



## Fr. Joseph M. Shaheen

May 12, 1932 - August 4, 2023

Fr. Joseph Masid Shaheen, 91 of Naples, FL departed this life on Friday, August 4, 2023 at AVOW Hospice. Formerly of Montreal, Canada he had been a resident of Naples since 2000. Fr. Joe was born May 12, 1932 a son of the late Masid and Margaret (Esber) Shaheen in Canton, Ohio. He attended Gibbs Avenue Elementary and graduated from Canton McKinley High School - Class of 1950. Fr. Joe then attended Kent State University (1950 -1951) and he graduated from American University in Washington DC in 1955 with a B.A. in Political Science/Public Administration. Fr. Joe entered Saint Vladimir's Theological Seminary in February of 1958 and graduated with his Masters of Theology Degree in June of 1960.

On June 21, 1959, he married Diane R. Davis of Pittsburgh, PA.

Fr. Joe was ordained into the Diaconate on September 13, 1959 in Washington DC and one week later on September 20.

Fr. Joe was elevated to Archpriest on October 30, 1977, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; this is the highest rank for a married member of the clergy in the Orthodox Church.

Fr. Joe has served as Ecclesiarch at the National Conventions of the

Archdiocese from 1971 to 2010. He was the National Spiritual Advisor to NAC SOYO from 1988 to 1992. He has been the Clergy Advisor to the Regional Teen Organization, the Regional Fellowship Organization (for young Adults), and the regional advisor to the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

He became the Pastor of St. George in Indianapolis, IN in 1960. He was Pastor during the building of the new Church, which was completed in 1962.

In 1969, Fr. Joe became the Pastor of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church of Montreal.

He was Pastor at St. Nicholas during the major renovation that took place in 1996. During his tenure in Indianapolis and Montreal, he hosted Regional Conferences four times. Fr. Joe also hosted the National Convention in Montreal in 1974.

In 2000, Fr. Joe and Diane made the journey to Southwest Florida. Retirement was just not in the playbook. Fr. Joe was assigned to St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, in Naples, FL. Ground was broken for the beautiful new Church in October of 2004 and the Church was completed in 2006. St. Paul represents many decades of Fr's Church building knowledge and expertise from the sanctuary to the narthex. His influences in the design of the iconostasis, the beautiful iconography and magnificent windows all have his trademark of excellence upon them.

He is Father Joe to all of us, but he is Dad and Gido his children and grandchildren. Survivors include his beloved wife of 64 years, Diane R. Shaheen; loving children, Rebecca Shaheen and her husband, Richard Cosentino of Montreal, Canada, Joseph Shaheen and his wife Maria of Los

Angeles, CA; and Philip Shaheen of Los Angeles, CA; brother, Dr. Masid (Joan) Shaheen of Canton, OH; sister-in-law, Charlotte Shaheen of Canton, OH; and cherished grandchildren, Gabrielle, Laurence, Frederique and Lucas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Frederick Shaheen.

Viewing and Funeral of a Priest will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023 from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM at St. Paul Orthodox Church, 2425 Rivers Road, Naples, FL 34120. Devine Liturgy will begin at the church on Friday at 9:00 AM with funeral services following at 10:30 AM.

He will be laid to rest at Palm Royale Cemetery.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

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

# Cemetery Details

## **Palm Royale Cemetery**

6780 Vanderbilt Beach Road  
Naples, FL 34119

# Previous Events

## **Visitation**

AUG **10**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church  
2425 Rivers Road  
Naples, FL 34120

## **Devine Liturgy**

AUG **11**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church  
2425 Rivers Road  
Naples, FL 34120

## **Funeral Service**

AUG **11**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church  
2425 Rivers Road  
Naples, FL 34120



# Tribute Wall



“ *Fr. Joseph M. Shaheen*

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October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Dear Diane and Family, we are so sorry to hear of father Joe's passing, you and him were very dear to us. you have our deepest condolences.*

