



## Deacon Joe Jacobs

December 27, 1944 - April 18, 2023

Deacon Joseph Weller Jacobs, venerated husband, father, and grandfather, passed away at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital at the age of 78 on April 18th 2023. He passed peacefully with his wife, Cindy, at his side after evening prayers.

Joe was born December 27, 1944, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Lehigh University where he studied engineering, and then from Yale Law School. He spent his early career in New York City and then moved to Tallahassee to teach law at Florida State University, where he taught as a Distinguished Professor for 25 years. After retiring from teaching in 1999, he embarked on a second career, becoming CEO of Gulf Atlantic Insurance Company. In 2011, he was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church and lovingly served at his parish, St. Louis, until his final homily on Palm Sunday of this year. Joe was an active, grateful, and sober member of his recovery community for the past 22 years. In his retirement, Joe enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, and doing daily prayers and traveling the world with Cindy. He loved football, always rooting for his favorite teams the Pittsburgh Steelers and Florida State Seminoles.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Cindy Jacobs. He is also survived by his five cherished children – Christopher Weller Jacobs of Daytona Beach, Florida, Margot Rose Jacobs of Los Angeles, California,

Molly Weller Jacobs (Matt Newell) of Portland, Oregon, Anna Weller Maguire (Kevin) of Seattle, Washington, and Susan Weller Jacobs (Kris Creel) of Tallahassee, Florida; and his grandchildren Alexandria Nicole Maguire and Desmond Rose Maguire. He is also survived by his sisters Cathy Davis and Barbara Jacobs-Smith (Alan), nieces Annaliese Rooney and Norah Jacobs-Smith, nephew Jake Jacobs-Smith, aunts Martha Eakin and Mary Ellen Magyar, cousins Natalie Tyler (David Riede), Carol Tyler, Cynthia Tyler, and Elizabeth Tyler (Rob Olshansky).

Joe was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Bernard Weller, his mother, Marjorie Cox Jacobs, and his aunt Natalie Tyler.

In addition to his immediate family, there are many extended family, former students, colleagues, and parishioners who will miss his dedicated presence.

Visitation followed by evening prayer will be held from 5-7pm on Friday, April 28 and Funeral Mass will be Saturday, April 29 at 10am, both at St. Louis Catholic Church. A reception will follow the Mass at St. Louis Parish Hall. Joe will be interred at Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia.

Please send flowers to Abbey Funeral Home, or if you wish, donations can be made to St. Louis Catholic Church.

Joe was brilliant, hilarious, wise, giving, and powerful. He was a huge presence in the lives of all he met and a dynamic force in the world. His passing has left a void in all those who loved him that will never be filled.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Saint Louis Catholic Church  
3640 Fred George Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

## Funeral Mass

APR **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Louis Catholic Church  
3640 Fred George Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ *Professor Jacobs was also my favorite law professor and inspired me (with no accounting or tax background) to a 32 year career as a tax attorney. Thanks for all you do and rest in peace. John Lopez, class of 1984*

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**John Lopez** - May 15, 2023 at 07:56 PM

MM

“ *Such an amazing person & amazing family . My condolences to the entire family he surrounded with love . You taught me much Joe , thanks for the early morning coffee discussions over the years they helped me more than you ever knew . MDM*

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**Michael Moxley** - April 29, 2023 at 07:53 PM

“ Professor Jacobs inspired me to tackle the difficulties of Corporate Taxation and excel. I had no business background when I went to meet with him in 1983. I let him know that I had recently developed aspirations to practice Corporate Law (after encouragement and sponsorship by his FSU Law colleague Nat Stern. I was worried that I would not be competitive with the students who had business and accounting backgrounds and I was reticent to take a hit to my GPA and class standing. Professor Jacobs sized me up and asked if I was really committed to learning about business and business taxation. When I said yes he laughed and said “Here is what I predict will happen when you take my class which you absolutely should do. The first third of the semester you will indeed likely feel lost as you fill in some gaps that other students may not have. The second third of the semester you will feel more confident as you build your business acumen. The final third of the class you will excel and especially against those trained in accounting.” When I asked him how he could be so confident of this trajectory he said “Because when I present a set of facts and ask the class what the tax result will be, the accountants will answer X or Y because they are trained to put squares in square holes and circles in circular ones. You on the other hand will look at the facts presented and ask me, what I want the tax treatment to be. You will see that Corporate Tax is about constructing an argument and bolstering the facts to support the tax treatment that you want.” I wasn’t sure he would be proven true but I was inspired by him and intrigued to see how it would go. He was a gifted teacher and as I applied myself sure enough my confidence grew. I earned an A in the class and went on to a 33 year career as an International Corporate Law and Finance Professional. I also earned an LLM in Taxation along the way. I never forgot Professor Jacobs and his confidence in me and his other students was a key career enabler.

