

**R**ESPECT FOR THE DEAD: The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit. The **interment** of the body is always to be preferred as it most closely imitates the burial of our Lord in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body, cremation is permitted and the following are to be observed.



1. The body is **not** to be cremated until **after** the Parastas Service and the Funeral Divine Liturgy.
2. The Parastas, Funeral Divine Liturgy, or other services may **not** be celebrated at the place of cremation.
3. In the event that cremains arrive from out-of-state, they are to be present at the Funeral Divine Liturgy.
4. Photographs and other mementos may be used at the Parastas Service; a portrait of the deceased is appropriate at the Funeral Divine Liturgy when cremains are present.
5. The cremains shall ordinarily be buried in a grave, entombed in a mausoleum or in a columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in one's home or in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is **NOT** permitted.