



## John C. Holdren

January 17, 1945 - April 16, 2018

On April 16th 2018 Father John C. Holdren was called to eternal life suddenly and peacefully in the comfort of his own home. He was born January 17th, 1945 in Aurora, Illinois, to the late Chester and SaVera Holdren.

He was ordained into the priesthood on May 30th, 1971. He served as an associated pastor at St Rita's of Cascia Church in Aurora, St Thomas Church in Crystal Lake, St Peter's Church in Geneva, and St John the Baptist Church in Johnsburg. He retired in 1994.

Survivors include his sisters Judy Grubb [Ben] of Texas, and Carlotta [Gary] VanBroeck of Illinois. His nieces and nephews Lisa [John] Avery, Kari [Rick] Heiser, Jason [Annie] VanBroeck, Amy VanBroeck, Laura [Ryan] Reith. In addition to several great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Chester and SaVera Holdren. His brother in law Bob Grubb, nephew Steven Grubb, his sister Mary Wild and his brother in law Fred Wild.

Among his hobbies was his passion and love for his yard, especially his Rose Garden. We will all miss his stories and his good sense of humor. He found peace and fulfillment when spending time with his family and friends.

Life will never be the same because part of ourselves went with him. He will be deeply missed by all those he has touched. We know that he, is at peace, which he has earned. May he bear witness to the light. Heaven knows that one fine day, we will all meet again.

A service resurrection will be held on April 21st, 2018 at the Daleiden's

Mortuary. Father Leake will officiate with interment at the Mt Olivet Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday April 20th from 4pm-until 8pm at the Daleiden Mortuary. Memorial contributions in John's name may be made to the American Cancer Society.

# Cemetery Details

## **Mt. Olivet Cemetery**

278 Ashland Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60505

# Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of John C. Holdren



Daleiden Mortuary - April 21, 2018 at 01:39 PM

LB

Beautiful video tribute to John C. Holdren's life. He meant a lot to our family and his joy, kindness and friendship will never be forgotten. 🙏



Linda Broderick - April 22, 2018 at 04:22 PM

KD

He was such a great priest. I knew him at st Johns. He was a great friend of my late husband les klotz. He helped him when he was dieing of cancer. Fr. Had a fish tank and les helped him keep it up. Good friends. Now they are together.

Kathy klotz downing - April 22, 2018 at 09:01 PM

SS

I knew him when he was a priest at St. Thomas. He had a great sense of humor, but he was serious at the same time. Thank you Father Holden for all of your help during those years, you will be missed.

Steve S. - April 05, 2020 at 11:53 AM

DG

“ John and I grew up together at OLG, 1st thru 8th grade. After that we went to different schools, but I never forgot him. I spent my life in the Metro Chicago area and every now and then I heard something about John. I knew he became a priest, which seemed fitting for the John I knew. Being 80 years old now I was cleaning out my desk at home yesterday and came across a clipping I had saved of John blessing pets at St Peter's Church in Geneva. It brought back memories of our days at OLG. What a time we had! Whenever our teachers had a contest, like selling Christmas cards, or subscriptions to the Diocesan newspaper, or academic contests John and I always competed to be the winner! The other kids didn't have a chance since our rivalry motivated us to excel in whatever we were competing at. I can't remember who won the most, but we were always challenging each other and it was a lot of fun!

I decided to look up John and planned to contact him to reminisce since we are both 80 years old now and we hadn't communicated since 1959. I was totally shocked and saddened to see that he passed on in 2018! So sad! The Daleiden video helped me to see the kind of life John lived. Obviously a fulfilling life. That picture and smile of John's at the upper left here says it all! John was a go getter in grade school and continued that kind of life. Great for him!

Well John, we can reminisce when I get heaven and we can reconnect!

Donald Grimwood, South Holland Illinois

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Donald A Grimwood - February 26 at 01:53 PM

AN

“ Child predator

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Anon - December 10, 2019 at 08:28 PM

PG

“ Our family lived in 600 block of Lafayette St. 1958-1988. Carlotta babysat us & John often visited us. We were very young when John held Mass for a baby bird in our backyard, even then he gave us much comfort. Fr. John performed the Wedding Mass 1992 for our brother at St. John's Church, it was very beautiful and moving. Our Dad passed 1986 & Mom 2016. Our deepest sympathies on John's passing, he brought a great amount of love to life.

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**Paula Gozner Garcia** - May 06, 2018 at 08:13 AM

LH

“ I am so sorry to hear about father John!!! We had many great memories together!! Loved how he loved St. John's and our school!! My love to his family!!! Missing our good times with you all too!! 🙏  
🙏 Lina and Ed Hettermann

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**Lina Hettermann** - April 27, 2018 at 01:42 PM

BJ

“ My Husband and I have known Fr. Holdren since he was pastor at St. Johns. We have kept in touch with him with phone calls and cards for years. We will miss him very much. Our condolences to his family and friends which we are glad to have been his friend.

*Brian & Judy Jonas - Johnsburg*

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**Brian & Judy Jonas** - April 27, 2018 at 12:57 PM

CR

“ So much sadness as I learned of John's passing, yet so many wonderful memories. Making mud pies in his backyard when we were 3, staging carnivals and talent shows in my back yard, and always raffling off his mom's graham cracker pie. Endless baseball games in the street under a canopy of Elm tree leaves, calling out, " 4 wheels." John's first kiss with Judy at 14 on my driveway. Calling, "Carolyn, come out and play", below my window on warm Summer mornings. Sneaking into Bingo at the OLGCB Barbecue, and sitting on our cards so we could keep playing, till we got evicted for being too young. Bicycle rides, Captain may I, Red Rover, Hide and Seek, so many memories of a childhood spent with your best friend. He was the Captain and I was Gilligan. What fun we had and mischief we made. Rest in peace, my Sweet Boy. Hug everyone for me. I'll see you soon.

Love,

Carolyn  

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**Carolyn Lee Roesner** - April 24, 2018 at 06:36 PM

DG

“ So many of his former parishioners will always remember the many positive traditions he was responsible for. He always responded to the families in their time of need, and everyone who heard him speak were struck by his wisdom, wit and the heartfelt message he passed along. We were blessed to know him and know we will see him again.

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**Debra Hamsher Glen** - April 22, 2018 at 09:56 PM

PS

“ I only knew Father Holdren because I played St. John;s Bingo on Wednesday nights. I just wanted to share the love, and fun that he made happen with his quick and unannounced visits to the Bingo players. When he came into the room, you could feel the love of his parishioners toward him. A very remarkable man.

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**Patricia Syens** - April 22, 2018 at 06:32 PM

DS

*Father Holdren will be missed. He married two of our children at St John's church. Great priest, he was able to put everyone at ease while they were preparing for a very important day in their lives. Rest in peace. Prayers and love for Father and family.*

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**Doris Stanfel** - April 23, 2018 at 02:33 PM

JW

“ Lots of memories to treasure in our hearts forever! I miss you already! Love Jackie XXOO



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**Jackie Walker** - April 22, 2018 at 01:23 PM