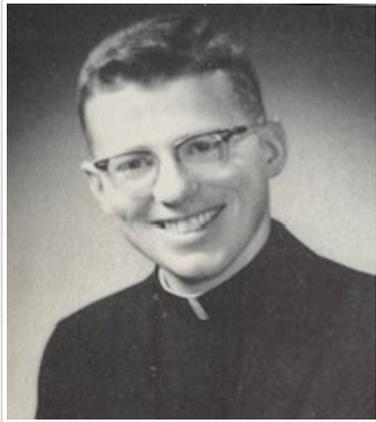


Provided by Eaton Funeral Home

Reverend John Edward McLaughlin

March 14, 2026

Rev. John Edward McLaughlin

March 15, 1936 – March 14, 2026

The Rev. John Edward McLaughlin passed peacefully into eternal life on March 14, 2026, one day before his 90th birthday. Born in Boston, he was the beloved son of Francis J. and Nora V (Hoar) McLaughlin and was baptized at St. Margaret Church in Dorchester.

He is survived by his brothers, Francis M. McLaughlin of West Roxbury, Eugene J. (Palma) McLaughlin of Dorchester, Richard M. (Carolyn) McLaughlin of Northborough, Maureen B. (James) Joyce of Cocoa, Florida, and Daniel P. McLaughlin of Dedham. In addition, he leaves multiple nieces and nephews spanning several generations, and his circle of family including those by affinity. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, James F. McLaughlin and Stephen V. McLaughlin.

Fr. McLaughlin grew up in a large and devoted Catholic family, one of seven brothers and one sister. His journey of faith was nurtured at home and further fostered at St. Patrick's School in Roxbury, as an altar server. He lived his life guided by the words of Mother Seton, "Sweet is the providence that overrules us." and "We are the children of eternity." His mother instilled in him a deep sense of heaven's promise, and his father often reminded him, "Don't forget to kneel down and say your prayers."

A gifted student, he attended Boston College High School (Class of 1953), and Boston College (Class of 1957), where he was among eleven students recognized with Greek honors for their academic excellence. While a young man, he recognized his vocational calling to God and began his studies in faith at St. John's Seminary and was ordained a priest on Candlemas Day in 1962.

When asked what parish he belonged to he would reply, "The world is my parish." Throughout his life, he served faithfully in many parishes across Massachusetts including St. Joseph's in Holbrook, St. Bernard's Parish in Concord, St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Hanson, and later as chaplain at Cardinal Spellman High School. He retired after many years of service at St. Benedict Parish in Somerville, where he often said, "God sent the world to him," ministering to the faithful in twenty-seven languages.

Services

Visiting Hours

Friday**March 20, 2026**

3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Eaton Funeral Home

1351 Highland Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday**March 21, 2026**

10:00 AM

Saint Theresa of Avila

Centre Street

West Roxbury, MA 02132

Interment

Saturday**March 21, 2026**

11:45 AM

ST. Mary s Cemetery
1 Wellesley Ave
Needham, MA 02494

A natural linguist with a deep appreciation for culture and faith, he became one of the founders of the Eastern Catholic Apostolate at Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish and helped establish Cumann na Gaeilge i mBoston, promoting Irish language and culture. For over fifty years he was active in the celebration of the Irish Mass in Boston.

Fr. McLaughlin was widely respected for his leadership through service to the Church and the community. Deeply committed to the dignity of human life, he served as Pro-Life Director for both the Archdiocese and the United States. He was instrumental in bringing Project Rachel to Boston, offering healing and reconciliation to those affected by abortion. For many years, he also served as the National Director of the Holy Name Society.

He will be remembered for his humility, scholarship, and his profound love for God and His people. Ever the constant teacher, he touched countless lives with his faith, kindness, and dedication to the Church through his decades of priestly service. His genuine gift for making friends with everyone he met was demonstrated by his ability to connect with people and to reflect God's love onto them. He will be fondly remembered for his "Feast Day phone calls," handwritten notes and constant "check-ins." Slán abhaile, le cúnamh Dé, our faithful servant.

Visiting hours will be held at the Eaton Funeral Home, 1351 Highland Ave., Needham, on Friday, March 20 from 3–7 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Theresa of Avila Church, West Roxbury, on Saturday, March 21 at 10 am. Interment will follow in his family lot at St. Mary's Cemetery in Needham.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to, "A Woman's Choice Pregnancy Resource Center at awomanschoicecenter.com/donate (<http://awomanschoicecenter.com/donate>)

Guest Book

**Expression of Sympathy**

March 17, 2026 12:07 PM

White cloud was purchased for the family of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin by Class of 1962 - St John's Seminary.

With our deepest sympathy.

Class of 1962 - St John's Seminary

Message from M Kristen Foxx

March 17, 2026 12:00 PM

To the McLaughlin Family,

Tom, Michaela and I are so lucky to be an extension of your family. Fr. John was the absolute truest form of a priest. He lived his faith with such joy and love. No matter who you were, where you came from, or your faith, Fr. John would welcome you with open arms. He had such interest in people and had an innate sense of knowing when people needed him most. There were many days the phone would ring, and I would hear "Hello it's Fr. John." I knew that whatever the call was about, it was going to make my day better. He didn't know it, but most days I needed that call. He could talk about any subject from history to current events. He was absolutely brilliant and you could learn more from him in a car ride than you could in a semester in college. Our daughter Michaela always said Fr. John "always made me feel happy, especially when he sang." There was a hymn or song for every moment, and it was always sung with fervent passion. My belief is that our world won't see a priest like Fr. John again. He spread the word of God with such a joyful passion. He found the good in everyone and never passed judgement. He never tired of listening, comforting and guiding anyone that needed him. He could also get up and dance and enjoy a party like no other. He was the most approachable priest of our time. We will miss you so much! We promise to keep the singing going. Thank you for all your love and kindness, especially to Michaela. May you rest in eternal splendor.

