

Gardena Buddhist Church Nōkotsudō

Frequently Asked Questions

October 21, 2020

How can my loved ones be placed in the Nōkotsudō?



Please contact the church office to obtain a Right of Interment from the Gardena Buddhist Church.

1

Can I make offerings or burn incense inside?



Any floral offerings and burning of incense must be made only in front of the Butsudan in the Small Chapel.

2

Who owns the Niche in the Nōkotsudō?



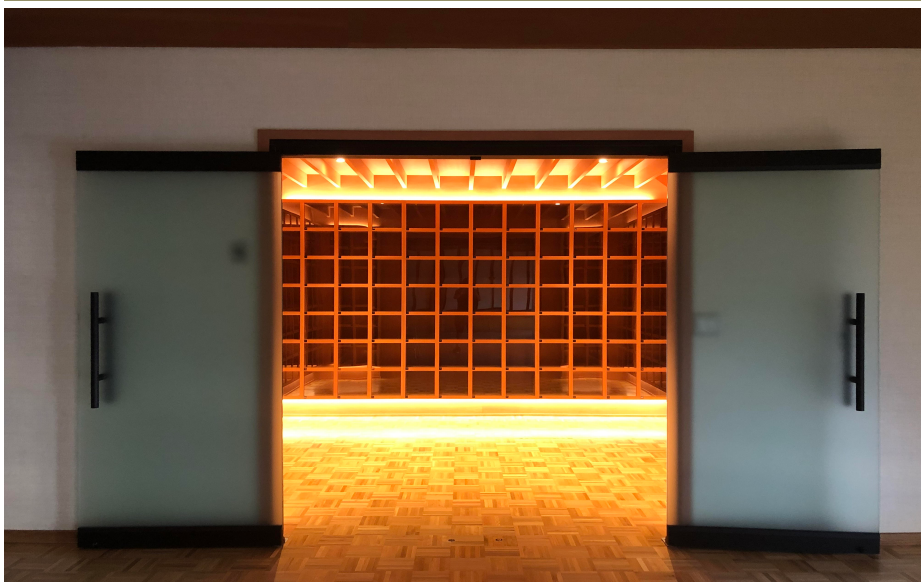
The Niche is the property of the Gardena Buddhist Church, the Subscriber is allowed the Right of Interment to place yours or your loved one's cremated remains inside.

3



Visitation Hours:

Visitation will be limited to the business hours of the Gardena Buddhist Church and can be changed without notice; this may happen if there are funeral services or planned temple events scheduled in the Hondo or Small Chapel. Please contact the office prior to arrival to confirm if visitations can take place.



Who may be interred in the Gardena Buddhist Church Nōkotsudō?

The Nōkotsudō is intended primarily for the use of Gardena Buddhist Church Sangha and their families.

How are the Niches assigned?

You may choose an available Niche at the time the payment for the Right of Interment has been accepted. A member of the Nōkotsudō Committee will research to make sure the selection has not already been reserved for another Subscriber.

How much time elapses from the Funeral Service until the remains are interred in the Nōkotsudō?

If the cremated remains are present at the Funeral Service, interment can immediately follow as long as the Right of Interment has been confirmed and payment accepted ahead of time. Most families may also choose to inter their loved ones following a 49th Day Memorial Service.

Are decorations allowed outside of the Niche?

Families are not allowed to decorate the outside of the Niche, this will include (and is not limited to) stickers, photographs, anything drawn or written on the glass.

A Family Nameplate

One family nameplate can be provided by the Gardena Buddhist Church to be placed on the front of the Niche, centered underneath the glass barrier. The nameplate will have enough room for a name up to 12 spaces.



What Can and Cannot Be Placed Inside the Niche?

URNS:

The number of cremated remains that can be placed inside each Niche will depend on the size of the urns, and shall be limited to a maximum of four urns.

Urn should be permanent, standardized containers, and shall be made of metal, stone, or porcelain.

Cremated remains of beloved pets are not allowed for interment inside the Niche.

MEMENTOS:

Photographs and small memorabilia are allowed inside the Niche; it is recommended they be placed inside at the time of interment.

CANDY/DRINKS:

Candy, drinks, or food items are prohibited inside the Niche.

