



In Memoriam



FATHER JOHN M. PHILLIPS

November 25, 1955 - October 20, 2019

O God, Thou didst raise Thy servant, Father Phillips, to the sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ, according to the Order of Melchizedek, giving him the sublime power to offer the Eternal Sacrifice, to bring the Body and Blood of Thy Son Jesus Christ down upon the altar, and to absolve the sins of men in Thine own Holy Name. We beseech Thee to reward his faithfulness and to forget his faults, admitting him speedily into Thy Holy Presence, there to enjoy forever the recompense of his labors. This we ask through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord.
Amen.

FROM THE HEARTS OF OUR PARISHIONERS:

We have received so many personal expressions of love and prayers from our parishioners that we felt it a must to share at least a few. We wish we could print them all. We thank you for allowing us to share your feelings for our Pastor, Fr. John. He will truly be missed.

"Like everyone, I am heartbroken. Fr John was a beautiful soul and holy priest who practiced the love of Jesus. He was like the loving earthly father that I never had. He shed a bright light into the pits of darkness that I lived in which gave me freedom for the first time in my life. There are no words to express the imprint he left on my heart and soul. I am truly blessed that he was an important part of my life. I can almost hear him chanting the praises of God with his Savior, Jesus. He was a true champion of the sick, poor and of loss souls. He was my hero!" Rose G.

"I heard that Fr John died peacefully in his favorite chair. I know Jesus and Mary came to get him. I feel sad but I also feel joy, because I know Fr. John is receiving his crown of glory. He ran the good race and won. The Lord even gave him a quick death so he would not suffer." He will be missed. Now he can pray for us from Heaven. What a blessing to have had him in our lives. He did so much for me and Jim and my son. I will be forever grateful to him. God be Praised now and forever with a new man of God in Heaven." Evelyn S.

"Fr. John was a caring, loving and compassionate pastor to his flock – an earthly example of Jesus the Good Shepherd. We will miss his warm smile, gentle humor, wonderful homilies and most of all his weekly pastoral letter in the bulletin which affected so many by educating them about the tenets of the faith. We are grateful for how Fr. John affected our lives during his tenure as pastor of Holy Faith. We will pray for the repose of his soul, but at the same time ask him as our new intercessor to pray for us. He has moved on to his well-earned heavenly reward and we will never forget him. May he rest in peace for all eternity in the company of Jesus, Mary and all the angels and saints. Joe P.

"My friend for over 30 years, my confessor, my spiritual director and Beloved Pastor, well done, good and faithful servant. Thank you. In my grief, I rejoice that you are now in great joy with Jesus!" Mary S.

"His profound and humble homilies are at this sad moment a source of comfort to our broken hearts. A true man of God and inspiration to many future vocations. May God grant him eternal rest and may the angels bring his soul to the celestial mansion! May perpetual light shine upon his soul and of those of the faithful departed. Amen. Thank you Fr. John for being a vessel of the Good News of Jesus Christ." Jorge N.

"Father John was such a faithful servant and leader and he started a beautiful movement in the center of Gainesville many years ago that I believe has been growing ever since. Compassion in the heart of Gainesville that we all have to continue. This is a HUGE loss but we have to follow what he preached and know that he remains with us and has way more power being directly with our Lord for all eternity." Geralyn R.

"Thank you for sharing your beautiful soul in all the compassion you so kindly shared. We folks in the handicapped section, want to send you our love and blessings for continued growth as you embrace Jesus and all those in his loving care. Your last bulletin message, was to Pray! Thankfully we send prayers of gratitude for you." Mary L.