



Stephen J. Graff

NOV 21, 1945 - OCT 23, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 7



Stephen J. Graff

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Stephen J. Graff, 76, of Baldwinsville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Upstate Community Hospital. Stephen was born in Atlantic City, NJ to the late John and Elizabeth (Douglas) Graff. He received his masters in speech and drama from Catholic University and a doctorate from New York University. Stephen also pursued doctoral studies in religion at Syracuse University and became an ordained deacon with the Catholic Diocese of Rochester. His career as a professor spanned many various programs and universities, including, St. John University, Brooklyn College, Syracuse University, and the Deaconate Program of the Diocese of Rochester. He was the education director of many local parishes in the Syracuse area and the set and lighting designer for Syracuse area theater productions.

Stephen cherished time spent at his home in Boca Raton, he was an avid golfer and loved to visit Disney World; he especially loved Donald and Daisy Duck. He loved to uplift the hearts of others, his sense of humor was unmatched, and he loved to share his philosophies and wisdom with everyone.

In addition to his parents, Stephen is predeceased by his first wife, Judith (Schlinsock) Graff; his siblings, Barry, and Elaine Graff; his paternal grandparents, William and Jennie Graff and maternal grandparents, Sam and Irene Douglas.

He is survived by his wife of 10 years, Sharon (Semski) Graff; his daughters, Kathi (John) Gentry and Kellee (Mike) Ray- Tompkins; his sons, Richard (Kelly) Ray and Mark (Heather) Manes; 6 grandchildren; his sister, Karen (Ann Mullen) Graff; his brother, Reverend Timothy Graff; along with his dear band of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Calling hours will take place on Friday, October 28, 2022, from 4 – 6 pm at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse. A funeral mass in celebration of Stephen's life will be held at 10 am on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at St. Rose of Lima Church, 409 S. Main St., North Syracuse.



Obituary

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Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the Sisters of St. Francis, 6900 Buckley Rd.
Syracuse, NY 13212.



Events


Stephen J. Graff

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Visitation

 **Friday**, October 28, 2022


 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET


 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

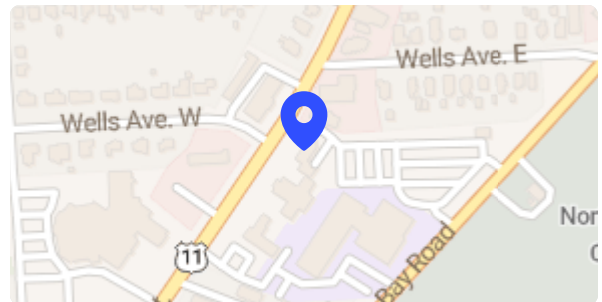


Funeral Mass

 **Saturday**, October 29, 2022

 10:00 AM ET

 **St. Rose of Lima Church**
409 S. Main Street, North Syracuse NY 13212





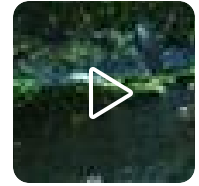
Tribute Wall

Stephen J. Graff

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.



October 27 at 7:28 AM



Karen Machell posted:

My sincere condolences to all of Steve's loved ones. I am so grateful for the spiritual guidance and personal friendship I enjoyed with Steve of the years. He enriched my life and those of many others.

November 5 at 8:19 AM



Ogugwa "Gigi" Uzorka posted:

Hello Sharon & Family. This is Gigi, the other daughter. My sincere condolence to all of you. I enjoyed Steve's hospitality, smiles and cooking. I pray God gets all of all through this time. Please look to God and take it one day at a time. Sincerely, Gigi

October 26 at 8:14 AM



Deacon Christopher Fisher posted:

Steve, I want to thank you for the spiritual and academic support you gave my wife and I during my deacon formation years. Your support was another example of service provided by a deacon. Deacon Chris and Lynn Fisher, DOR

October 25 at 1:23 PM



Larry Feasel posted:

I will always be thankful for how Steve challenged me while I was in formation for the Permanent Diaconate in the late 90s. He was a motivator, counselor, and teacher without peer. He and his family are in my prayers. Senior Deacon Larry Feasel, Diocese of Rochester

October 25 at 12:48 PM



Media

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.

October 27 at 7:28 AM



Mary Ann T October 28 at 3:01 PM
Simply beautiful. Thank you for posting. ❤️



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Stephen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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