



## John Francis Kerscher

January 18, 1943 - November 13, 2020

John Francis Kerscher died peacefully, holding hands with his wife, Cathy, in Ann Arbor VA Hospital on November 13th a few hours after a Zoom call with his children and grandchildren.

John was born January 18, 1943, in St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo, Ohio to Francis X. and Marie C. Kerscher. He had an idyllic childhood in South Toledo where he and his 3 brothers roamed the ravine behind their home, played hockey on the Maumee River and explored the islands near the shore. He graduated from St. Francis de Sales High School in 1961 and attended the University of Toledo. In 1963, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, training at Lowry AFB in weapon systems & repair of Sidewinder missile controls and then serving a tour in Vietnam in 1966 repairing those systems on F-4 Phantom jets. In 1964, he met his loving wife, Cathy (Powell) Kerscher at Mac Dill AFB in Tampa, Florida. They were married June 24, 1967. After John left the Air Force in 1970, he returned to the University of Toledo and completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering while working at Johns-Manville as a technician. He tested the heat resistance of fiberglass tiles that Dominick Labino developed for the Space Shuttle. After graduation from the University of Toledo, he was promoted to automotive engineer, designing and testing fiberglass sound proofing for several automotive companies.

John was passionate about many things with his family topping the list. He

coached in Anthony Wayne Youth Soccer League and St. Joe's CYO Basketball and Football. He eventually helped introduce soccer as a varsity sport at Notre Dame Academy and coached there for 5 years. Many of those young people reached out to thank him after they became adults for his leadership and for making practices fun and teaching them the importance of fair play and working with a team. He was a lifelong fan of University of Notre Dame, University of Toledo, Notre Dame Academy and St. Francis de Sales High School. He enjoyed attending many sporting events, especially those in which his children participated. He and Cathy enjoyed traveling throughout the US and in Europe and Australia. After his retirement from Johns-Mainville in 2003, John volunteered as a poll worker in Lucas County until 2019. Woodworking was a hobby John began to take more seriously after his retirement, joining with a group of men at St. Joseph Church, Maumee, to build many projects for the church and school. He was most proud of the altar that he helped design and build for Fr. Nathan Cromly's Chapel in Colorado. He will be fondly remembered by all family and friends for his beautiful smile, sharp wit and wicked sense of humor and his devotion to God, family and country.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Francis X. & Marie C. Kerscher, and his infant granddaughter, Caroline Keneally. He is survived by Cathy, his loving wife of 53 years, his daughter, Kristina (Ben) Keneally of Sydney, Australia, his sons Kevin (Gwynne) Kerscher of Hilt, California and Jeff Kerscher of Seattle, Washington and his four grandchildren, Daniel and Brendan Keneally and Kane and Cassie Kerscher. He is also survived by his brothers Dan (Margo) Kerscher and Ken (Marie) Kerscher of Toledo and Mike (Sue) Kerscher of Cincinnati, Ohio and 11 nieces and nephews and many great-nieces and nephews.

Due to the current rise in COVID 19, there will be no visitation and the Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church will be private for family members only. However,

the Mass will be live streamed on the Facebook page, St. Joseph Parish, Maumee at 10:30 AM on Friday, November 20th. A Memorial Mass and a Celebration of Life will occur at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to St. Francis de Sales High School, 2323 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43607 or to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 104 W. Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537. Please view the online guest registry at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **St Joseph (Maumee)**

104 West Broadway Street  
Maumee, OH 43537

# Tribute Wall

AD

“ John was like a member of the family. We were together so often at Mass. Son, Dan , and I send our condolences and prayers. God bless,  
Aggie Drury and son, Daniel Drury

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**Aggie Drury** - November 27, 2020 at 03:20 PM

JK

“ Danny, don't know if you remember me it's been a long time but I'm sorry to hear about your brother. Lost my brother Bill about 1 1/2 ago and can feel your pain. Time does help. Be well and know that I am having good thoughts for your brother and his family and all of you.

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**Jim Kest** - November 26, 2020 at 10:07 AM

DH

“ Lee and I would always tease him when he would park his little car in the corner in the church parking lot. He would not park it in the correct way but crooked.

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**Deb Harley** - November 20, 2020 at 10:03 AM

CK

*Deliberately, Deb, so it wouldn't get scratched! I think you are referring to his red convertible.*

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**Cathy Kerscher** - November 22, 2020 at 07:30 PM

FD

“ I only knew John for 5 years but loved him like a brother from another mother. I wish I had known him longer. Condolences to all that loved him.

*Frank Mc Donald*

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**frank p mc donald** - November 20, 2020 at 09:04 AM

BB

“ As a green freshman at Notre Dame Academy, Coach Kerscher was willing to give me a chance on the soccer field. He did what any wise coach would've done with a basketballer who never played a lick of soccer outside of gym class...and put me in goal, figuring I was at least good with my hands😂 I enjoyed four years under his leadership, learning to love the sport and that off crazy goal box! Thank you for the fond memories. I pray that God will bless and comfort the family and friends through this hour; and that, in due season, He turn the mourning into joy as his word promises (Isaiah 61:1-3).

