



Father Paul J. Campbell

December 23, 1952 - February 3, 2019

The Reverend Paul J. Campbell, Pastor of St. Christopher Church in Chester, Maryland passed away on the evening of February 3, 2019 as a result of the stroke that he suffered Friday. He was 66 years old.

Father Campbell was born in Wilmington, Delaware on December 23, 1952, the son of the late Clarence Paul and Helen Theresa Tucker Campbell. He attended Christ Our King Elementary School, Salesianum School, De Sales University, and De Sales Theological College in Washington, D.C. He was ordained a priest for the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales on June 12, 1982. As an Oblate, Father Campbell taught at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers, Florida, Father Judge High School in Philadelphia, and Salesianum School in Wilmington. He served as Associate Pastor of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

In 1996, he was received into the Diocese of Wilmington where he served as Associate Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Easton, Maryland; Saint Francis de Sales Church in Salisbury, Maryland; and Saint Joseph Church in Middletown, Delaware. He served as Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Chestertown, Maryland and St. John's Church in Rock Hall. In 2015, Father Campbell was installed as Pastor at St. Christopher Church in Chester, Maryland; a position he held at the time of his death.

Father Paul is survived by his sister Claire Stecher and her husband John of Wilmington, DE; brother David C. Campbell and his wife, Karen of Carmel, Indiana; three nieces Jennifer and Maria Stecher and Anne Marie Campbell;

and nephew David Campbell.

Funeral arrangements:

Friday, February 8, 2019: Visitation 3-7 p.m. St. Christopher Church, Chester, MD

Saturday, February 9, 2019: Visitation 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. St. Christopher Church, Chester, MD

Mass of Christian Burial – 11:00 a.m. St. Christopher Church, Chester, MD

Monday, February 11, 2019: Interment 10:30 a.m., Cathedral Cemetery, Wilmington, DE

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Tim Tebow Foundation, Night to Shine, 2220 Country Road, 210 West, Suite 108 PMB317, Jacksonville, FL 32259 or to St. Christopher's Catholic Church, PO Box 660, Chester, MD 21619.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral Cemetery

Wilmington, DE

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church
1861 Harbor Drive
Chester, MD

Visitation

FEB 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church
1861 Harbor Drive
Chester, MD

Mass

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church
1861 Harbor Drive
Chester, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 08, 2019 at 04:49 PM

CS

To Father Paul's family I send you my deepest sympathies and I agree with every post. He was a wonderful priest man and I'm very proud to say friend. I was so glad that I was able to visit with him briefly on Christmas Eve. My said it better than I ever could. Thank you for sharing your brother with us God bless him Carolyn

Carolyn Spray - February 10, 2019 at 07:56 PM



“ *Father Paul J. Campbell*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Father Paul J. Campbell*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Father Paul J. Campbell*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

DB

“ *Dinky, Laura And Bennett lit a candle in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell*



Dinky, Laura and Bennett - February 18, 2019 at 08:33 AM

SH

“ *Prayers to Father Paul's family. He was truly the very best priest I've ever known. We will never forget him. His sermons were the best ever. Rest In Peace Father Paul we love you.* ❤️🙏

Sheree Horney - February 09, 2019 at 11:33 PM

PC

“ *Pamela M Coursey lit a candle in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell*



Pamela M Coursey - February 09, 2019 at 11:38 AM

PC

I thoroughly enjoyed Father Paul's way of breaking down God's messages so that anyone, no matter what their age was, could understand and apply it to their lives. May he rest in peace. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and all that loved and knew him.

Pamela M Coursey - February 09, 2019 at 11:42 AM

MS

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Fr. Paul’s family, friends, and fellow parishioners. I always looked forward to attending Mass on Sunday, anticipating one of Fr. Paul’s inspiring and optimistic sermons. He helped me get thru the week and manage the tough days. I will miss him greatly.



Mary Ann Sluga - February 08, 2019 at 08:34 PM

ML

“ We had the honor of having Father Paul marry our daughter, Amie Lauriello to Bill Ostrander on October 17, 2015 at the shore. We had heard alot of about Father Paul from Amie and Bill over the years, but to appreciate the kind of person he was, you just had to meet him! He was funny, kind, quick-witted and put you at ease from the moment you said hello to him!! My daughter and son-in-law were truly blessed to have known him for so many years. They trusted him, they confided in him, and they loved him. And even though my husband and I only got to be with him for a short time, we felt the same way!!! We will always be grateful for Father Paul and he will always be special to our family.

