



Rev. James A. Holup

May 8, 1933 - December 6, 2025

Reverend James Andrew Holup, age 92, entered into eternal life on December 6, 2025 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Fr. Jim was born on May 8, 1933, in Ford City, PA, to Stephen and Anna Marie (Tomek) Holup. His formation to the priesthood began in his earlier years while going through his elementary education at Saint Hedwig Catholic School in Toledo, OH. He was influenced by his uncle, Reverend Roger Holup, to attend St. Procopious Abbey through High School and College in Lisle, IL. He then went on to attend St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD. Fr. Jim was ordained on May 30, 1959 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, IL. He celebrated his first mass at St. Mary's Parish, in Toledo, OH, May 31, 1959 on the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fr. Jim's First Assignment was to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Joseph's Parish in Downers Grove, IL. He then served as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Herscher, IL and St. James Parish in Irwin, IL. He then went on to serve as Pastor at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ashkum, IL and St. John The Baptist in L'Erable, IL.

Fr. Jim, a devout, faithful Catholic priest for 66 years loved his priesthood, and had a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He led many pilgrimages to Medjugorje, and offered years of monthly "Medjugorje Nights" at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. During his priesthood, Fr. Holup established Eucharistic Adoration, led prayer devotions, including novenas, parish missions and many retreats. He was a priest for the people, always

inspiring, evangelizing and offering prayers for everyone he met.

Fr. Holup was preceded in death by his parents, Stephen and Anna Marie (Tomek) Holup, his brothers, Edward and Louis Holup, his sisters, Patricia (Holup) Martin and Maryann (DeArmond) Heidelberg. He is survived by his sisters, Dolores Murphy, Carol (Bill) Koback, cousins including Rosemary Tammarine, and many loving nieces, nephews, many friends and several prayer groups he belonged to. A special thank you to his caregivers, and for their loving care.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. Toledo, Ohio 43614 on Thursday, December 11, from 2:00-8:00 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 6:30 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Little Flower Church. The Funeral will be live streamed via this link. <<https://youtube.com/live/j0TxXm4gV-Y?feature=share>>

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery. Please leave a condolence message for the family at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2224 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral Mass

DEC 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Little Flower Catholic Church
5562 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43615

Tribute Wall

MM

“ A great blessing in our lives, Father Holup went out of his way to help us individually and as an engaged couple and to preside at our wedding Mass many happy decades ago. It was with him in mind that we named one of our sons James. May Father's dear soul rest in eternal peace in our Lord Jesus. Mike and Teresa Mahoney

Mike and Teresa Mahoney - December 15, 2025 at 01:49 PM

AH

Thank you for sharing how much he meant to you 🙏❤️

ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:06 PM

AG

“ Describing just a couple memories can't even compare to the life time of memories that my family will hold in our hearts forever. From spending time at Fr. Jim's parish, singing "Immaculate Mary" at the end of his masses, hearing his hysterical jokes, and having him give us family blessings, as well as always keeping him in our prayers.

His love for everyone always was shown through his everyday life and his love for his pets were charitable. From his dog Duster, to his cats Skeeter, Noel, and Midnight, he also took in an injured sparrow and that bird stayed with him for many years. He truly had a heart of St. Francis.

Fr. Jim, you leaving our family wasn't fully unexpected but that doesn't make your absence any easier. You will be loved and missed everyday by so many family and friends that have been blessed and honored to have known you. We will always be praying for you but please, pray for us.

We can't wait to sit around the table and join you for another cup of coffee while looking through family photos in Heaven.

God Bless you always and we love you.

- Love: Amy, Caleb, Leland, and Samuel Graveldinger

Amy Graveldinger - December 11, 2025 at 01:34 PM

AH

Thank you for sharing ❤️🙏

ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:08 PM

TL

“ I have many wonderful memories of Father Jim. I met him when he came to St Joseph in Downers Grove, IL in 1959. I was 6 years old and the 5th boy in a family that eventually ended up with 13 children. He became like a son to my parents and a big brother to us children. He was at our house often during his time at St Joe's and even after he was assigned to other parishes. I mostly remember him stopping for Sunday dinners of roast beef and mashed potatoes. I've never seen anyone that could eat as many mashed potatoes as Father Jim!

When I was 15, he took my brother and I and a few other boys on a road trip to Colorado. He was dropping off a seminarian out there and made it a mini vacation. For a boy from a big family that didn't take extended vacations, it was the highlight of my life. I fell in love with Colorado.

My wife Deb and I were at his Jubilee Mass and his 90th birthday party. We last saw him when we were in Toledo for a wedding in 2024.

I could go on and on with many other stories, but most importantly he was very impactful in my spiritual life, even during my college years when I didn't show much interest in religion. He's always been there and along with my parents, I credit him with the strong faith I have today. He was a great man and a very holy priest. Our loss is heaven's gain! I will miss him dearly.

