



Rev. John Patrick Fluetsch

February 21, 1964 - September 11, 2025

John Patrick Fluetsch of Chowchilla, California, passed away on the 11th of September, 2025, in Fresno, California, at the age of 61. He was born on February 21st, 1964, to Peter Jay & Mary Catherine Fluetsch in Merced, California.

Before he became Father John, he attended and graduated from Merced High School in 1983. John then attended college at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, where he studied to become a Roman Catholic priest. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1991 at St. John's Cathedral in Fresno by Bishop Joseph Madera to become Father John Fluetsch of the Diocese of Fresno. He served throughout the Fresno Diocese as a Catholic priest until the time of his passing. His assignments included Our Lady of Victory and St. Anthony of Padua's in Fresno, St Philip's in Bakersfield, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Lourdes in Planada/Le Grand, St John's in Wasco, St. Patrick's in Merced, and St. Columba and St. George's in Chowchilla/El Nido.

Outside of his priestly duties, Father John spent his free time with friends, family, reading, painting, and working on various Lego projects. He is preceded in death by his parents, Peter Jay & Mary Catherine Fluetsch, and his brother-in-law, Michael S. Bliss.

He is survived by sisters, Mary Kathleen Moore (and husband Cliff), Mary

Jeannette Bliss, Mary Christine Frey (and husband Brett), brother Doug Fluetsch (and wife Keli), 5 nephews, and 3 nieces. Additionally, the hundreds of active parishioners in the communities in which Father John served.

Visitation will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 5770 N. Maroa Avenue, Fresno, California, on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A vigil service will be held at 6:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church by The Most Rev. Joseph V. Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno, on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

A Committal Service will be held on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Carter Cemetery in Tuolumne, California.

Cemetery Details

Carter's District Cemetery

19042 Cemetery Lane
Tuolumne , CA 95379

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (PT)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
5770 N. Maroa Avenue
Fresno, CA 93704

Vigil Service

OCT 1. 6:30 PM (PT)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
5770 N. Maroa Avenue
Fresno, CA 93704

Funeral Mass

OCT 2. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
5770 N. Maroa Avenue
Fresno, CA 93704

Committal Services

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (PT)

Carter's District Cemetery
19042 Cemetery Lane
Tuolumne , CA 95379

Tribute Wall



“ *Father John we miss you terribly. We miss your smile, your laugh, your art and your beautiful whistling of songs!!! You could whistle any song in TUNE and we all loved hearing it echo through the church. God bless and purify your loving and faithful soul and keep you in His loving arms for all eternity! We can't wait until the day we are joined with you.*

J - January 13 at 12:06 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jim Cummings - October 09, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. John Patrick Fluetsch.*



September 24, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. John Patrick Fluetsch.*

September 24, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ *My condolences to the family and all friends of Father John.*

We love you Father John and are grateful beyond words that can be expressed for the gift of being able to know you. You are etched in our hearts forever.

J - September 20, 2025 at 11:34 AM



Music video with Fr. John's participation.
<https://youtu.be/I9O3c47rQxw?si=kbZPm4pr98iLtEyG>

Sandra Espinoza - October 02, 2025 at 12:58 PM

IM

“ Though I find it difficult to find the right words to describe my sadness for

Fr. John, I will always remember him as a special priest who was friendly and very welcoming. I was new in Merced when Fr. John was the pastor of St. Patrick's Parish. I'm blessed to have known Fr. John, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to visit and have dinner with him, Jessie and a couple from St. Patrick's Parish in Chowchilla last year.

I received the news of the passing of Fr. John when I was still in Rome and the Vatican City, and I was able to make the mass intention for Fr. John at the St. Paul Basilica in Rome (St. Paul's tomb). Rest in peace, Fr. John. My prayers for the Fluetsch family.

*Blessings,
Ingna Ma (St. Patrick's parishioner)*



Ingna Ma - September 17, 2025 at 02:23 PM

MR

“ Hello I am Planada Sacred Heart parishioner, and sending deepest condolence to all the biological family, and spiritual family. Father Fluetsch was a great spiritual mentor while I was helping with catechism and altar Society. He had impacted many families spiritually. My family and I are praying for all of you. May he rest in piece

MARIA R RODRIGUEZ - September 15, 2025 at 07:25 PM

VH

My condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Father John.

I had the honor and privilege to work close together with Father John and our St. Columba and St. George community in family catechesis in which families would come together as one to learn and celebrate about God's divine love for us.

I will miss you. May God Grant you the peace of Salvation.

Veronica Heredia

Veronica Heredia - September 20, 2025 at 12:40 PM

DB

*I pray to the Holy Family for your consolation at this time. St Columba's parish was shocked to hear this sad news. He was a truly Marian priest. He was always kind, considerate, patient, caring, and had a tremendous love for his vocation. He had a wonderful sense of humor. He is one of a kind. We all miss him with you 🙏
I will pray for his soul as long as I am able.*

Donna Bertholf - September 23, 2025 at 03:10 PM

BC

Father John was a gifted priest and a dear friend. He made an impression on me when I first met him over 30 years ago at St. Anthony of Padua in Fresno. He embodied Love, Joy, and Peace - the fruits of the spirit - every single day. I am so grateful for his presence in my life. He helped me grow in my faith and really know and believe in God's presence through good and hard times. I know he is in heaven. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Betsy Clemings - October 02, 2025 at 10:16 PM