



## Father Marcel L. Szabo

September 9, 1944 - February 7, 2026

Father Marcel Szabo, 81, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Passaic, fell asleep in the Lord at the Hospice Care Center of Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, NJ on February 7, 2026.

Father Marcel was born Ludwig Szabo in Lorain, Ohio on September 9, 1944, the son of the late Joseph and Anna (nee Mendzenoff) Szabo.

Discerning a vocation to the Religious life, he entered the Order of Saint Basil the Great of St. Josaphat where he attended St Paul University in Ottawa, Canada. Following graduation, he was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ on July 11, 1971 at St Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Lorain, Ohio by Bishop Michael J. Dudick. As a Basilian Father, he offered liturgical and pastoral assistance throughout the Eparchy of Passaic including: Temporary Administrator of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Perth Amboy, New Jersey (1972), Director of the Byzantine Catholic Youth, Trenton District (1973), Temporary Administrator of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Perth Amboy (1974), Administrator of Holy Cross Byzantine Catholic Church, New York City (1974-1978), Director of Byzantine Catholic Youth, Coastal States (1975), and Pastor of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut (1978-1989).

Discerning that he could better serve the Lord through full-time pastoral

ministry, he left the Basilian Order in 1984 and was incardinated as a priest in the Eparchy of Passaic. He continued to serve as pastor of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut until 1989 when he was appointed Rector of St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral in Passaic, New Jersey. Arriving at St Michael's Cathedral in 1989, Father Marcel prepared for the milestone celebration of the Cathedral's Centennial Anniversary in 1990. This included the renovation and restoration of all properties and grounds, as well as the spiritual and pastoral preparation of the parish. Remarkably, Father Marcel's time at St Michael's Cathedral spanned the tenure of four eparchial bishops. During his twenty-six years at St Michael Cathedral, Father Marcel not only cared for the parish and its properties, but also the community at large. This was symbolized by an annual procession through the streets of Passaic with Our Lady of Passaic Icon, donated by Bishop Dudick.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Marcel also served as Protopresbyter, Syncellus, Consultor, Member of the Eparchial Cemetery Commission, and Member of the Advisory Committee of the Heritage Museum and Library of the Eparchy of Passaic. During this time, he also offered administrative and pastoral care to Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Mahwah, New Jersey as well as Holy Wisdom Church in Flanders, New Jersey.

In recognition of his dedication, Bishop Kurt elevated him to the dignity of Mitred Archpriest on September 14, 2014. Father Marcel continued to serve at St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral until 2015 when he was appointed Pastor of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Bayonne, New Jersey, Administrator of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, and Administrator of St George Byzantine Catholic Church in Newark, New Jersey. He retired from full-time priestly ministry in 2018.

Father Marcel enjoyed visiting parishes, priests, and participating in church activities in his retirement, until health concerns curtailed his activity.

In addition to his parents, Father Marcel was preceded in death by his siblings Nicholas, Anthony, Paul, George, Joseph, Rosalyn (Nadasady), and Margaret (Wilson), along with cousins Theresa Connolly and Chris Hansen.

He is survived by siblings Michael, Doris (Reynolds), Donald, and Theodore as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

A Parastas service will be conducted at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 17th in St Mary Magdalene Byzantine Rite Catholic Church - 5390 West 220th Street, Fairview Park. The Office of Christian Burial for a Priest will be observed on Wednesday February 18th beginning with visitation in St. Mary Magdalene from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Prayer of Absolution and Pouring of Oil at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery 555 North Ridge Road Lorain.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

555 N Ridge Rd  
Lorain, OH 44053  
<https://clecem.org/Cemeteries/CalvaryLorain.aspx>

# Previous Events

## Parastas

FEB 17. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Rite Catholic Church  
5390 West 220th Street  
Fairview Park, OH 44126

## Visitation

FEB 18. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Rite Catholic Church  
5390 West 220th Street  
Fairview Park, OH 44126

## Divine Liturgy

FEB 18. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Rite Catholic Church  
5390 West 220th Street  
Fairview Park, OH 44126