maryanne lauriello - February 08, 2019 at 07:29 PM

MS

“ To the family of Fr Paul Campbell and to all of his Parishoners, As you know, Fr Paul was a fine gentleman and a great inspiration to us all. He was truly able to preach the word of the Lord in a manner that we could all understand and relate to in our everyday lives. He is greatly missed and will forever be in our hearts. In the words of my 9 year old grandson, “it hurts my heart that he is gone, but do you think they get to play video games in heaven?” Sincerely, Mollie and Joe Scharnus

Mollie Scharnus - February 08, 2019 at 02:25 PM

TS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Father Paul's family and many friends. We were so fortunate to have such a thoughtful and witty priest during his time in Chestertown and Rock Hall. His sermons always had a wonderful take away. God rest your soul. Tracy Stone

Tracy Stone - February 08, 2019 at 09:15 AM

TF

“ I cannot express enough to you how much Father Paul touched our hearts. He was so welcoming, easy to talk to, and was a huge comfort to our family. He just had a way about him that was so warm and funny and often helped me make sense of the world. He will be missed. - The Friedrich Family

Tina Friedrich - February 08, 2019 at 05:16 AM

MO

“ Over the years we visited Chestertown and would always attend Sunday's Mass in Rock Hall
Father Paul was always welcoming and he was so personable
We were inspired by his sermons to live better lives
Our daughter attended daily Mass in Chestertown and respected Father Paul for his holiness
She called today with the sad news
Please know you and your family will be in our prayers during this difficult time
Also know how many souls he affected during his short time here
We were blessed to make his acquaintance
With sympathy
Eddie and Rose O'Donnell
St. Louis Missouri

Mr and Mrs Eddie O'Donnell - February 07, 2019 at 08:45 PM

MC

“ Dear Campbell Family, You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God grant you peace and strength during most this difficult time. Fr. Paul, you had an amazing way of making our family think and reflect after your words of wisdom were given. May you rest in peace. The Claborn Family



Meredith Claborn - February 07, 2019 at 07:20 AM

WP

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear my golf buddy has moved on to a better place. About 15 months ago our friend and golf trip member passed away. Paul presided over our friend's funeral. We both were happy to be at the funeral and told each other. I'll pray Father Paul gets a set of clubs that fly straight balls in heaven. Rest easy, You are already missed.

Wayne Phillips

Wayne Phillips - February 06, 2019 at 10:35 PM



“ Father Paul had a wonderful ability to reach people. All four of my children were confirmed at St. Christopher's, and my wife taught CCD for over 10 years. I was never confirmed, and never fully embraced the church. My daughter recently convinced me to attend adult CCD, and I agreed largely because of the few masses I attended that Father Paul performed. Selfishly I am deeply saddened that I will not get the benefit of his guidance, was hoping to gain a deeper understanding of life and faith from Father Paul. He was also a wonderful source of strength for my daughter, and profoundly helped her through very challenging times. Godspeed, may you Rest In Peace knowing that you truly enriched our lives.

John Ronayne - February 06, 2019 at 09:20 PM

NK

“ Fr. Paul was an inspirational speaker who always managed to get me thinking about what I could do to spread Christ’s love “beyond the pews”. And he did it with so much humor and humility. Between that and the wonderful uplifting music program he fostered at St. Christopher’s I always left church feeling blessed and joyful. RIP Fr. Paul. Your shoes will be tough to fill.

Nancy Koval - February 06, 2019 at 07:55 PM

LS

“ Father Campbell was an amazing man and helped me through one of the toughest times of my life. Thank you for your love of people and love of God 🙏❤️

Laura Sydnor - February 06, 2019 at 04:41 PM

MS

“ To the Family of Father Campbell, My sincere sympathy to all of you on Father's passing. I was shocked & saddened to hear the news. I worked at St. Anthony of Padua's Rectory during the time Fr. Campbell was an Associate Pastor & he was always so personable & very well-liked. He will be in my thoughts & prayers. May he rest in peace.
Take care & God bless you.

*Mrs. Anne Smigielski
Wilmington, DE*

Mrs. Anne Smigielski - February 06, 2019 at 04:40 PM

YD

“ Your friends at the DOJ Family Division purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Father Paul J. Campbell.



Your friends at the DOJ Family Division - February 06, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ I met Father Paul when he came to visit elderly people I was companion for. We enjoyed talking as he grew up right around the corner from where I lived in N. Wilmington. Very easy to talk to and very much enjoyed by those he visited. He will be missed by many.



Lorraine Sincavage

Lorraine Sincavage - February 06, 2019 at 11:17 AM

LR

“ Fr. Paul was a wonderful Priest and man. When he spoke to you, you felt like nothing else was important to him at that time but you. He was a blessing to our Parish and to my family's lives. My heart goes out to his family and close friends. Our prayers will be with you.