Message from Meyer Chambers

March 17, 2026 11:15 AM

Fr. John was a great priest and wonderful friend. He would visit me often during my days of serving as Director of the Office for Black Catholics. Our conversations were always kind, meaningful and helpful. He had a great love for people of all races and cultures. He was very proud of his Roxbury roots and would tell me about his family history all the time. Later, after I transitioned to Boston College Campus Ministry, I would see him every summer as he was an annual participant in the Lonergan conference. He will be missed. Requiescat in pace.

Message from **Pat Marble**

March 17, 2026 10:06 AM

I had the privilege of working with John at Spellman. I remember him as a man of language and stories. Granted those stories could go on forever. I remember him as a priest who believed that Spellman was his parish. He knew each kid by name and when a family member was in the hospital or needed help he was there. Well done, good and faithful servant deep gratitude for years of service...enter into the joy of your God....💖



Expression of Sympathy

March 16, 2026 10:39 PM

Peace lily was purchased for the family of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin by Peggy Burke & Family.

*In loving memory of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin. With peace, love, & blessings.
Peggy Burke & Family*

Message from **Gianna Mclaughlin**

March 16, 2026 8:13 PM

My uncle Father John was one of the most loving and funny people I have ever met. In the last few months we got to visit him so much! One time we went to a restaurant with him on New Year's Day and he was talking to everyone in there native languages like he was talking to our waitress in Albanian. When we went to visit him again I got to see my Auntie Maureen for the first time in a while and we had a really nice time. The final time I saw him there was a group of people there my mom(Nicholi), my dad(Andrew), Uncle Richie, Auntie Maureen, Shelia, Uncle Dan, James and my grandfather Eugene. We all had a lovely afternoon taking photos, looking back on photos and having good conversations. I always looked up to him and I will continue to look up to him for the rest of my days. I will forever miss you Uncle Jackie.

**Expression of Sympathy**

March 16, 2026 7:49 PM

Hope and honor basket was purchased for the family of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin by Martin, Joana, Jimmy, William, Martin Luiz and Esther.

*God bless you, Father John!!! Thank you for being you. Enjoy your new life with the good Lord and PRAY for us!!! -
The Gillespie Family
Martin, Joana, Jimmy, William, Martin Luiz and Esther*

 A tree was also planted in memory of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin.

**Expression of Sympathy**

March 16, 2026 5:33 PM

Classic carnation arrangement was purchased for the family of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin.

*In loving memory of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin
Michael P. McInnis
National President
National Association of the Holy Name Society*

 A tree was also planted in memory of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin.

Message from Fr Paul Sabo

March 16, 2026 4:50 PM

Fr John and I have been part of the National Holy Name Society for years. It was always a pleasure to share Mass and humor. I will offer a Mass for him and his family. RIP

Fr Paul Sabo, Diocesan Moderator, Diocese of Buffalo (NY)

**Expression of Sympathy**

March 16, 2026 3:59 PM

A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin by Nathan Rosner.

Whenever I saw great-uncle John, he always had an anecdote or fact about the meaning behind a name that I was connected to or the event we were attending. I will miss those chats. Rest now, Reverend.

Nathan Rosner

Message from Alison

March 16, 2026 3:26 PM

Father John quietly helped me through the end of a difficult journey in my life. Truly grateful to have known him.

Message from Elaine Iagatta

March 16, 2026 11:53 AM

I offer my most sincere condolences to Father John's large family. What a blessing it was to know him even very late in his life. Though our praying for a miracle was not our Heavenly Father's will, I told John he was blessed beyond measure to be cradled in such massive love. Family and friends poured in to see him like Grand Central Station regardless of the storms this winter hurled at us. What a testimony to the tenacity of real love.

I pray the Holy Spirit may be the balm for all of the wounds that so many carry. And I am reminded of what John heard while being surrounded by our Savior's first embrace: "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

As I always told my father who went Home to be with the Lord in 2105 "Dad, there is no greater party this universe will ever know than to be WITH Christ in Paradise for Easter". And now our precious John will know that too.

*God bless you all,
Elaine Iagatta*

Message from **Christine Nemet**

March 16, 2026 11:44 AM

Father John was an amazing man. I remember the first time I met Father John and the feeling that came over me. Such a happy man. The last time I spoke to him he sang to me and I will forever remember that. My deepest condolences to all of the family. I will remember him always.

Message from **Peggy Burke**

March 16, 2026 1:56 AM

Father John was a fine man & priest brought up by 2 awesome parents. He was always smiling & so kind. A large Irish family with several brothers & 1 sister, my dear friend, Maureen. He officiated at my wedding in 1963 & Maureen was a bridesmaid. He is now at peace in Heaven with God. A beautiful time at Easter. My deepest condolences to all the wonderful family. Sending prayers. God bless him.



Expression of Sympathy

March 15, 2026 3:02 PM

Classic carnation arrangement was purchased for the family of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin by Philip B. Lavelle 11.

In loving memory of Reverend John Edward McLaughlin

Peace, prayers, and blessings FATHER JOHN from your good friend PHIL, YOU WILL BE MISSED.

GOD BLESS !

PHIL LAVELLE

Philip B. Lavelle 11

March 15, 2026 12:47 PM



A Memorial Tree was planted for Reverend John Edward McLaughlin

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Eaton Funeral Home

Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree (</obituary//1078321/memorial-tree>)