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## Robert Thomas Hughes

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Robert Thomas Hughes

EUREKA - Father Robert Thomas Hughes, 93, of Eureka, IL, died at 11:35 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2016, at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, IL.

His funeral Mass will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 5, 2017, at St. Monica's Church, 303 Campanile Dr., East Peoria, IL. Msgr. Paul Showalter, P.A., Vicar General, will preside as principal concelebrant. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., D.D., will assist "in choro." A wake will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at Deiters Funeral Home & Crematory, 2075 Washington Rd., Washington, IL, with a rosary at 7 p.m. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery, 421 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria, IL, at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, January 5, 2017.

Fr. Robert Hughes was born on August 23, 1923, in Chicago, IL, the child of Thomas P. and Anna C. Gregory (Grzegozewski) Hughes. He served in the Navy Air Corp from December 24, 1942 to September 2, 1943, and in the Army Air Corp from December 7, 1943 to November 22, 1945. He attained the rank of 2nd Lt. Air Corp, USA. He logged in 150 hours as a navigator and 135 hours as a pilot. He graduated from the [University of Illinois](#) with a degree in Civil Engineering from the Special Services for war veterans on June 12, 1949. He also earned a B.A. degree from St. Ambrose College in Davenport, IA, on June 4, 1950, and completed his theological training at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN, in 1954. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, IL, on June 6, 1954.

He served as an assistant at Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington, IL, from 1954 to 1962 under Msgr. Bernard Sheedy, whom he idolized. He also served as Athletic Director at Trinity High School in Bloomington, and built the first athletic field for the high school on Rt. 9 near the county fairgrounds. He was in Youth Ministry at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, IL, from 1962 to 1965. He was then assigned to Normal, IL, from 1965 to 1971, to begin construction of the first Newman Center at Illinois State University.

He was made pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Washington, IL, in 1971. He served the people of St. Patrick for 22 years, retiring in 1993. During this time, he retired a parish debt, financed additions and renovations of the parish school, and established the parish of St. Luke in Eureka, IL,



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where he lived in retirement - since 1993.

He is survived by his niece, Deborah (George) Hunt of Reno, NV; and nephews, Thomas P. Hughes of Reno, NV, Rick Hughes of Sevierville, TN, and Thomas A. Hughes of Chicago, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings and a nephew, Robert.

In lieu of flowers, stipends for Masses may be sent to the following churches at Fr. Hughes' request: Holy Trinity, 711 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701; St. Mary's Cathedral, 607 NE Madison Ave., Peoria, IL 61603; St. John Paul II Catholic Newman Center, 501 S. Main St., Normal, IL 61761; St. Patrick Church, 705 E. Jefferson, Washington, IL 61571; or St. Luke Parish, 904 E. Reagan Dr., PO Box 226, Eureka, IL 61530.

Fr. Hughes' memorial website is available at [www.deitersfuneralhome.com](http://www.deitersfuneralhome.com), where condolences may be left.



Published in Peoria Journal Star from Jan. 2 to Jan. 4, 2017

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