*I’m very sorry for his family and his flock as this must be a crushing blow. But his memory will live on in so many like me whose lives he changed forever.*

*Rest in Peace good friend and mentor. Peggy Ann West FSU Law '84.*

**Peggy Ann West** - April 28, 2023 at 02:08 PM

AC

“ *Professor Jacobs, you were my favorite professor at FSU law. I went on to a career as a tax attorney and C.P.A., in no small part due to you. I am pleased to read how you turned your life around. I will celebrate 27 years clean and sober next month.*

**Anthony Coleman** - April 28, 2023 at 01:29 PM

JH

“ *Joe Jacobs was my favorite professor at FSU Law. I took his corporate tax class in 1992. One day, we showed up for class and he took us some botanical gardens near campus. As we all walked around, he talked about stopping to smell the flowers during our professional careers. He was an enthusiastic and inspirational character. We all loved him.*

**James W Humann** - April 28, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



April 27, 2023 at 03:52 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



April 27, 2023 at 01:00 PM



“ *Michael Student - Sullivan & Worcester purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



**Michael Student - Sullivan & Worcester** - April 27, 2023 at 12:26 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



April 27, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



April 27, 2023 at 11:35 AM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 27, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 27, 2023 at 12:21 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 11:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 10:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 10:31 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 09:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 09:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 08:52 PM

GS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Greg Stallings - April 26, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 02:47 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 02:33 PM



“ *St. Louis Parish Council Members* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



**St. Louis Parish Council Members** - April 26, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 01:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *Lisa Garcia Jacobson (and Richard)* purchased the *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



**Lisa Garcia Jacobson (and Richard)** - April 26, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 26, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



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April 25, 2023 at 07:18 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to Cindy and all the family. God be with each of you during this difficult time. RIP, Joe 🙏  
Debbie Miller

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Debbie Miller - April 24, 2023 at 06:44 PM



“ Joe, I never had the pleasure to meet you. But I had the opportunity to have beautiful one on ones with your loving wife and I know how she adores you. Peace to you and your loved ones.

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claudia m milligan - April 24, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



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April 24, 2023 at 11:27 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



April 23, 2023 at 04:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



April 23, 2023 at 03:37 PM



“ *Francis and Bonnie purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.*



**Francis and Bonnie** - April 23, 2023 at 08:05 AM



“ *Joe was the senior member of our extended family and we will miss him unspeakably. From the 1950's onward, Joe taught us much about music, literature, philosophy, justice, and the human spirit. Joe was the essence of cool; the deep reader, deep thinker and the musical maestro of the hearts of his cousins. I have never known anyone as gleeful and appreciative as Joe was about beauty in all its forms.*

**Natalie C Tyler** - April 22, 2023 at 03:32 PM



“ Deacon Joe Jacobs brought his knowledge and grace to so many. His homilies and study sessions broke open God's word in a profound and beautiful way. He opened a view of Christ that truly allowed others to enter into the great glory of God's word. His presence, as well as Cindy's, was instrumental in bringing me fully into my faith. They showed me that I did not have to be perfect to be loved, just receptive and willing. I look forward to the day I will meet Joe again in the Father's house, where every tear is wiped away and our hearts are overflowing. May God grant Joe's beautiful family His precious gift of peace and may Joe rest in His perpetual love and light.

Angela Holden - April 22, 2023 at 02:54 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Deacon Joe Jacobs.



April 22, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ I love you forever dad ❤️



Molly Jacobs - April 21, 2023 at 10:02 PM

RJ

“ Joe was a very special man who brought spiritual lessons and guidance to so many. His Homilies were always inspiring and as he insisted were done in 8 minutes.

The ten years he taught 'Breaking Open the Word' after each week's readings and gospel were inspiring. He put everything in context. His words took us to the time and place of the Bible passages being studied.

He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. Cindy is strong and surrounded by endless love, not only from her large family, but from all the friends in their lives over the years. I will miss him greatly.

May Joe's soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen

rpj

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**Robert P. Jones** - April 21, 2023 at 05:25 PM

NT

Dearest Bob, you have weathered so many losses in recent years and I have enormous respect for your grace and graciousness.

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**Natalie C Tyler** - April 24, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Anna Maguire** - April 21, 2023 at 04:29 PM

 Cindy  
Jacobs

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Cindy Jacobs** - April 21, 2023 at 04:12 PM

RO

*Since I met Cindy so many years ago and Joe a few times, I could always tell how much they loved each other and their girls and recently of course, their grandchildren. Joe & Cindy do so much for their community this is a great loss and for all of us I send my sincerest condolences and much love.*

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**Robin** - April 26, 2023 at 05:33 PM