



Reverend Monsignor John P. Murphy

December 22, 2023

Reverend Monsignor John P. Murphy, 86, Pastor Emeritus of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Allentown, died Friday, December 22, 2023 in his residence in Lower Macungie Township, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Shenandoah, PA, he was the son of the late John H. and Estella (Darowish) Murphy. He attended Annunciation School and the old Shenandoah Catholic High School, before attending St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1955. Father Murphy was ordained to the priesthood on March 7, 1964. He was then assigned to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Allentown, where he served for 16 years. In October of 1980, he became pastor of St. Thomas More parish and on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982, he was named Monsignor John P. Murphy and was officially invested as an Honorary Prelate of His Holiness. He served St. Thomas More for 42 years until his retirement in 2021. For 60 years, Monsignor John P. Murphy gave his life as a priest in service to the people entrusted to his pastoral care. He served as director of the CYO for the Diocese, he served on the Diocesan Council of Priests under every Bishop of the Diocese, since its founding in 1961, Dean of the College of Consultors, the Commission of Orders and Ministries, Diocesan Director for the Catholic Physicians Guild, the Committee for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, he served as Diocese Director of Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States and Chaplain of Legatus' Lehigh Valley Chapter and he worked to rally people together by creating a campaign to help fund the Cay Galgon House in Bethlehem and many other boards and

groups.

Survivors: Sister: Mary Louise Padolick of Lower Macungie Twp. and Nephews: Joseph Padolick of Lower Macungie Twp. and Kenneth Padolick of South Whitehall Twp.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church 1040 Flexer Ave. Allentown. His Excellency, The Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown, will serve as Celebrant. The Rev. Christopher S. Butera, will serve as homilist. Calling hours will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024, from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church with a Vigil Service to follow at 7:00 P.M. with the Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Yenushosky presiding and the Rev. Joseph J. Kweder, serving as homilist. Additional calling hours will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in the church.

Major celebrants will include Msgr. David L. James, Vicar General and Pastor of St. Peter parish, Coplay, the Very Rev. Eugene P. Ritz, Vicar for Clergy, Rev. Daniel J. Yenushosky, Vicar Forane of Lehigh Deanery and Pastor Holy Trinity parish, Whitehall, Rev. John S. Pendzick, Pastor of St. Thomas More parish, Allentown, Rev. Joseph Kweder, Pastor St. Rocco parish, Martins Creek, Rev. Stanley M. Moczydlowski, Pastor, St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish, Whitehall and the Rev. Eric A. Arnout, Pastor Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, Slatington.

The interment will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. in the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Cemetery in Shenandoah. Parking is available in the church lot, the gymnasium lot and across the street in the Hope building and field lot.

The livestream link for the Mass of Christian Burial is: <https://link.edgepilot.co>

[m/s/efd77bad/SYil0eMLWkmJzPaAecoEww?u=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxn4FJlXU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxn4FJlXU)

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to: St. Thomas More School 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown, PA 18103 (Attention: Maggi Fink, Director of Advancement and Development), or to Mercy School for Special Learning 830 S. Woodward St. Allentown, PA 18103.

Cemetery Details

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Cemetery

Shenandoah, PA

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

Calling Hours

JAN 6. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

Tribute Wall

BQ

“*Condolences to the family. We met Monsignor in 2004 and we're married by Him in 2006. We will never forget you "Fr. Murphy." May you Rest In Peace.*

Bill and Ginny Quaglio - January 07, 2024 at 07:23 PM

EK

“*Eileen Kelly and family send our condolences to Msgr . We are parishioners of Immaculate Conception Allentown. My husband now deceased and children and myself loved him and it is hard to imagine our diocese without him. May he rest in peace*

eileen kelly - January 07, 2024 at 06:50 PM

RL

“*The Denis Leblond family met Msgr Murphy in 1999 and the friendship and love grew through the years. Yes, he "matched, hatched and dispatched" the Leblond's with deep faith that drew us all ever closer to God. May he now rest in peace having been welcomed Home by Denis and Adrian. Thank you, Jesus for having given us Msgr Murphy!*



Rosemary Leblond - January 04, 2024 at 12:24 PM



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of
Reverend Monsignor John P. Murphy.



