



## Joseph W. Dudek

February 6, 1937 - August 27, 2020

Joseph W. Dudek, 83, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at Chicopee Gardens Nursing Center. Born in Ludlow on February 6, 1937, son of the late Helen M. Dudek, he was a faithful communicant of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr. Joe attended St. Stanislaus School, was a graduate of Chicopee High School, and worked at the former Forbes and Wallace Department Store and Caldors. A US Army veteran SP4, he served in the 309th Field Hospital Reserves. Joe was a member of the Tiger AC, Chicopee Elks Lodge, and the Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge 1849. He also enjoyed fishing, gardening, sports and cooking. Joe is survived by his cousins Fred and Carol Przybyla, their daughter Audra Przybyla Hamel, her husband Daniel, and their sons Drew and Benjamin; and extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his twin brother, John, who died at birth, aunt Mary Dudek Black, aunt Stephanie Dudek Przybyla and husband Frank, uncle Stanley Dudek, and cousin Stanley Matuszcak. Joe's family wishes to thank the staff of Chicopee Gardens for all their help and compassion. A special thanks to Joanna from hospice, for all her comfort to Joe. Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial for Joe on Monday at 10AM in St. Stanislaus Basilica. Burial with Military Honors will be private at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Stanislaus School, 534 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

# Previous Events

## Mass

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica\_  
566 Front St.  
Chicopee, MA

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ Since meeting him in 1969 (he is my wife Joan's cousin), Joe has always been one of my favorite people. With a laser focus on family connections and a generosity that knows no bounds, Joe is easily the sweetest man I have ever known.

*Back in 1970 (or '71) Joe came to visit us at our log cabin in Tupper Lake, NY. We took him fishing where the Bog River spills into the south end of Tupper Lake, caught a mess of brook trout, and had us quite a feast right on the spot. That was Joe's fishing debut, and since that time he just couldn't get enough of it!*

*Through the years, Joan and I made frequent visits to her parents' home on Ellerton St. in Chicopee. Joe would always walk across the street from his own house to check in and make sure we were doing well. He loved to joke around and laugh, and tell stories about Joan's childhood. Invariably he'd embarrass her by telling us how, as a toddler, she hated to wear clothes and would occasionally be seen high-tailing it down the street not wearing a stitch!*

*Well, time waits for no man. Even with all of the health issues Joe has had to endure for so many years, he always, always kept his wonderful sense of humor. And we may have just lost the family's best genealogist. I'm not aware that he wrote any of it down; but remarkably, he just carried it all in his head. Whenever we saw him, it would just come pouring out.*

*Joe has enriched our lives with his own dear life. For that we are eternally grateful. And now, we are grateful that he no longer suffers. But we love this man, and until we meet him again, we will miss him very, very much.*

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**Rod Setkewich** - August 30, 2020 at 10:12 PM

 Mandy  
Hoit

“ I’ll always remember Uncle Joe growing up living across the street from my grandparents, Helen and Frank Tabbot. We’d see him a lot and he always had a family story to share. He loved showing us old photographs of family from Poland and knew every one of them by name and how they were related....he had an amazing memory!

Also, his homemade pierogi he would make by the hundreds and hand out to all the family at the holidays! (I am hoping someone will share his recipe with me, I would love to pass it down and keep up his tradition!)

Will miss you Uncle Joe....sending so much love to all the family ❤️  
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**Mandy Hoit** - August 28, 2020 at 10:22 PM

JS

“ Joseph was a wonderful and close cousin of mine. We grew up together and shared many happy years on Ellerton St. and Belchertown. We are so very sorry to hear of Joe’s passing and will miss his giving nature and all of his family stories. He was dedicated to his family and for years was their caregiver. Rest In Peace dear cousin, God be with you till we meet again! Love you forever, Joan and family.

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**Joan Setkewich** - August 28, 2020 at 06:02 PM