

REV. MATTHEW J. TWIGGS

January 22, 1948 - August 7, 2022

VISITATION:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

4PM TO 8PM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN THE SOCIAL HALL DURING
THE VISITATION

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE RC CHURCH

5635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD

OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

PRAYER SERVICE:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

7PM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

5635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD

OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

LIVE STREAMED:

www.facebook.com/ststthomasjohn

<https://venue.streamspot.com/7lcd47d1>

FUNERAL MASS:

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022

10AM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE RC CHURCH

5635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD

OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

LIVE STREAMED:

www.facebook.com/ststthomasjohn

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INTERMENT:

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022

FOLLOWING FUNERAL MASS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CEMETERY

ADJACENT TO THE CHURCH

Rev. Matthew J. Twiggs, 74 years of age, a retired priest of the Diocese of Paterson, and the former pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oak Ridge, NJ and St. John Vianney Church in Stockholm, NJ, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

Born on January 22, 1948 in Queens, New York to the late Florence (nee Vajda) and the late Patrick J. Twiggs, having three other siblings.

He resided with his family in South Ozone Park, Queens until 1956. His family then moved to Washington Township, in Bergen County, New Jersey.

After grammar school, he felt called to the priesthood and attended the Carmelite Junior Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts. After a few months of discernment, he returned to New Jersey and graduated from Westwood High School in Washington Township, New Jersey. In 1965, his ongoing call to the priesthood led him to Mount St. Paul College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, run by the Salvatorian Fathers. Thus began his long-time love for the Green Bay Packers. He completed his priesthood studies at Mount St. Paul College an

continued his theological studies at Christ the King Seminary in St. Bonaventure, New York, run by the Franciscans.

On May 5, 1973, he was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Lawrence B. Casey in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, New Jersey Casey, and has faithfully served in priestly ministry for 49 years.

Fr. Twiggs' first assignment was for five years as a parochial vicar at St. Monica Church in Sussex, New Jersey. During this time, he also taught theology to freshmen students at Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta, New Jersey. In 1978, he became a full-time staff member with assisting the football, baseball, and bowling teams, as well as the Theatre Arts program, and inaugurating the search program.

In 1996, Fr. Twiggs was appointed as Pastor of St. John Vianney Church in Stockholm. In 2012, he was appointed as administrator of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oak Ridge, which brought about the linking of St. John Vianney and St. Thomas the Apostle Churches, and was later named Pastor of both.

Fr. Twiggs was also the Chaplain of both the Knights of Columbus Council # 12649 at St. John Vianney Church and the Joseph Lamb Council # 5510 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Most recently, upon his retirement while residing in Florida, he assisted both at All Saints Church in Sunrise and at St. Malachy Church in Tamarac.

In 2019, Fr. Twiggs received the Person of the Year Award from the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD), an agency of Diocesan Catholic Charities.

Fr. Twiggs will best be remembered as a seriously avid Green Bay Packers fan. In his spare time he enjoyed being a beach bum, playing golf, attending Broadway shows, and listening to Neil Diamond songs.

He was predeceased by his beloved parents Florence A. Twiggs in 1978, and Patrick J. Twiggs in 2001; and his dear brothers Thomas P. Twiggs in 1996 and Daniel M. Twiggs in 1999, as well as his adored Shadow and Coco.

Fr. Twiggs is survived by his loving sister Patricia M. Lick of Sunrise, Florida, his cherished nieces Melissa, Amy, and Lindsay Twiggs, all of Derby, Connecticut; his adored nephews Sean Twiggs of Washington Twp., New Jersey and Kevin Twiggs of West Milford, New Jersey; his cousins Kathleen Pearsall, Maureen Vertuccio, and Eileen Joy; his sisters-in-law Cathie Twiggs of Green Acres, Florida and Carol Twiggs of Derby, Connecticut.

The rite of the Reception of the Body will take place on Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 3pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Road, Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438, followed by the visitation from 4pm to 8pm with a prayer service at 7pm at the church.

The funeral mass will be celebrated on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 10am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Interment will follow at St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery, adjacent to the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Fr. Matthew J. Twiggs' name to the Department for Persons with Disabilities, 1 Catholic Charities Way, PO Box 2539, Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438.

On line condolences and directions to the church: www.sticklesolteszfuneralho

me.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **14.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church
5635 Berkshire Valley Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
(973) 208-0090

Prayer Service

AUG **14.** 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church
5635 Berkshire Valley Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
(973) 208-0090

Funeral Mass

AUG **15.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church
5635 Berkshire Valley Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
(973) 208-0090

Interment

AUG **15**. 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery
5635 Berkshire Valley Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
(973) 208-0090

Tribute Wall

AB

“ We just found out about Father Twiggs. So very sorry. I was going to call you this week. You are always thought about, how you went out of your way for me. After Vic died, it went w/o saying you took over and was there when I needed help. I am so glad you baptized Paul. You will always be in my prayers. With Love from our family ---
Annette Blasone

annette blasone - November 26, 2022 at 01:13 PM

DB

“ I was a Parishioner of St. Monica in Sussex New Jersey and my husband and I remember him fondly. So sorry to read of his passing
🙏🙏🙏

dorothy beatty - October 05, 2022 at 06:32 AM

TB

“ Tina Blair lit a candle in memory of REV.
MATTHEW J. TWIGGS



Tina Blair - August 27, 2022 at 09:40 PM

OF

“ Our condolences to Father Matt's sister and extended families' of St. John and St. Thomas Parishes. Thank you for your kindness towards our parents during their sicknesses and towards us with their deaths. We remember how much fun the Church parishioners and family members had on the Church cruise to Bermuda!! Rest in Peace, "Uncle" Matt!!!