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**Barbie Kreuz Baldwin** - November 20, 2020 at 08:59 AM

MG

“ Sorry for the loss of a great guy - we'll miss seeing him in church up front, but now he has a much better seat! RIP. The Gouldings

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**Michael Goulding** - November 20, 2020 at 08:36 AM

JT

“ Dear Cathy, & family, Dan, Margo and family,  
Sending our thoughts and prayers with sincere sympathy on the great loss of a wonderful husband father, brother, uncle.....  
Our thoughts go back many years to the years your children were at Notre Dame Academy and St Francis. Excelling in all ways including sports.  
Recently in New Zealand we met many along the hikes/trails from Australia. They all thought highly of Kristina in her role in South Wales and remarked how much she was thought of. To you Kristina our deepest sympathy also for the times that keep you from sharing your grief in person. May God hold you all in the palm of his hand.  
JoAnne & Mike Tressler

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**JoAnne Tressler** - November 19, 2020 at 11:54 AM

AM

“ Dan, Ken, and Kerscher Family,  
  
We send our deepest sympathy for your loss of brother John Francis Kerscher. May he find eternal rest in the arms of our loving Lord.

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**Ann and John Mackley** - November 19, 2020 at 09:45 AM

EM

“ Dear Cathy, My heart goes out to you at this very hard time. It was such a pleasure to welcome you and John into our home on one of your Sydney visits. As an Australian, John seemed like the quintessential American Dad - complete with broad smile and shoulders, a great sense of humor and a love of sport and, of course, family. Much love to you and all the family in the US. We hope to see and hug his beloved Kristina soon. Emma Maiden and Chris Siorokos

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**Emma Maiden** - November 19, 2020 at 05:28 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of John Francis Kerscher.*



November 18, 2020 at 08:51 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of John Francis Kerscher.*



November 18, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ *Dearest Cathy and family. We were so shocked to hear about the passing of John. We will miss him dearly. It was my honor to to welcome you both to the neighborhood. We will miss his hard work and dedication to the Association. I will certainly miss seeing him at the polls. Please accept our deepest sympathy on behalf of Blue Creek Gardens. May you rest in peace. Gordon and Dawn Rhoades*

**Dawn Rhoades** - November 18, 2020 at 08:42 PM

LL

“ Kathy and family, Please accept my deepest sympathy for the passing of John. I got to know him from being a parishioner at St. Joseph Parish and his son Jeff, who was in the same grade as my daughter, Samantha. In this time of sorrow, celebrate John's life and cherish those memories.  
Larry Loutzenhiser

Larry Loutzenhiser - November 18, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to Cathy and her children on the loss of John. He will certainly missed by all who knew him. My sympathies to Dan and his brothers for their loss of a sib, I will send a memorial to St. Francis de Sales High School In John's memory. May he Rest in the peace of our dear Lord.

Marie Irons - November 18, 2020 at 01:57 PM

JM

“ We are so sorry to hear of John's death. What a loss. We always enjoyed anytime we ran into you and reminiscing about family history. We are so glad we got to see you at the family reunion 2 years ago. Cathy and family, you have our deepest sympathy. Love the photo. It shows the wonderful smile of his

Joe & Sue Meyers - November 18, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ Sending our deepest condolences. May God bless your family.  
Bob and Pat Takats

Tara Takats Thompson - November 18, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Francis Kerscher.*



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November 17, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ *I'm not certain of the first time meeting John with Cathy at MacDill but I do know he could light up a room. His sweet disposition, funny sense of humor and ability to never meet a stranger sure made him special. In visits to Florida he changed security lights, bathroom outlets and hung party lights on my porch. If I had a project he'd do it. Then drive he, Cathy and me around seeing sights, Rays spring training and great dinners John, was much more than a friend or my close friends hubby. John was FAMILY❤️RIP*

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**Vivien Keen** - November 17, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ *John was a true classic! That smile and kind heart that matched were shared to all that knew John...or didn't!! To Kristi and Kevin and your families...he is right there with you! Cathy, we are all with you each step of this journey! Jeff can take the reigns for awhile. John was an awesome mentor and friend. We have a Treasure Chest of memories to share one day, from St Joseph to shared vacations to Flamingo weddings! God bless the Kerscher family, brothers and all.*

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**Mary Carr** - November 17, 2020 at 04:43 PM

AS

“ Praying for all of you... an amazing man and friend ... loved that laugh and jokes... the Szymanski family

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**Andrew Szymanski** - November 17, 2020 at 11:46 AM

EB

“ I worked at JM in Defiance. Whenever I would run into John at one of the plants, he would always bring a smile to my face. A happy, gentle giant; always positive and kind, and witty. He was a "gift" to all who knew him. RIP

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**Ed Burger** - November 17, 2020 at 11:41 AM