Tom LaLonde

Tom LaLonde - December 10, 2025 at 03:50 PM

AH

Thank you and your family for being his “family” in Illinois! ❤️🙏

ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:10 PM

DF

“ Thank you Fr. Jim for all your love and service to the priesthood, to God, and for all your prayers and masses which will be greatly missed especially by those closest to you! We will always miss you and your example of faithfulness, love and friendship! Love you Fr. Jim ~ and thank you for everything and for bringing the Lord to us even in our own homes! A great treasure that we will always hold in our memory! And hearts ~ ❤️



Dolores, Theresa, Kimmie, Susie & family - December 10, 2025 at 08:58 AM

AH



ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:11 PM

RG

“ Greatest Priest ive ever met. Took care of us, through the summers. Always a great day after time with Father Hollup. One of the things I MISSED FROM ASHKUM ALL THESE YEARS! ENJOY YOU TRIP BROTHER SEE YOU SOON! R.G



Ralph Gonzalez - December 10, 2025 at 12:13 AM

AH



ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:11 PM

“*"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus; when you see a priest, think of our Lord, Jesus Christ" - St John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.*

Where to begin?; my great uncle, Fr. Jim, was the most humble priest I've ever met, and yet a strong, tall, unwavering pillar amongst all the others. His devotion to the True Presence of the Eucharist, which deeply affected my own spiritual growth and formation, was authentic and incredibly inspiring. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of visiting him in Illinois and being awestruck by his relic collection, wandering around his beautiful old rectory filled to the brim with Catholic art and icons, assisting him during Mass by ringing the bell, and playing with his sweet cat, Skeeter.

Fr Jim was ALWAYS praying and sacrificing for everyone he ever encountered, and I can say that his intense devotion, faith, and prayers directly impacted me throughout my life - particularly in times of sincere need - with the most recent being the adoption of our first child, Janos, whom we adopted from Hungary this fall, following 10 years of marriage and which he had officiated. Fr Jim was so concerned for us, and even in his rapidly failing health, offered weekly Masses for the peaceful transition of our adoptive family and safe travels home; I am forever grateful for those Masses.

The day before his passing, he was delighted to be told that Janos was to be baptized the following day, along with his baby cousin Olivia, and gave the most beautiful blessing to each of them; even in his weakest and final hours, he was a shepherd, and found immense joy and peace in the knowledge that sacramental grace was about to be imparted on his great, great niece and nephew.

Fr. Jim's legacy is one of intense, yet humble love and faith; a pure devotion to the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and a deep love for the Mother of God. He died as he lived- near the Eucharist, surrounded by family, and with faith in our Lord's Divine

Mercy and humble hope for eternal life.

May we all strive to live as he did; Fr Jim, pray for us (as always)!

Christine Drockton - December 09, 2025 at 10:53 PM

AH



ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:12 PM

MD

“ We were blessed to have Father Holup as our Paster at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Herscher, IL. He helped guide us and our large family, baptised 4 of our children, converted many back to Jesus. He was a friend and mentor, and we went to some of his masses in Ashkum, to see him when he got transferred. He literally brought my Brother back to Jesus and he became a strong promoter of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He was a very holy Priest, and we will be forever grateful to this loving Shepherd! Damian & Mary Denault

Mary Denault - December 09, 2025 at 09:15 PM

AH

I remember going to the Denault farm and Angela when she worked in the bakery! Thank you for sharing ❤️🙏

ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:14 PM

G(

“ Greg & Terri Stark & Family (Ashkum) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. James A. Holup.



Greg & Terri Stark & Family (Ashkum) - December 09, 2025 at 08:09 PM

MA

“*Father James A. Holup was a true father to anyone who sought him. You could see that he prayed endlessly for every person who came into contact with him. He was more than a priest — he was a healer, a guide, and a spiritual father figure. Over his 92 years, he walked with countless souls, burying those he knew and watched many of his spiritual sons and daughters grow, aiding them through every season of life, and in many cases even accompanying them into death.*

He led countless pilgrimages to Medjugorje, offered years of monthly “Medjugorje Nights,” and devoted his life to Eucharistic Adoration, novenas, parish missions, and retreats — all with great humility and a deep love for the people entrusted to his care. His priesthood was a rare reflection of what it was meant to be: a life of service, guidance, and compassion. Those who were blessed to know him felt his care in every prayer, every visit, and every moment he dedicated to helping others grow closer to God.

Father Holup’s legacy is one of unwavering devotion, spiritual mentorship, and profound love for his community. He exemplified the very essence of priesthood, touching lives in ways words can scarcely capture. He will be remembered not only for the ministries he led but for the countless hearts he nurtured along the way.

Matt - December 09, 2025 at 07:18 PM

AH

Thank you for sharing 🙏❤️

ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:15 PM

GK

“ Gwen m K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. James A. Holup.

Gwen m K. - December 09, 2025 at 09:22 AM

CC

“ I remember the beautiful trip to Medjugorje made in May of 1996. We took 17 pilgrims along with medical supplies. We asked Fr Holup to be our Spiritual Director for the trip. He prayed over us all and much healing was received. We were guests of Dragica and Marinko from Bijakovici, Medjugorje. on the way home back to Chicago we traveled with Fr. Slavko. Father Holup invited Fr. Slavko to come to his parish and speak about Medjugorje. We gave him a ride in our Van to Askum. IL. I have a picture of these two Holy men as we all knew they were both saintly priests. Like Little Flower, "May you continue to do good on earth through your prayers", God bless you Fr. Holup and rest in peace. Cheryl and Len Conley.

cheryl Conley - December 09, 2025 at 05:31 AM

AH

Thank you for sharing 🙏❤️

ann marie Holup - December 16, 2025 at 04:16 PM

TL

“ Tom and Deb LaLonde purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. James A. Holup.



Tom and Deb LaLonde - December 08, 2025 at 08:47 PM