



Rev. Walter A. Buckius S.J.

July 13, 1920 - April 25, 2017

Rev. Walter A. Buckius, SJ, was born in Lancaster, PA on July 13, 1920. He graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School and after two years at Georgetown College in Washington, DC, entered the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville, PA in 1940. He attended West Baden College in Indiana and received his B.A. and Licentiate in Philosophy. He then earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Woodstock College in Woodstock, MD, and was ordained a priest on June 22, 1952. As a Jesuit scholastic, Fr. Buckius taught Latin, Greek and English at Georgetown Prep. Following ordination, he returned to the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville and served as socius to the novice master for Brothers and as a spiritual Father for Brothers. In 1966, he spent two years as superior of the Carroll House in Washington, DC, and then served five years as rector of Bishop's Latin School in Pittsburgh. In 1973, Fr. Buckius began his nearly 40-year tenure at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, WV. He served his first decade as an academic counselor and rector, and in 1985 became the college chaplain for two years and then associate chaplain for eight. From 1995 to 2000, he served as assistant director of campus ministries, and continued his work in spiritual direction through 2011. He told his students, faculty and fellow Jesuits upon leaving, "Live your life with an open heart and you will see the image of Christ in all that you do." Fr. Buckius then moved to the Colombiere Jesuit Community in Baltimore, praying for the Church and the Society of Jesus. He died on April 25, 2017 at the age of 96. Visitation for father will be

held on Thursday, April 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., with a Prayer Service at 7 p.m. at Columbiere Jesuit Community, 5704 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, April 28 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 13717 Cuba Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030 (Shawan Road Exit Rt. 83) at 10:30 a.m. Viewing in the church will be from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Interment Jesuit Cemetery Wernersville, PA immediately following.

Cemetery Details

Jesuit Cemetery

Wernersville, PA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **27**. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Columbiere Jesuit Community
5704 Roland Ave
Baltimore, MD 21210

Tribute Wall



“ I just saw this online. I was a Jesuit novice at Wernersville in 1963-64. Fr. Buckius taught Latin to novices, back when Latin was important. He used to call us “Fraterculi” , Little Brothers. Always with a smile. Novices took turns serving private Masses of the Jesuit priests living at Wernersville. One day he took me to serve his Mass at a convent of cloistered nuns in the Reading, PA, area. After the Mass I somehow got lost in the convent and ended up inside the cloistered area . I think my cassock and collar saved me. A nun gently corralled me and led me to “safety.” When I told Father , he admonished me , though with a smile. He was a decent guy.

*Ken Freimuth
Ogden, UT*

Ken Freimuth - July 29, 2025 at 07:08 PM



“ *Rev. Walter A. Buckius S.J.*

February 03, 2023 at 04:11 AM

KL

“ *The impact of Father Walter Buckius' life is immeasurable. It is impossible to say how many lives Fr. Buckius touched in a positive way. So many impressionable students passed through Wheeling College/Wheeling Jesuit University while Father was there. Over the years he had a great influence on literally thousands of alumni. That's not to discount the vast number of people away from the school who were also fortunate to meet Father.*

Fr. Buckius was very kind and gentle offering words of wisdom and guidance to those with whom he spoke. As Father's "next door" neighbor for a few years while living on the "hill" in Ricci Hall I often had the opportunity to walk along with Fr. to meals or on our way to other areas of the campus. He had the ability to make everyone feel important and struck a personal note with anyone he conversed with. He spoke to each person as if they were the only person that counted in his life. He demonstrated a compassion that came from the heart and was place there by God.

He truly was a servant of God and is now reaping his benefits in heaven. He is the "man" of importance now. May he enjoy his new life with Christ and look down fondly upon us as we attempt to lead by his example.

Lucent Lux Vestra Father Buckius.

Kevin Laird - April 27, 2017 at 03:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Walter A. Buckius S.J..*



April 27, 2017 at 09:23 AM

BP

“ *Father Buckius was a constant inspiration and dear friend who was constantly there for me over the many years I knew him since my days at Wheeling Jesuit University. I stayed in contact with him over the years and he was always so caring and interested in what I was doing. Thanks to him my life has been deeply enriched and bettered as a result of our friendship. Bart Pascoli*

Bart Pascoli - April 27, 2017 at 08:28 AM

DT

“ *As a parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wheeling, West Virginia I and many others appreciate and value the many Divine Liturgies he sang for us over the years at our church when we were without a priest. He truly was bi-ritualistic and "got it." He expressed and "felt" the Eastern Christian spirituality and was one with us in his sermons and reverence for our Rite. Not many "Latins" have the love, respect and understanding of/for the Eastern Churches that he had. We loved him for this and are saddened to hear he has fallen asleep in the Lord. (He would understand this Eastern mentality.) Vichnaya Pamyat. (Memory Eternal.)*

DTwaddle - April 26, 2017 at 07:28 AM

JB

I knew Fr. Buckius for many years -- first during my eight years as a Jesuit and later throughout my life. He came from Pittsburgh for my wedding. Later, we visited him on various occasions up until 2015. He is possibly the most Christlike man I have ever met, and I shall remember him with gratitude and affection for the rest of my life.

James Burke - September 11, 2017

James Burke - September 11, 2017 at 09:29 PM