or stopping by the Parish Center.

As of January 1, 2011 the cost is \$600, including reserving a space, burial and engraving on the Church exterior wall.

The Garden also contains memorial pavers. These pavers provide an opportunity to permanently remember loved ones who may or may not be buried in the Memorial Garden at St. Joan of Arc. Pavers with the standard format (2 lines) are \$200 and custom format (5 lines) are \$300.

Information packets are available in the Parish Center.