*Ron & Beverly Chromulak, Monessen, Pa.*

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**Ron Chromulak** - October 02, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ *Dear Diane and family,  
I am very sorry for your loss of Father Joe. My childhood memories of him include his warm smile and his engaging voice when he gave his sermons at church. In 1991, he participated in Terry's and my wedding in Ste. Adèle, which my family and I much appreciated. May your warm memories of Father Joe help to fill the void in your hearts.*

*Fondly,*

*Susan (Lutfy)*

*Ottawa Ontario, originally from Montreal.*

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**Susan Lutfy** - August 21, 2023 at 08:57 PM

CC

“ Dear Diane and family of Father Joe, Our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to all of you - a loving, caring, joyful and intelligent man touched our lives. We shall always remember how gracious Father Joe was when he stepped up to assist at our wedding day ceremony on Oct 10 1981. We treasure his presence that day. Truly he is missed but warm and loving memories prevail. Our sympathies again, Colleen & Zach Cattiny - Montreal.

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**Colleen & Zach Cattiny** - August 15, 2023 at 12:22 PM

 Gerry  
Zion

“ Dear Diane and family, I offer you my deepest and most sincere condolences. Father Joe was a loving, kind and warm human being.  
Gerry Zion

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**Gerry Zion** - August 13, 2023 at 10:13 AM

SH

“ Dearest Diane ~ It is our prayer that God will comfort you and your whole family during this sad time. May He richly bless you as you mourn, and may the light of His presence be a continual source of consolation. ~ Susie and Dick Hilton

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**Susie and Dick Hilton** - August 09, 2023 at 02:08 PM

AS

“ Dear Diane and family, I was saddened to hear the news. An end of an era. Father Joe was beloved by so many in Montreal - to this day. I live in Los Angeles for the last 28 years but am Montreal born and baptized at St. Nicholas. I am in Montreal this week to visit my mother Jackie and heard the news. It reminded me of my beautiful wedding day in 1998 when he married us with all my requests. He was so accommodating to make sure all was respected and yet I was happy. He was a kind man who did so much for so many in the city of Montreal for generation after generation. He was part of the fabric of the city. Many of us of my generation are feeling your pain today. Please know I adored him and believe that -- he WAS St. Nicholas church. He was a hero to so many and did so much for so many families. Much love, Ann Shatilla of Beverly Hills but formally of my hometown where I was baptized, married, and lived half my life - Montreal, Canada.

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**Ann Shatilla** - August 08, 2023 at 05:45 PM

CM

Fr Joe! Loved by many remembered by all. I served the Sunday School and the Parish Council under his leadership. Snowstorms, when all was cancelled my sister and I would walk in waist high snow to visit Fr Joe and Diane's home. It was always open house at the Shaheens. When Fr Joe gave a sermon, you listened. He said in his own words on his very first Sunday with us, that he was a priest, first, last and always! Archpriest Joseph (Abouna Yousef) may you rest in eternal peace. CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Carol Maker - St Nicholas - Montreal*

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**Carol Maker** - August 13, 2023 at 11:23 PM

MS

*Dear Diane, Becky; Joey and Phillip. I was so sorry to hear about the loss of Father Joe. He was a great man and priest. I will never forget his inspirational sermons every Sunday. I used to love going to church on Sundays just to hear him speak. It felt like the beginning of a new life and week. There is not another person who could ever replace him. He will be in my heart forever. It has never been the same since he left. I think of him often and I think I always will. When I was with the Young Women's group we would hold events to raise money for the church. At the end of one year ,we showed him the bank book and we asked him what he wanted the most -he got so excited and said" New Challis's." He looked like a little boy in a candy store. I will never forget his face that day. May he rest in eternal peace forever. Love to all. Maureen Shatilla-Montreal*

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**Maureen R Shatilla** - August 17, 2023 at 03:40 PM

SM

“ *Sylvie M. planted a </store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518>>Memorial Tree</a> in honor of Fr. Joseph M. Shaheen.*

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**Sylvie M.** - August 08, 2023 at 03:47 PM