# Tribute Wall

JC

“*Father Marcel was always such a kind and understanding priest at Saint Michael's Cathedral in Passaic, NJ. His life was such a great testimony to the grace and love of God. Father Marcel, may you remain in the light and love of God forever.*”

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**John Chan** - February 18 at 10:01 PM

EM

“*Father Marcel ( aka Uncle Pip): Was the “brilliant light in every room” he entered. I have the fondest memories with the family reunions and festivities and my beloved parents’ home. He and his best friend Vinny were frequently telling wonderful stories and jokes. I will remember these moments for a lifetime.*”

*He also knew when to be the serious person he needed to be- and he managed that with the utmost dignity. May he rest in peace and join those who let us before him in Heaven.*

*Love to them ALL  
Emmy*

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**Emmy** - February 15 at 10:11 AM

PD

“*Father Marcel was my pastor at Saint Michael’s Cathedral in Passaic, NJ. He was a wonderful priest. He baptized my youngest child and gave all three of my children their first holy communion. He was a dedicated priest and will be deeply missed. Vicnaja pamjat.*”

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**Patricia Ditzig** - February 15 at 07:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Father Marcel L. Szabo.

February 14 at 09:47 PM



“ Jose Vega Jr & Family

*Fr. Marcel was my husband's boss at St. Michael's Cemetery for 16 years..he always treated him like a brother we were always so appreciative of him.. he was such a kind and humbled soul we remember him so fondly and were so sad to hear of his passing!! May he rest in eternal peace !!*

**Tara Vega** - February 14 at 09:44 PM



“ Farther marcel was my husband Jose Vega sr. Boss unde St Michael cementary, we want to send our condolences to the family, He will always be remembered with much love and gratitude for 38 years we have know him. The kind and gracious attitude, will remember his laughter. May he R.I.P.



**Jose a vega sr and Maribel Vega** - February 14 at 09:20 PM



“ Jose A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Father Marcel L. Szabo.

**Jose A.** - February 14 at 09:11 PM

MS

“ Father Marcel went to Byzantine High School in Ohio . I was in his class . We graduated in 1962. There were 19 graduates . Ludwig as he was known then at school was quite the character and funny too. I gave such fond memories of him. May he rest in peace with the Lord. God Bless! MaryLou Sisk ( Cuccia)

MaryLou Sisk - February 12 at 10:30 AM

FR

Praying for Fr.Marcel 🙏🙏 MET AT HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH,MAhwah,New Jersey! He was wonderful,very caring and had a funny personality,a wonderful priest 🙏❤️ GOD GRANT ETERNAL REST 🙏❤️ FRANNIE.

FRANNIE - February 13 at 12:31 PM

FB

“ From JoAnn Manzo Bridgeport,Ct. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Father Marcel L. Szabo.



From JoAnn Manzo Bridgeport,Ct. - February 11 at 08:29 AM

FB

“ From JoAnn Manzo Bridgeport,Ct. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Father Marcel L. Szabo.

From JoAnn Manzo Bridgeport,Ct. - February 11 at 08:29 AM

DN

“ My brother Fr Lawrence Wolf shared the Basilian Life while in Matawan NJ. Fr Marcel always considered “Fr Larry “ as he called him his brother. Due to health reasons he will not be able to attend but I will be representing him. Blessed Memories. Donna Wolf Neal

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**Donna Neal** - February 10 at 08:42 PM

DM

Father Marcel was a classmate of mine at Byzantine Catholic in Ohio. We all had many special memories back in those days..... May you rest in peace, dear friend.  
Diana Makransky (Csak)

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**Diana Makransky** - February 10 at 11:15 PM

VG

Fr. Marcel was our pastor at St John the Baptist in Bayonne New Jersey. He was up on the roof of the church doing repairs. He gave an excellent graceful liturgy told magnificent tales and stories. He adored Mary and loved the rosary with a deep passion. He was the most loving person anyone could hope to meet and was everywhere in the bakery on the street at the supermarket and made the most delicious eucharistic bread. Mostly it was the love he shared with everyone. May His memory be eternal . Forever in our hearts.

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**Victoria Goluch** - March 21 at 05:20 PM