

We'll Miss You **FATHER BOB!**



One of our fondest memories of Fr Bob's ministry was back on July 28th, 2012 when he offered mass and renewed our wedding vows as we celebrated forty years of marriage. We were joined by family and friends who heard Fr Bob speak so eloquently about the ways God's love and compassion are truly reflected in the sacrament of matrimony. Fr Bob presented us with an Apostolic Blessing at the conclusion of the mass that remains a cherished reminder of that beautiful evening and his encouraging words ending the service to go in peace and continue to serve God and our community through our marriage.

This is just one of the many ways Fr Bob's ministry and friendship has inspired us to be as mindful as we can to the service of others. We'll do our best and be thankful to God each day and remember Fr Bob in our prayers for all he has done for our parish and community.

Respectfully,
Rose & Jim

One of my most favorite memories is how Father Bob gave my older son Liam the special job of drying Quinn's head at the baptismal font. It is emblematic of how he leads and relates to people; recognizing the one who was likely to be left out that day, bring my family together each of us a special role and inserting a level of playfulness into a special ceremony. -Melissa

My two sons RJ and Joey were very impressed that Fr. Bob knew and remembered their names. We left mass after communion the following Sunday. The next day we were walking past church and Bob said "RJ/Joey why did you leave mass early yesterday?"

And the boys looked at each other and said. " See I knew it wouldn't be a good thing that he knew our names, now we are in trouble!"

That is his strength and what I will miss most is his friendship and his connections to his parishioners.

-Raymond

You will be missed Father Bob. I still remember how your face lit up the first time you watched a family assembly. Thank you for kicking off such an excellent program.

- Amanda Rose (Drama Ministry)



I remember the first time I met Fr Bob. It was after mass in 2012 when I introduced myself and told him that I am a civil engineer and could assist with the Family Chapel project. I told him I could help with finding contractors and reviewing plans. In my mind it was a one time project. Fast forward 5 years and little did I know that this introduction would lead to me being on the Buildings and Grounds Committee with numerous completed projects around the church. It was great getting to know Fr Bob over the years and I was grateful that he was able to preside over our wedding in 2016. We will definitely miss him and sad to see him go. I just wish he got to enjoy the new rectory doors a bit more! *-Peter & Ellen*



I have worked with Father Bob my many years but when I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer, he privately messaged me almost everyday just to give me encouragement and support. I will always remember the strength that gave me to go through the biggest challenge of my life.

- Paula



While I have nothing but fond memories of Father Bob since he joined SSP in 2010, the memory that I cherish the most and that will forever be etched in my heart is the day he baptized my son James. James was born in Guatemala and became part of our family when he was 17 months old. We were assured it was a Catholic country and that he had been baptized but we didn't have the paper work. Father Bob graciously agreed to baptize James prior to him making first communion. We agreed it would be done during the children's mass in the Family Chapel. Father Bob had all the other kids bring pictures of their own baptism and he hung them up around the chapel. The very personal ceremony was than followed by a surprise celebration complete with a beautiful cake. We will never forget the kindness of Father Bob and our parish family during that celebration! It was truly special. He will be truly missed.

-Janet

We will miss the ways in which Father Bob made us think about our faith. He was so welcoming within the Parish, but also told it like it is and wasn't afraid to challenge parishioners when needed. We took something from every homily, and found ourselves talking about the message (or the sarcastic joke he used to get his point across) during post-church coffee each week. We felt at home at SPP because of the vibrant community he fostered, and the parish became a huge part of our Hudson County life. We will visit in Summit, but keep an eye out for a wine cork in three years! *- Nyla & Matthew*



During my time as Music Director, I have been grateful for Fr Bob's support of the Music Ministry, encouraging creativity and expressivity through music in the liturgy. Specifically, he has requested that I compose original music as a special tribute on various occasions, such as the Cake Boss's visit to Ss Peter and Paul, Fr Bob's 25th Anniversary of Ordination, and the Hoboken Deanery Mass presided by Cardinal Tobin.

-Matthew Still, Director of Music Ministries

More than anything, I have a strong memory of Father Bob emphasizing that Ss Peter & Paul is our church for the long-term and his challenging question from the pulpit early on "what are you doing for" this church? as a counterpoint to how people often think about what they get out of coming to church. Having moved from a church where I was very active back in Manhattan to not quite feeling a member of our parish, that question really called me in. I became a lector and Eucharistic minister, which are both ways I contribute, but which have also been tremendously enriching to my own spiritual experience. His vision of engagement has been a great gift to me and our church. I will very much miss his in-person leadership, but hope that the energy he created with those challenging words will continue to drive our momentum in the future. *-Susan*