

Obituary for John D. Blanton, PhD

Blanton, John D., PhD

Pittsford: Age 89, died on December 18, 2016. He is survived by his beloved wife, Claire; sons, Jack (Char), Paul and Drew (Allison); daughter, Anne (Adam Friedberg); grandchildren, Jack and Henry Blanton and Julia and Margaret Friedberg; siblings, Anne Tlapek, Joe (Nancy) Blanton, Lewis (Barbara) Blanton and Harry (Jane) Blanton; brothers-in-Law, John (Diana) Bickham and Robert Bickham and over 50 nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his sisters, Rosemary Barr Quatmann, Patricia Kavanagh, Maureen Klein Graham and brothers-in-law, William, F. James and Thomas Bickham.

John was born in St. Louis, MO on January 23, 1927 to Harry C. and Maureen Daily Blanton. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was discharged as an Electronic Technicians Mate, 3rd class. In 1947, he entered the Jesuit order and was ordained a priest in 1960. In 1970, he completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Illinois. In 1971, after being laicized, he married Claire Bickham. He taught Mathematics at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, MO and St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. From 1968-1969, he was assistant to renowned mathematician, Marston Morse, at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. He translated three volumes of classical mathematics texts by Leonard Euler from Latin into English.

John, a daily communicant, was a longtime parishioner of Church of the Transfiguration. After he retired, he volunteered at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

Friends may call Tuesday, December 27, 1 - 3 PM and 6 - 8 PM at the funeral chapel (2305 Monroe Ave.). A Funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, December 28 at 10:30 AM at The Church of the Transfiguration, 50 W. Bloomfield Rd., Pittsford. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Bishop Matthew H. Clark Scholarship Fund at McQuaid Jesuit High School, 1800 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, 14618 or St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, P.O. Box 31049, Rochester, 14603.