

Dear St. Matthew Parish Family,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank all members of the St. Matthew Parish family for the prayers, love, and support, you so generously extended to Msgr. over the course of his illness. Words are inadequate to express how much your gestures of kindness and caring meant to him [and to his family of origin], especially since personal contact and connection were limited by Covid 19 safety guidelines. The cards, flowers, food, and notes that so many of you sent, all helped Msgr. to maintain familiar connections and thus some comfort.

A special thanks to Fr. Sunil, Fr. Bruce, the staff, and many volunteers, for their round-the-clock work and dedication to insure that Msgr. had the most beautiful funeral and farewell from St. Matthew Parish. The words, the music, the flowers, and especially the presence of so many who cared – it could not have been more special. We will be forever grateful for the kindness, warmth, support, and caring, extended to us as Msgr.'s family. The words 'Thank You' seem inadequate.

While we all prayed for a different outcome, God's plan is not our plan, and not always easy to understand. While the pain of loss is raw and difficult to bear at this time, consolation is found in knowing that we do not grieve alone, we grieve with all of you as Msgr.'s extended family. Consolation can also be found in knowing that Msgr. is experiencing the rewards of heavenly peace, he is pain free, reunited with loved ones, and praying for all of us.

Please know that Msgr. was always deeply touched and inspired by the goodness of his St. Matthew Parish Family. He felt grateful and blessed to have you as his extended family. He was a man and priest of strong faith and hope. He lived life to the fullest, and would want his life celebrated and remembered by having his mantra of goodwill, acceptance, and kindness toward all, carried forward. His spirit will live on at St. Matthew through your goodness.

Msgr. cultivated love, and thanks to all of you, that love was returned to him over his 26-year tenure at St. Matthew Parish. Rest assured, he will be with you always in spirit, praying for you, and for the St. Matthew Parish Community at large.

With sincere appreciation and thanks,

Joan Joyce, for Msgr.'s family