O'Hara, Lytle and Allemand Family - August 14, 2022 at 08:53 PM

MO

“ Father Matt was always there for us, from our wedding to baptizing our twins and all their sacraments, up to their own weddings. Father Matt always has a special place in our hearts, and we will miss him. We can't express the amount of appreciation we have, and the privilege it has been to know Father Matt all these years. We are saddened by his passing. Big hugs to Patty and the rest of his family.



Michelle and Rick Oleski - August 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ Thank you for being such an important part of our lives, especially for my sons Alfonse and Dean. From their introduction to mass, CCD, alter service, Antioch, to youth ministry. The faith, guidance and loving community you gave and fostered in us will live on and be shared for generations to come! Rest in eternal peace in the knowledge of a life well done. Love, Loretta, Alfonse & Dean Parete-Gonnella ❤️



Loretta Parete - August 13, 2022 at 12:50 PM

KC

“ I was privledged to serve with Fr. Matt for over 12 years. He taught me much by mentoring and teaching by example. My Family and I will miss him a great deal. Well done good and faithful servant. -
Deacon Kevin

Kevin Combs - August 13, 2022 at 09:23 AM

LA

“ Father Matt was very kind to me when my husband Fred passed in 2014. Father Matt came to St Francis de Sales church in Lodi where Fred and I were married to celebrate the funeral mass. He gave a beautiful homily about our lives and ended with a quote from "Le Miserables" --- "To Love Another is to see the Face of God". I had that engraved on Fred's gravestone. Grateful for your care. Rest In Peace Father. Lois Alfano

Lois Alfano - August 11, 2022 at 05:19 PM

EF

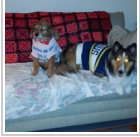
“ With much heartfelt condolences to Father Matt's Family, a community has lost a great role model. Thank you Father Matt for the many of years educating our children our adults and our elderly. May he Rest In Peace thank you for all the fond memories

Edwina Francaviglia - August 10, 2022 at 09:36 PM

JO

Fr.Matt was a blessing to both my parents and shared many a joke with my dad. He is missed. May he rest in peace

Joyce - August 14, 2022 at 02:02 PM



“ Sincere condolences to Father Matt's Sister, Patricia, and all of his extended family. He was an Amazingly Kind and Compassionate Pastor. He was a Great Mentor to the Young Men within the Priesthood and our Parish Family and a great Role Model for all of us. I will be forever grateful for the 24 years my late Mom was able to enjoy his Homilies at SJV. My Brother and I will be Forever Grateful for the Day he spent with us presiding over our late Mother's services and comforting our Family. I did not know him as well as my Mother did, but I loved the soft-spoken witticisms and advice he often offered before Mass. Gone too soon! He will be terribly missed as we all looked forward to seeing him when he came back to visit Oak Ridge. Love and prayers to all of his Friends and Family.

Susan Allen RN - August 10, 2022 at 06:30 PM

CB

“ Cousins Kathy, Moe and Bootie purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of REV. MATTHEW J. TWIGGS.



Cousins Kathy, Moe and Bootie - August 09, 2022 at 09:17 PM

DM

“ Our condolences to Father Matt's family.
Sincerely, the McMahon Family



Debra McMahon - August 09, 2022 at 09:09 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of REV. MATTHEW J. TWIGGS.*



August 09, 2022 at 08:13 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of REV. MATTHEW J. TWIGGS.*



August 09, 2022 at 08:13 PM



“ *Our condolences to Father Matt's family. We were blessed to have Father Matt in our family for many many years through confirmations, weddings, christenings, death, talks, house blessings, church functions etc. He was always there when you needed him may he Rest In Peace*



Deb and Jim McMahon - August 09, 2022 at 08:00 PM



“ *He made me a better Husband, Father, and Deacon. My family will miss him a great deal.*

Kevin Combs - August 09, 2022 at 07:53 PM

SS

“ So hard to believe that we were just with you two short weeks ago. Farther Matt you were such a huge part of our family through good times and bad and I will always be grateful for you.

Stacey Schaffer - August 09, 2022 at 02:05 PM

BS

“ Father Matt was always there for usmade us feel comfortable in a Church that was quite a distance for us but well worth the ride.....blessed our vehicles, and blessed us. May he rest in eternal peace. Will never forget him.



Barbara Suto - August 09, 2022 at 12:46 PM

JK

“ Thank you father for all you did for our family , along with all the beautiful memories of all the sacraments performed for all our children
Especially Hayley’s wedding when you led the crowd with Neil Diamonds
Sweet Caroline will NEVER FORGET
YOU WERE SOO GOOD !!!!

janine kerrison - August 08, 2022 at 04:01 PM