



DIOCESE
OF
BRIDGEPORT

November 1, 2026

Dear Friend in Christ,

Each November the Church asks us to pause and in a special way pray for the repose of those who have died. We remember their love, support, generosity and witness as we ask Almighty God to forgive whatever sins they may have committed during their earthly lives and offer them a place in the glory of heaven.

Praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy that has long been part of the life of our Church. We must remember that one day we will all face the mystery of death and the personal judgment that comes with it. It should give us great hope that there will be others in the future who will commend us by their prayers to the mercy of God, as we do for those who have died before us.

I invite you now to join me for the celebration of Mass for all those priests who have died and have served us in the past by their witness and ministry since the founding of our Diocese. We recall that they were God's chosen ministers who baptized us, taught us, brought us the sacraments of initiation, offered us the Sacred Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ in the Holy Eucharist through the celebration of Mass and taught us to pray. They laughed with us, cried with us and walked with us in difficult times of suffering. Every priest now stands upon their shoulders.

On December 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM at Saint Luke Church in Westport, I will celebrate the Annual Mass for Deceased Priests. The entire presbyterate has been invited to concelebrate this special Mass with me. During the Eucharistic Prayer, in the section when the deceased person is ordinarily mentioned by name, **the names of all deceased priests from the inception of the Diocese will be mentioned by name**, as we ask God's mercy upon them. Twelve concelebrants will each read the list of deceased priests who died in each month. It will be a powerful moment of great grace.

Please make every effort to attend this special spiritual occasion of prayer, remembrance and intercession for our beloved, deceased priests.

With every best wish and assurance of my prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frank J Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport