

Provided by Cooney Funeral Home

Rev. John Grace

January 4, 2014

Services

Visitation

Friday

January 10, 2014

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Church

6020 N. Ardmore

Chicago, IL 60646

Funeral Mass

Saturday

January 11, 2014

11:00 AM

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Church

6020 N. Ardmore

Chicago, IL 60646

Rev. John J. Grace, 89, recent resident of St. Benedict Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Niles, and beloved pastor, uncle and friend, passed away Jan 4, 2014. Fr. Grace's long and dedicated career with the Archdiocese of Chicago began with his attendance at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and his ordination at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein in 1950. He served as associate pastor at Visitation from 1950-1960, St Mary Parish in Des Plaines from 1960-1965, and Old St. Patrick Parish from 1965-1969. He served as Pastor to St. Ludmilla Parish from 1969-1983. In 1983, he was made pastor of St. Tarcissus Parish on Chicago's Northwest Side. He retired from St. 'Tars' in 2000. While serving his community through parish work, Fr. Grace also served as Co-Director for the Society for the Propagation of Faith/Catholic Missions. In 1998 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Cardinal George for his work with them. He was also a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus, most recently of the Wilmette Council. He served a term for the Archdiocese Priest Personnel Board and also developed an Internship Program for the Vincentian Order Priests. Fr. Grace's bilingual skills and world travel enabled him to serve all of his parishioners with the care and compassion that was to be his trademark. His countless acts of generosity touched the lives of many. Born in Chicago, Il, to Mary (Molly) nee Hamilton, and John J. Grace. Loving brother to the late Mary (Edward) Considine, late James (Theresa) Grace, late Catherine (Al) Bower, late Michael (Eileen) Grace and late Kevin (Patricia) Grace. Dearest uncle to many nieces and nephews. Cherished friend to the late Chester Jaskolka, late Angie O'Donnell, and Sister Nicholas Tosseng OFS and many, many others. Lying in State at St. Tarcissus Church, 6020 W. Ardmore Ave, Chicago, Il., 60646, Friday, January 10 from 3 to 8 PM., and Saturday, January 11 from 10 to 11 AM. Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 11 AM. Interment at All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, Il. In lieu of flowers, donation are appreciated to St. Tarcissus Parish and School.



Guest Book

Message from **Elizabeth Ayala-Barrera**

January 9, 2014 9:29 PM

Father Grace was very Kind and Beautiful person whom I had the privilege of knowing during my years at St. Ludmilla from 1972 til the year I Graduated 1977. I Remember all the Birthday programs we as the school put on for him. And how he attended the mighty Mustangs basketball games and tournaments. He was truly Loved by Everyone and will be Missed. May his Family Find peace in knowing that as he believed in the Lord, even in death, he lives eternally.....my deepest Condolences to the Family...

Message from **Wade Lucas**

January 8, 2014 10:04 AM

Father Grace, you were the best that St. Ludmilla ever had. Your sense of humor and compassion toward the students and community, will never be forgotten by the many lives you have touched. It was an honor to serve as altar boy at your masses, and to be your friend. I will never forget the many times you would tell me when we shook hands during mass "that there is always a chance the Cubs will go undefeated the rest of the year", and when you signed my 8th. grade ribbon "always be #1" You were truly an inspiration in my life. Now your work is done and you are in the hands of the Lord in Heaven. Rest in Peace dear friend and pastor Father John Grace. Thank you for everything. Wade Lucas St. Ludmilla class of 1973.

Message from **Carol Bulas Crowell Honkanen**

January 8, 2014 8:18 AM

Rest in Peace, Father Grace.

My grandmother, Maggie Letts, worked for you at the St. Ludmilla parish for you as your housekeeper while you were there (and previously for Father Kripner and Father Banahan). She passed away a year after you left St. Ludmilla, just shortly after she left to retire.

You were very kind to my grandmother and did many things to help us get by.

I am honored to have been able to speak to you on the phone not too long ago, to thank you before you left us.

Many people will miss you, but we all have very fond memories of you.

Peace be with you . . .

Message from **Jaime Contreras**

January 8, 2014 8:14 AM

Father Grace was the pastor of St. Ludmilla when I first met him as a second grader in 1969. As I grew and became an older boy, I came to know and appreciate his sense of humor and his devotion to God. He led St. Ludmilla through its transition from a Czech/Polish/Bohemian parish to a predominantly Mexican one and through several incidents that could hurt the parish. Fr. Grace learned much about patience, understanding and servant leadership through these times. He grew as a man and a shepherd of God's flock by relying on his love of God and people. Even though I graduated in 1976, I remained in contact with him until 1983 when he was transferred. I last saw and spoke to him about a decade ago. I will miss his stories, deep voice, laugh, and his shining Irish eyes. God bless you, Fr. Grace.

Message from **Amy Rubic-Cholod**

January 6, 2014 11:45 AM

Fr. Grace was a wonderful priest and great human being. He lived the gospel through his actions. He welcomed everyone in his parish and in his home. He was a wonderful pastor that led the parish of St. Tarcissus from 1983-2002. The school flourished with over 700 students by the end of his tenure. Parishioners remember how he loved his pets "Rusty" and "Sinead" and walked them throughout the neighborhood. He was a pastor for the people. He will be truly missed and his reward will be great in heaven.