



## Rev Robert Thomas Russo

October 4, 1927 - October 28, 2018

Rev. Robert Thomas Russo, 91, passed away on Sunday, (October 28, 2018) at St. Francis Hospital. He was born in Hartford, CT. on October 4, 1927 a son of the late Joseph and Mary (Tenore) Russo. Fr. Russo graduated from Bulkeley High School in Hartford; Hartt School of Music, West Hartford; The Catholic University of America, Washington, where he also studied philosophy in preparation for seminary. He studied Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He was ordained a priest by Cardinal Louis Treglia on June 29, 1961 in Rome, Italy. Fr. Russo served for many years with the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. His priestly assignments in the Hartford area included, Temporary Assistant Pastor, St. Isaac Jogues, in East Hartford, October 1983; Co-Pastor at St. Bridget in Manchester, May 20, 1986 through 1990; on February 9, 1988 he was Incardinated into the Archdiocese of Hartford; He became Pastor of St. Philip Church at Warehouse Point, East Windsor in April 1990 until his retirement in 1999. He resided in the Archbishop Cronin Residence at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Hartford in Bloomfield, where he lived with several of his brother priests. In January of 2012 he was appointed Director of the Mission Office for the Archdiocese of Hartford. Fr. Russo was an energetic senior priest. He kept a very busy ministry and social schedule and his loss will be felt by many, including his many parishes where he was a regular daily and weekend Mass celebrant. Even in his retirement he served as temporary administrator at St. Philip in East Windsor and St. Catherine of Siena in Broad Brook.

Fr. Robert Russo also served in Korea in the US Army, receiving a Good Conduct Medal; Bronze Star and a Medal of Appreciation from the Korean Government. He was an avid tennis player, had a passion for music, singing (especially opera and Neapolitan songs), and was an accomplished pianist and composer.

Fr. Russo leaves behind his sister, Armida R. (Russo) Riley of Niantic; his nieces and nephews, Marie Russell of Niantic, Robert and Rosemarie Russell of Waterford, Carol Russo of San Juan Capistrano, CA., Francis Russo, Joseph Russo and Debbie Russo. He also leaves many great nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Frank Russo and Angelo Russo; a sister Phyllis Russell; and a niece, Karen R. Veinot.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday (November 2, 2018) at 11 AM in St. Gabriel Church, 379 Broad St. Windsor. Calling hours will be held from 9:30 to 11 AM at the church. Burial will be in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Rose Hill Funeral Home has care of arrangements. For online guestbook, please visit [www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com).

# Events

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**NOV** **Calling Hours** 09:30AM - 11:00AM

**2**

St. Gabriel Church

379 Broad St, Windsor, CT, US, 06385

**NOV** **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

**2**

St. Gabriel Church

379 Broad St, Windsor, CT, US, 06385

**NOV** **Burial** 03:30PM

**2**

Rose Hill Memorial Park

580 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, CT, US, 06067

# Comments

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“ I have never met Father Russo but from reading these messages he was a wonderful priest. Many years ago I received a piece of sheet music from Father Russo which I have treasured. He took one of my prayers/poems and wrote music to it. I do not know how he had come across my writings. At the time, I was a parishioner, etc. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Hamden. Through the years I have often thought of visiting him and sadly, it is too late. It was a wonderful gesture I will always hold dear. May he rest in peace.

Jeanne Lewis Gherardi

**Jeanne L Gherardi** - November 07, 2018 at 12:35 PM

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“ Back in 2013 I had the fortunate opportunity to share Easter dinner with a group of friends where I met Fr Russo. At the time I hadn't been to church in a few years. I felt comfortable and at home with this group. As if I belonged. After listening silently to the conversations shared, I realized that the things that drove me away from the church were not what represents the true heart of the church. Because of this I felt inspired to attend a mass or two where Fr Russo was presiding. I immediately felt my heart opened and filled with the love of God and have become a weekly parishioner of St Joseph's alongside my now husband. I can't help but wonder what may have become of me if we had never met.

Thank you Fr Russo for showing me the way back home.

Pam Stack

**Pam Stack** - November 02, 2018 at 06:18 AM

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“ With the passing of Father Russo, my priest and friend over the past 30 years. The man who welcomed me to sing the many years with Charlie at St. Phillips Church. The Man who always welcomed Brain and I and our five children, 4 whom he Baptized into the church and our 5th was instrumental in helping her make her conformation.

Thank you for the many years of friendship and spiritual guidance and the meals we have shared.

Thank you for letting me sing at your masses every week for the many years and harmonizing with me from the alter.

Thank you for the many laughs we had over the years, and most of all your acceptance and friendship.

I have no doubt that you are sitting in heaven and looking down at all your family, past parishioners and many friends and smiling. I am blessed to have worked with you, sang for you and for you friendship.

Rest in peace my dear friend.

Love, John, Brian, Carl, Charlie, Adam, Anthony, Selina Pica-Sneed

**John Pica-Sneed** - October 30, 2018 at 01:25 PM



“ Fr Russo was a fine priest, always upbeat and enjoyed people - shared breakfast with him and a few friends - he will be sorely missed- May you rest in God's Peace- our love

Dan & Geri

**Geri & Dan Schnobrich** - - October 31, 2018 at 02:15 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers go out to Auntie Armida during this difficult time. Uncle Robert will be missed! -Francis and Jennifer Russo

**Francis Russo** - November 01, 2018 at 08:06 AM



“ The word "amazing" is used far too frequently these days to describe people and/or situations that aren't terribly amazing. Father Russo was "amazing" in the truest sense of the word. I have been a parishoner of St. Isaac Jogues Church in East Hartford since the 1970's and our church has been blessed to have been served by Father Russo in the 1980's when he assisted our pastor at that time (Father Vincent Cronin). He then began celebrating the weekly Mass at St. Isaac Jogues at 5:30 on Sunday afternoon several years ago. He followed the 5:30 Sunday afternoon Mass when it was moved to St. Rose Church a little over a year ago. His sermons were always "on the mark" and he was just a wonderful person to know (even though we did not know him all that well). It was only a few short weeks ago when he last celebrated Mass at St. Rose Church on Sunday at 5:30. He will be sorely missed by the churches in the North American Martyrs Parish (St. Mary, St. Rose, and St. Isaac Jogues). My mother and I knew it was going to be a good Mass when we saw Father Russo in church on Sunday. He was a good and faithful servant to his flock. I have no doubt that he was warmly welcomed into Heaven!

**Ellis Paulman** - November 01, 2018 at 11:28 PM