FLOWERS:

No organic or in-organic flowers or plants shall be placed in the Niche or Nōkotsudō room at any time.

It is suggested that fresh flowers be placed in the Small Chapel Butsudan as an appropriate means of honoring loved ones during visitations and special services.



My spouse or loved ones are not Buddhist, and I wish for them to be interred with me. Are there any restrictions?

Although the Nōkotsudō is intended for Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist, the Church not wishing to separate those who were united in life, may permit non-Buddhist relatives to be interred in the Nōkotsudō. A non-Buddhist relative is treated as a non-church member, and must pay 5 years of membership fees at the current annual rate. Children and grandchildren of a Subscriber under the age of 25 are excluded from the membership requirement.

I have purchased the Right of Interment for myself in the Nōkotsudō, if I wish to add another person in my Niche, can I do so?

Interment in the Nōkotsudō is intended for the use of the Subscriber's immediate family, and is available as long as they meet the eligibility requirement of church membership.

What are the costs of the Niches?

Please contact the church office on information for pricing.

Interment Services

An interment service is very similar to a service conducted at a gravesite in a cemetery, and will include chanting by the officiating minister, Oshoko (offering of incense by family and guests), and a Dharma message.



What to prepare for an interment service

An interment service is often limited to family and close friends. The family or assisting funeral home is tasked to help prepare the following items and arrangements:

- ✚ Urn
- ✚ Photograph of your loved one for display (recommended)
- ✚ 24pc of Osonae Manju (white steamed manju) that will be prepared as an offering on the altar
- ✚ One set (2 medium-sized bouquets) of white altar flowers

It is strongly recommended to avoid including any lilies or roses in the altar floral arrangements, as to avoid any staining of clothing or altar equipment due to loose pollen. Roses are also associated with drawing blood and/or causing undue injury, and are traditionally advised not to be included in altar arrangements.

- ✚ The suggested honorarium for the officiating minister(s)

If there are any further items the family would like to have displayed during the service, please confirm with the officiating minister for approval ahead of time before the service begins.



HOW DO I DISPLAY A HOMYO CARD?

It is recommended that the Homyo card, provided by Gardena Buddhist Church or other Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist temple, should be displayed in front of the urn. In lieu of the Homyo card, many families choose to engrave the Homyo directly onto the urn.

I am interested in purchasing a Right of Interment in the Nōkotsudō. What is the next step?

The next step will be to contact the Gardena Buddhist Church office. An office staff will arrange for a representative of the Nōkotsudō Committee to contact you and provide whatever assistance that you need, including documents relating to the Nōkotsudō and price. A Japanese-speaking representative can be arranged upon request.

Upon the completed application and payment of the appropriate fee, you may select your Niche location. Payment in full for the Right of Interment must be received before an available Niche may be selected. It is suggested that the full payment should be provided at the time that the contract is signed.

Buddhist Vocabulary and Etiquette Terms

What is a Homyo card?

A Homyo card includes the written presentation of the Homyo, or Buddhist Name, typically given to a deceased during a funeral service if he or she had not already received one while still alive. The Homyo is created to include two kanji characters and will be preceded by the kanji character of *Shaku*, which means “a disciple of the Buddha”. The Homyo card will also include the deceased’s name, and any service or vital information.

How do I do Oshoko (burning of incense)?

The Oshoko can be performed in the following manner:

- 1) Walk forward slowly towards the incense burner. When you are about two or three steps away the burner, stop and bow slightly with arms resting steady against the sides of your body.
- 2) Step forward to the incense burner and with your right hand, take one very small pinch of the ground incense powder and drop it into the incense burner, trying to release the incense powder right over the heated charcoal or burning sticks.
- 3) Place your palms together and quietly recite “*Namu Amida Butsu*” three times. With palms still together, bow towards the altar once more.
- 4) With arms returning to the sides of your body, take 2 or 3 steps back before bowing once more to the altar.

Is there a special way to enter or leave from the Nōkotsudō?

Before entering the Small Chapel/Nōkotsudō, you should bow towards the altar and then quietly make your way inside. At the doorway before leaving, one should bow again towards the altar before stepping away.