Lori Robinson - February 06, 2019 at 10:20 AM

SB

“ Thank you Father Paul for your wonderful sermons. Your friendly personality was so welcoming. Having you as our priest was a blessing, even though it was only for a short time. God bless you Father Paul we will miss you.



Suzanne Brazerol - February 06, 2019 at 07:35 AM

JR

“ Father Paul was the best priest we have ever encountered. His sermons were always inspiring and motivational. They always left you with something to think about and a catch phrase to help you remember. He was especially there for our teenage grandchildren inspiring them to step out of their comfort zones and serve their parish. He connected with them and made them feel special. For this I will be eternally grateful. We are saddened to lose a man when there was so much work yet to be done. But we will always remember him and his humor, his wit, his humility and his ability to bring us back because we really wanted to worship with him. We will miss him dearly. Our deepest sympathies to his family. Rest assured his work will continue.

Jim and Jackie Robertson - February 06, 2019 at 06:49 AM

GC

“ We will truly miss Father Paul, his homilies are truly memorable and it was a joy to listen to him. His homily on Sunday, Feb. 27 on stepping out of your comfort zone and loving one another will always be in our hearts, Our Dear Lord truly has an angel in heaven. Our prayers and thoughts are with you Father Paul and your family.

Greg and Cathy Clunk

Greg and Cathy Clunk - February 05, 2019 at 10:56 PM

SD

“ Our hearts are saddened, we will miss Father Campbell and his homilies. We looked forward to hearing what he had to say each and every Sunday.



Shelley and Chris DeGrange - February 05, 2019 at 10:13 PM

MJ

“ Mark & Sandy Joiner lit a candle in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell



Mark & Sandy Joiner - February 05, 2019 at 08:30 PM

MA

Thoughts and prayers to all. Fr Paul was just so much fun to be around. He will be missed by all who knew him

Mark - February 05, 2019 at 08:31 PM

JR

“ I so enjoyed Father Paul's homilies and since I moved to CA a year and a half ago I have been listening to them on the church website. He always left you with something to think about after you left church. He also said my husbands funeral mass and everyone commented on his message, He will be missed, Praying for all family and parishioners.

Joan Ruhl - February 05, 2019 at 12:25 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Father Paul J. Campbell.*



February 05, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ *Paula Pavon sent a virtual gift in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell*



Paula Pavon - February 05, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ *Jack And Anne Bigelow sent a virtual gift in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell*



Jack and Anne Bigelow - February 04, 2019 at 09:23 PM



“ *I absolutely loved his sermons. He will be missed by many. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Cecilia Deitz

Cecilia Deitz - February 04, 2019 at 08:20 PM

MS

“ *Moire Scher lit a candle in memory of Father Paul J. Campbell*



Moire Scher - February 04, 2019 at 07:51 PM

SG

“ *I was an Altar Server to Father Paul and we were best friends. Father Paul even liked my singing. When I became an Altar Server he said "I am happy to have an Altar Server that can sing with me". Thank you for your service as our pastor for the past 4 yrs..I will miss you!*

Your Best Friend and Altar Server,

Caitlyn

Sue Gick - February 04, 2019 at 06:47 PM

MK

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the family during this difficult time. There are no words to express our sadness of the passing of Father Paul. He was our rock during the funerals of my mother, father and brother as well as a good friend to our family. Thank you for your service and may you rest in eternal peace.*

Margaret Cohey Kaufman

Margaret Kaufman - February 04, 2019 at 04:31 PM

SH

Prayers for Father Paul's family our family loved him gave my boys there sacraments. Also was wonderful with my mother's funeral but I will miss most of all his sermons he gave. Rest Peacefully now you are with the Lord 🙏❤️✝️

Sheree Horney - February 04, 2019 at 06:16 PM

JS

Father Paul's sermons brought a relevance to the church that inspired us all to strive to be more Christ-like. All he asked of us was to "spread Christ beyond the pews" and I fervently hope that we will continue to do so in his memory. We are heartbroken at his passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

Jean and John Sadler - February 04, 2019 at 09:32 PM

RM

Father Paul was the most inspiring, exuberant and well spoken priest in our memory. We and the entire parosh will miss him deeply.

Randy Martin - February 04, 2019 at 09:42 PM

DR

Father Paul's sermons were wonderful and most often touched with a bit of humor, I'll think of you in Jesus's arms now.

Dawn Russo - February 06, 2019 at 08:57 AM