



Deacon Michael "Mike" Roy Jones

July 1, 1929 - August 8, 2025

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of our father, Reverend Mr. Michael R. Jones, age 96, a devoted deacon of the Catholic Church.

Born July 1, 1929, in Oklahoma City to George R. and Francis Eischen Jones, Mike's journey began in the heartland of America. After graduating from John Carroll High School in Oklahoma City in 1947, he pursued his education while playing basketball at Amarillo Junior College (1949) and Oklahoma State University, ultimately earning a degree in Entomology in 1951.

It was at Amarillo Junior College where Mike's life changed forever when Ruth Starker handed him an invitation to the Newman Club's first meeting. Their love story blossomed, leading to marriage on November 8, 1952, 7 children and a beautiful partnership that would last a lifetime.

Mike served in the Naval Reserve from 1948 to 1956. His professional career began with the Santa Fe Railroad before embarking on a 32-year tenure with Chevron in 1951. In 1969, Mike and Ruth moved to Atlanta and became members of Holy Cross Catholic Church. In 1985, Mike and Ruth founded M&R Specialty Sales, a business venture he took great pride in, especially working alongside his sons Danny and Robert.

In 1987, Mike answered a higher calling, becoming a Deacon in the Catholic

Church and joining Prince of Peace Catholic Church. He was set to retire in 2026, having dedicated nearly four decades to his ministry while serving on the Buford Ministerial Association until June 2025. His passion for serving others was matched only by his love for his family, tennis, golf, traveling, and photography.

Deacon Mike was preceded in death by his beloved wife Ruth Starker Jones and his children Michael Kevin (Chong) Jones, Kay Marie Jones, and David (Caroline) Roy Jones. He leaves behind a loving family: sons Danny (Kerrie) Jones and Robert (Katie) Jones; daughters Dianne (Todd) Jones Miller and Nancy Jones Atkinson; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

As Deacon Mike often said, "While we don't understand the power of God, the Holy Spirit is always there to help." His faith, service, and love will continue to inspire all who knew him as a kind, humble and spiritual man.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Benedict Catholic Church, 11045 Parson Road, Johns Creek, GA, 30097. Interment will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Broadlawn Memorial Gardens, Buford, GA. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2025 in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home, Buford, GA. at 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. with a Rosary Service beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 14. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

Rosary Service

AUG 14. 7:30 PM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

Funeral Mass

AUG 15. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Benedict Catholic Church
11045 Parsons Road
Duluth, GA 30097

Interment

AUG 15. 2:30 PM (ET)

Broadlawn Memorial Gardens
5979 New Bethany Rd
Buford, GA 30518

Tribute Wall

JD

“ It was a pleasure serving with Mike in the Buford Ministerial Association. He was a man of wisdom and integrity with a big heart. He will be greatly missed. Pastor Jimmy and Connie Dunn



Jimmy Dunn - August 18, 2025 at 12:55 PM

MB

“ Deacon Mike and Ruth were such a part of our lives from RCIA in 1995-1996 and then later our marriage prep and then we had the pleasure of Having Mike as our celebrant for our wedding. They were both such an inspiration to so many. Mike always had a way of giving life changing advice at the exact moment it was needed. Rest in peace and we are all glad you are with Ruth again!

Matthew Butti - August 13, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ *Deacon Mike*
Never met a person
He didn't like
Now
My Spirit Friend
Quiet
Inner silence
Thought provoking
Filling the void with love
Ascending and descending
From above
'Good and Gracious God'
His favorite
Prayer start
Filled with heart
Starting out
Without pay
Coming our way
Serve
His action verb
Never stopping
Always propping
Those in need
A strong enabling steed
His spirit thrives
In all our lives. -JS 8/13/25

Joe Sasso - August 13, 2025 at 03:04 PM

GH

I called him "Cowboy" because of his relationship with Oklahoma State. He relished the nickname. We played lots of tennis together. It was great fun. The measure of the man was how his sons took care of him as he aged. I'll not forget how they watch him play and our time on the court made sure his wife was comfortable and enough water. This was a true gentleman. Fiend husband, father. May he rest in eternal peace.

Glenn Hodge - October 19, 2025 at 12:26 PM

JL

“ My father, Leo Kaspar, and Mike were best friends since kindergarten at John Carroll in Oklahoma City. They continued that friendship through school, playing basketball, graduating, having families and careers. Mike spent many days, including Thanksgiving of 1994, by my father’s hospital bed as he fought cancer. He has been an important part of our family and we will always be thankful for his love and care for Leo and us. Eternal rest grant unto him, oh Lord.

Joanna LaPorte - August 13, 2025 at 02:57 PM

PM

“ With sadness, I just read about Mike's death in the newspaper this morning. My brother, Dick Terrell, played basketball with Mike in high school. Dick and I enjoyed visiting on the telephone about our friends at John Carroll High School and the neighborhood in Oklahoma City. Our sympathy and prayers from the McAboy and Terrell Family.

Patricia McAboy

Patricia McAboy - August 13, 2025 at 09:09 AM

MF

“ I first met Deacon Mike at his home in Lawrenceville when my soon-to-be husband, Mike, and I were doing our pre-wedding lessons. From the very beginning, both Ruth and Deacon Mike welcomed us with warmth, kindness, and the kind of smiles that made you feel instantly at home.



Deacon Mike was the one who blessed and assisted in our marriage ceremony, a moment that has shaped our lives for the past 28 years. This past August 9, 2025, we celebrated that milestone with deep gratitude for the role he played in our journey together.

He was a man of faith, joy, and compassion, and his presence in our lives will never be forgotten. You will be deeply missed, Deacon Mike, and I will carry your memory in my heart always. My prayers go out to his family and all who were blessed to know him.

Michelle Fitzsimmons - August 12, 2025 at 04:46 PM

MM

“ One day, in the early years of Amigos for Christ, Deacon Mike and I found ourselves on the side of a volcano in Nicaragua. He and I had lagged behind the group, and decided to walk together. As we climbed along in the dust and heat we encouraged one another. There were many moments when I thought I wasn't going to make it to the top, but Deacon Mike would say, "let's count 50 steps", and so we did! Then, I would say, "let's count steps til we reach that bend"! on and on we went, counting our steps, laughing and talking about life. We did make it to the top, but it was the beauty of that journey that I will never forget. He was a lovely soul, whose voice I will always hear; "just 50 steps Meg.....". May God bless your all with peace, comfort, and beautiful memories. I know he is now with his love, Ruth. Meg McLincha

Margaret McLincha - August 12, 2025 at 05:56 AM

BE

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. A number of years ago, my wife and I were on a Delta flight heading to Barcelona when all of a sudden, in steps Mike and Ruth. I asked where in Barcelona they were staying and they told us that they were actually heading to Madrid, but would be heading to Barcelona later in the week. Unfortunately, I told them that we were leaving Barcelona that day and going on a cruise. To our surprise, Ruth said they were also going on a cruise. Turned out, we were on the same cruise with them. Having lived in France, I had a chance to show them around Nice and Monaco and we spent a wonderful week together. Our sincere condolences to their family.

Bob Evola - August 11, 2025 at 09:47 PM