January 03, 2024 at 11:22 AM

PS

“ Hello Everyone,

Where do you start to fully acknowledge the gift God has given us in Msgr. Murphy. Words cannot and will not suffice to accurately list and describe all that our beloved Msgr. Accomplished in this lifetime. However, I will try and hopefully I will do him justice.

Msgr. Received the call(Priesthood) at an early age and never ever wavered in his Love of God and all God's people !! He was truly committed to serving God and in every way possible. He thrived in being the example God put him here on this earth to be and set such a "High Bar" for priests to follow that many cannot or will never reach the bar .He truly had a servants heart and in 42 years it showed by the way he conducted himself and the duties of his office and calling . He was a visionary and built St. Thomas More parish/school into the largest and most Influential place of Worship/Learning where God was "Always" first and all children were welcome !!!!! He was always available day or night to tend to the needs of his flock/God's people!!!! He was selfless and always put his needs last . He was committed to building the kingdom of God every single day . He had a way where you could not say "No" because in the end you always knew it wasn't for him but for God and his glory . He succeeded!!

Heavenly Father be merciful to Msgr. For any sins he may have committed and grant until our beloved Msgr. Your Presence;Peace and Love in the Kingdom of Heaven .

Without a doubt, when our Heavenly Father greeted Msgr. at the gates of Heaven he heard the following words: "Come and enter the Kingdom of Heaven and the place I have prefer you" "Well done Good/Faithful Servant" !!!!!

I Love you Msgr. !! Thank you for being a very special part of my life and all you did for me and my family and until we meet again I wish for you "An Irish Blessing " .

Respectfully

Paul J. Snyder - Grand Knight St. Thomas More Council#4397

Paul J. Snyder - January 03, 2024 at 09:37 AM

MF

Thanks for commemorating his beautiful life and being a beacon of love and God's mercy. The wisdom he shared lives on in all who knew him and his unwavering kindness to all, cousin Michelle

Michelle FIORILLO - January 03, 2024 at 06:12 PM

FK

We are so very sorry to learn of the passing of Monsignor Murphy. Thank you Monsignor for being our "Shepherd" for 42 years. Your kindness and dedication to "your people" was exemplary. Job well done by a life well lived!!! Fondly, The Kushma Family

Fran Kushma - January 04, 2024 at 11:26 AM

CF

We are so blessed to have you in our family, You have been the rock for me during very difficult times. Love you and heaven is lucky to have you.

Cathy Fiorillo - January 06, 2024 at 10:52 AM

BE

Monsignor married 2 of my children and Baptized a granddaughter and listened and helped me through a difficult time. I give him many thanks . I know he is this day in heaven. Betty Comstock

bettycomstock - January 06, 2024 at 12:47 PM

HW

I had the privilege of serving as a local pastor in the Allentown area while overlapping the ministry of this dear brother in Christ. His reputation in the community and loving service to God's people was well known and highly regarded. His testimony of personal faith and ministry faithfulness endeared him to all of us. I join with others in commending his service and message of Jesus Christ as a reflection of the integrity of his walk with God and among God's people.

Dr. Harry F. Wood

Harry F. Wood - February 11, 2024 at 04:14 PM

EO

Monsignor touched my life in special ways. It was not one event or thing he had done. Really too much to say here. I know the only way to repay him is to try to live a Christian life and help build up Christ's Church in this life. Thank you Monsignor Murphy. Ed

Ed Olearczyk - February 17, 2024 at 05:48 PM

RR

*Will you walk to Emmaus with me,
As we travel to the place where we'll find community?
If we walk there together, with our hearts open wide,
We'll have Jesus walking at our side.*

Rich Rugen

Richard Hall Rugen - September 11, 2024 at 04:18 PM

LT

*Greetings friends and family of Msgr John P Murphy.
Although I did not know Msgr Murphy personally, family members have told me of how wonderful and compassionate he was. I know that he will be missed. He will be welcomed in Heaven by the holy saints & angels. Lord have mercy!*

Lois Tucci - August 17, 2025 at 06:45 PM