



# Father John G. Vrana

MAY 20, 1941 - JUN 7, 2022



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## **Father John G. Vrana**

MAY 20, 1941 - JUN 7, 2022

**F**ather John G. Vrana passed away on June 7, 2022 (age 81). Fr. Vrana was born on May 20, 1941 to the late George and Anna (Mazur) Vrana; attended St. Ignatius and SS. Philip & James elementary schools in Cleveland, and St. Charles Borromeo School in Parma. He graduated from Borromeo Seminary High School and College in Wickliffe, and then studied at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland.

Bishop Clarence Issenmann ordained him to the priesthood for service to the Cleveland Diocese on May 20, 1967 in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. His first assignment as parochial vicar was to St. John Nepomucene Parish in Cleveland. He later pursued theology studies at St. Paul College in Canada and the University of Louvain in Belgium. He was appointed delegate for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement in 1975, and in 1981, he received an appointment as spiritual director, Saint Mary Seminary, Wickliffe.

Fr. Vrana enjoyed a rich mix of assignments over his 49 years of active service, and he ministered to a wide variety of parishes throughout Cleveland and northeast Ohio. These included: St. John Neumann (Strongsville); Holy Name (Cleveland); St. Ladislav (Westlake); St. Martin of Tours (Maple Heights); St. Gabriel (Concord Township); St. Francis de Sales (Parma); St. Jude (Elyria); and St. Michael (Independence). His service included: presbyteral convener for the Lake/Geauga District 2003-2006, member at-large of Presbyteral Council 2005-2010; and member of the College of Consultors in 2005. He retired on August 30, 2016.

Fr. Vrana is survived by two sisters, Dolores Oleksiak (Edward) and Gloria Wick (Joseph). He is also survived by his good friend, Deb Karpowicz, a host of friends; as well as; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. His kindness, compassion and tender heart will be missed by all who knew him. The wake will begin with vespers at 3 p.m. and viewing 4 – 7 p.m. June 14 in St. Michael Church, 6540 Brecksville Road, Independence. Viewing again at 9:30 a.m. and Mass of the Resurrection at 11 a.m. will occur June 15 in St. Michael Church. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland. Requiescat in pace.



## Obituary

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Donations in Fr. Vrana's memory can be made to the Diocese of Cleveland, Priestly Formation c/o Catholic Community Foundation, Cathedral Square Plaza, 1404 East Ninth St., 8th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114-1722 or online at [www.CatholicCommunity.org/PriestlyFormation](http://www.CatholicCommunity.org/PriestlyFormation).



# Events

**Father John G. Vrana**

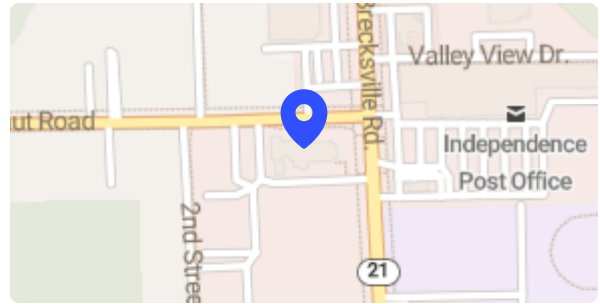
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## Vespers

**Tuesday**, June 14, 2022

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

**St. Michael Catholic Church**  
6540 Brecksville Rd., Independence OH 44131

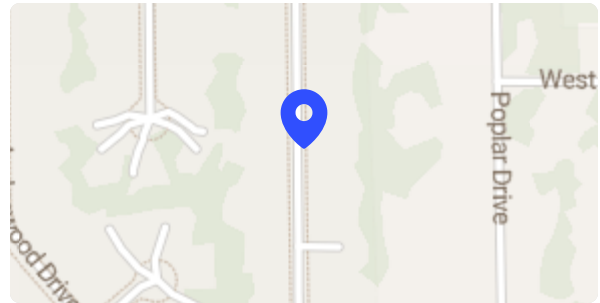


## Visitation

**Tuesday**, June 14, 2022

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

**St. Michael Catholic Church**  
Independence OH 44131

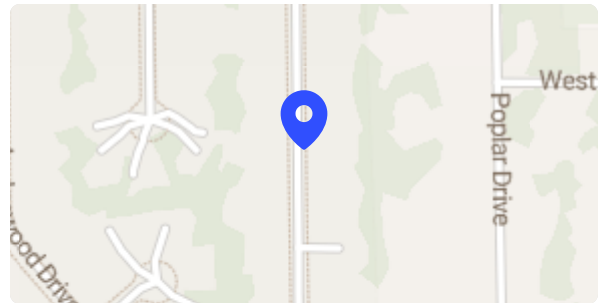


## Visitation

**Wednesday**, June 15, 2022

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET

**St. Michael Catholic Church**  
Independence OH 44131

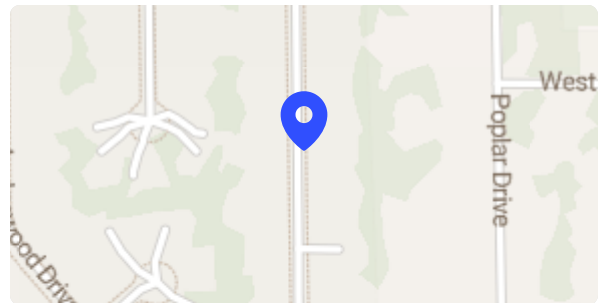


## Mass of the Resurrection

**Wednesday**, June 15, 2022

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

**St. Michael Catholic Church**  
Independence OH 44131





## Tribute Wall

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TZ

**Tracee Zubic** posted:

I will miss Father John's calming presence and prayerful guidance in church at St. Michael. He should have been nominated for best dressed as he wore the most beautiful vestments. Father, I will miss you but hope you can connect and pray together with my Mom and Dad in heaven. Thanks for your time and contribution of your talents at St. Michael's Church. Tracee Zubic

June 14 at 9:21 AM

HZ

**Helen Zabas** posted:

Father Vrana has been a dear friend since 1968. My favorite memory of him was when he cooked pumpkin stew (an autumn stew baked in a pumpkin) for the Sisters of the Holy Spirit on a chilly October evening. We enjoyed going to Cedar Point, walks at Shaker Lakes, and most of all sharing things of a spiritual nature. He served as my spiritual director for twenty years, and somehow managed to keep me on my spiritual toes. I owe so much to his invaluable friendship.

June 13 at 4:41 AM

PS

**Patti Sunagel** posted:

When Fr. John was at St. Jude Church, I was so taken aback by his spirituality. He was very instrumental in giving me spiritual direction at a very difficult time in my life. Even today, I often think of him and many times wonder if I would have made it through without his help. I also can clearly remember words he spoke to me that I have clung to to this day. He changed my life, and I will never forget it. May he rest in peace. Thank you, and God bless you, Fr. John! You made such a difference in my life! Patti Sunagel

June 12 at 11:44 AM

MT

**Mg Tokmenko** posted:

I met Fr. V during his time at St. Martin's. He was a gentle and loving leader, incredibly smart but so modest. I was in elementary school at the time, and he was very encouraging and a very positive role model. To me, he always symbolized the humble, forgiving, accepting person that our faith challenges us to be. Everything I know about opera I owe to him. It was a comfort to me that as I got older and faced many of life's hard moments, he remained the sweet, funny, and welcoming person I always knew. His example made me a better person. Will miss him dearly.- MG Tokmenko

June 12 at 9:08 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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