



## John F. Ptaszek, Jr.

March 30, 1935 - December 5, 2023

John F. Ptaszek, Jr., 88, passed away peacefully at Holyoke Medical Center on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Born March 30, 1935, son of the late John and Stella (Sliwa) Ptaszek, he was a lifelong Chicopee resident. A graduate of Chicopee High School, Class of 1953, John continued his education, earning a BS in Personnel Management in 1957 from American International College, and a Master's Degree in Education in 1962 from Westfield State College. In 1973 he earned his CAGS in Humanistic Education from University of MA. John proudly served his country in the US Army Reserves from 1957-1962 as a member of the artillery branch. He retired after a thirty-four year career as an elementary teacher for the City of Springfield. John began in 1959 at the former Myrtle St. School, and served as president of the school's PTA during the 1964-65 school year. After the school's closure in 1982, he taught at Margaret C. Ells School until his retirement in 1993. John was a faculty representative and "head teacher" for both schools for many years, as well as a life member of the Springfield Education Association, serving on its Executive Board. In 1992 he was selected to be included in the "Who's Who" among America's teachers. He was also a life member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Education Association. For fourteen years John taught physical education to handicapped youth at the Brimfield Boys Club (now known as the Camp Isabella Program) during its summer program. He served as president of the Springfield Schools Masters Club for bowling and golf during the 1969-70 school year. John was a fast and slo-

pitcher for several area teams in the Chicopee Softball League for twenty years. He was chosen the league's Most Valuable Player in 1959. John was a devoted communicant of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus and served his parish in several supportive roles. In retirement he became a voluntary reader and officer for the Valley Eye Radio program, reading the daily newspaper to the blind and sight impaired. He is survived by several caring cousins and his longtime loving friend, Donna Leyden, of Chicopee. Funeral services for John will be held Saturday at 8AM from Kozikowski Funeral Home, 565 Front St., Chicopee, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 9AM in St. Stanislaus Basilica. Committal service and burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Calling hours are Friday from 5-7PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the John F. Ptaszek Scholarship Fund, c/o the Pioneer Valley Charitable Foundation.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Stanislaus Cemetery

800 Montgomery St.  
Chicopee, MA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kozikowski Funeral Home  
565 Front Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013  
(413) 592-9256  
kozikowskifh@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

DEC 9. 8:00 AM (ET)

Kozikowski Funeral Home  
565 Front Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013  
(413) 592-9256  
kozikowskifh@gmail.com

## Mass of Christian Burial

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DEC 9. 9:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica  
Chicopee, MA

# Tribute Wall

LG

“ *This photo was taken in June 1992.*

Lenitzia Gonzalez - September 20, 2025 at 10:45 PM

LG

“ *I have great memories of Mr. Ptaszek. So sad to hear he passed away.*



Lenitzia Gonzalez - September 20, 2025 at 10:45 PM

SM

“ *Such sad news to hear of the passing of my 6th Grade teacher. Myself and my twin brother James were 6th Grade students in John's very first class at Myrtle Street School in 1959. Both of us have always felt, he was our best teacher of all time.  
May he Rest in Peace  
Susan McCurry Michaud*



Susan Michaud - December 06, 2023 at 07:56 PM