



Rev. Fr. Hugh J. McGuigan O.S.F.S.

January 11, 1953 - November 24, 2024

Father Hugh J. McGuigan, OSFS, pastor of Our Lady of Light Catholic Community in Fort Myers since 2004, died Nov. 24, 2024. He was 71.

Known for his warm smile, humor, dancing, love for the Church and Her people, and of course for his passion for the Philadelphia Eagles, Father Hugh will be missed by the faithful at Our Lady of Light Catholic Community.

He was born in Philadelphia, a son of the late Hugh A. and Jeanne M. (née Tomas) McGuigan the second of nine children. He is survived by his 7 siblings, Patrick (Judi), Maria, Michael (Linda), Kathleen, Dennis (Diana), Joseph, Jeanne (Chester) and Maureen. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, and numerous other family members and friends. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, John M. McGuigan.

He began his college studies at Allentown College (now de Sales University), in Center Valley, Pennsylvania; De Sales School of Theology with Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; and Nova Southeastern University.

Father McGuigan was a professed Oblate for 50 years, first as a Brother for 23 years, then as a priest since 1997. Before serving at Our Lady of Light, Father served at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers, first as a Dean of Students and then from 2000 to 2003 as Principal.

While he served at Bishop Verot, Father assisted at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Cape Coral, Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, St. Cecilia Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Our Lady of Light Catholic Community, all in Fort Myers, and St. Ann Parish in Naples on weekends.

He was assigned to Our Lady of Light as a Parochial Vicar in 2003 before his appointment as Pastor in 2004. While Pastor, Father McGuigan oversaw the construction of the Parish church which was completed in 2007. In addition, a Carillon bell tower was constructed in the plaza between the church and Parish Hall. Father McGuigan also took special care to minister to the students at nearby Florida Gulf Coast University inviting them to Mass, and also regularly celebrating Mass for the students in the student union.

For the Diocese of Venice, Father McGuigan previously served on the College of Consultors as well as Religious Representative on the Presbyteral Council. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was the Chaplain for the Notre Dame Club of Southwest Florida.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday December 6, 2024 at Our Lady of Light Catholic Community, 19680 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers.

The Reception of the Body will take place at 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Parish. This will be followed by Evening Prayer and visitation from 5-8 p.m. Visitation will also take place 9-10:45 a.m., Friday Dec. 6.

A Memorial Mass will take place at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Parish, Elkton, Maryland. Burial will follow in the Oblate Cemetery in Childs, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Fr. Hugh's name to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Retirement Fund (Checks should be made to the Oblates) C/O Our Lady of Light Catholic Community or to the Fr. Hugh J. McGuigan Scholarship Fund at Bishop Verot Catholic High School at <https://www.bvhs.org/>.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father McGuigan and the consolation of his family. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in eternal peace.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Cemetery Details

Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales Cemetery

1120 Blue Ball Road
Childs, MD 21921

Previous Events

Receiving of the Body

DEC 5. 4:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Light Catholic Community
19680 Cypress View Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33967

Visitation

DEC 5. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Light Catholic Community
19680 Cypress View Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33967

Visitation

DEC 6. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Light Catholic Community
19680 Cypress View Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33967

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Light Catholic Community
19680 Cypress View Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33967

Tribute Wall

PM

“ I am a Eucharist Minister at the Church of the Resurrection in Fort Myers. Even though I really didn't know Fr. Hugh other than to say hello before and after Mass when I served for him, he so impressed me with his true faith and joyfullness. He was always so happy and I loved his little dance at the end of Mass when he wished everyone a great weekend. My condolences to his family and all who loved him. May he Rest in Peace and be an Angel on all our shoulders!

Patricia Madden - December 09, 2024 at 12:01 AM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Rev. Fr. Hugh J. McGuigan O.S.F.S..



December 07, 2024 at 07:41 AM

JJ

“ Always loved attending mass on Thursday's at the Church of the Resurrection where Father Hugh would say mass. He would enter with a big smile, waving and sometimes doing a little dance. His sermons were great and you couldn't help to smile when he was there. He will definitely be missed and I will always remember his smile and exuberance. He was both a great priest and a wonderful human being.

jim - December 05, 2024 at 01:34 PM

GH

“ We came to Florida in 2003 and were fortunate to find our spiritual life taken care of almost immediately by our OLOL community and Fr Angelo. Then with Fr Hugh as our shepherd we have been so blessed to have had the blessing of watching the parish grow into today’s many ministries and organizations.

There are so many memories to share from activities at every age level, but the one we treasure most is an early one when Fr Hugh allowed us to host an entire choir from the country of Austria and their “umpa” band. Of course they sang a beautiful Bach Mass, and also had us all dancing on a memorable evening. Some came in costume, including Fr Hugh! He wore a pair of leather knickers, Bavarian shirt and hat - even the tall embroidered socks! Yes he could do a mean polka and even danced a Viennese Strauss waltz with me! The gentle man was all things to all of us, including fun. Rest now in the arms of Our Lord.

Gerda and Don Hansen

Gerda and Don Hansen - December 03, 2024 at 09:42 PM

MN

“ Rev. Father Hugh McGuigan celebrated my wedding Mass on Dec 3, 2022 with full of joy as usual. I will miss his cheerfulness, friendliness, and childlikeness. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen!

Martin Nwodo - December 03, 2024 at 03:25 PM

IP

“ I am so grateful to have had Father Hugh in my life. I became friends with him while volunteering with the Edge Program shortly after joining OLOL. The teens would attend 5:00 mass on Sunday night and then come over to the center where the parents and a group of women volunteers would provide dinner. They would then have their religious instruction. Wherever there was food, especially dessert, Father wasn't far away. Wonderful memories. Over the years when I was struggling with a question of faith, he was there. When I had a family crisis, he was there. Just seeing him at mass lifted my spirit somehow. He was my anchor, my shelter in a storm. My heart is truly aching from his shocking, unexpected passing. I will never stop missing you.
Irene Porter

Irene Porter - December 01, 2024 at 08:23 AM

EL

We, at St. Catherine's Catholic Church at Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota, will surely miss Fr. Hugh. He would fly up to Minneapolis, Mn and rent a car to come up north for a week of vacation through our vacationing priest program. He would then preside over our Sunday Mass. After his first Sunday here he said it became special place in his heart to serve every summer. He came for many years and we always looked forward to his return. He was a true inspiration and very good priest. We lift him up in prayer, eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord.

Elgins, - December 05, 2024 at 09:29 PM