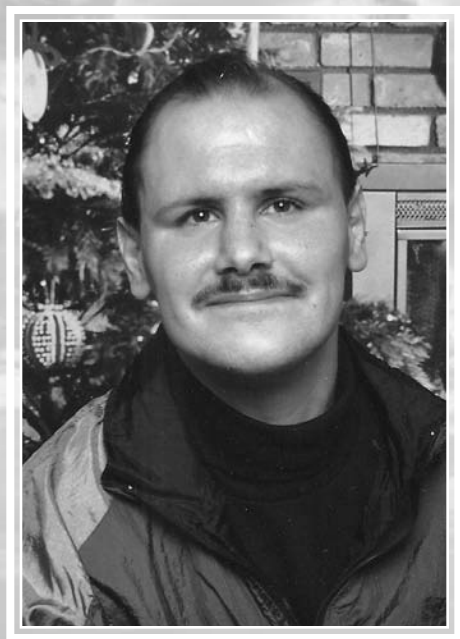


Celebration of Life



Michael Allen Yurkovich

BORN TO MORTAL LIFE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1967

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE ON APRIL 7, 2023

Memorial Mass of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

Valley City, Ohio

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Michael A. Yurkovich

Michael Allen Yurkovich, 55, passed away on Good Friday, April 7, 2023. Born on September 24, 1967 in Cleveland, Ohio, he was raised on West 121st Street with older sister Julie by their parents Carol (nee Westfall) and Don Yurkovich. A special-needs child, he joined a huge extended family, as his mother had five siblings and 24 nieces and nephews.

Michael welcomed being part of something much bigger than himself. He was happy when participating in activities with his sister, cousins and friends such as playing kickball in the street. One of his favorite childhood pastimes was dressing up in his cowboy hat, toy gun with holster, and brown vest with a sheriff's badge. Bike riding was a passion of Michael's; he quickly graduated from tricycle to training wheels to two-wheelers, and in later years loved to ride his bike at the Olympic Outing Club.

As a very curious young boy, Michael loved collecting things. He had a great imagination and could entertain himself for hours. Michael attended a small local school for children with special needs. There he'd laugh and carry on with his circle of friends.

In adulthood Michael lived in several adult group homes, where he participated in chores with other residents and took a bus by himself to adult workshops through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Earning a paycheck with his own efforts and having money in his pocket were thrilling for Michael, especially at first. It gave him an independence he hadn't ever experienced in his childhood years.

Michael enjoyed music and, for a time, journaled about his daily activities. He laughed easily and always, and had a beautiful Westfall smile. He grew up to be very understanding in his own way, and a family-oriented person.

Michael learned from others, but he taught them things too—like being patient with others who look different or learn different than you, and being more accepting of people with mental disabilities.

Michael had a good heart.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF MICHAEL A. YURKOVICH

Mass of Christian Burial

Presider: Fr. Dan Reed

Entrance Rite/Blessing of Remains

(please STAND)

Family and friends are welcomed by the priest as Michael will be honored with Christian burial.

Please join in the numbered hymns from our Church Hymnal and the prayer responses as listed here.

Entrance Hymn: AMAZING GRACE (#449)

Opening Prayer by the Priest

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE: Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We listen to God's word of wisdom, comfort and hope to strengthen our faith in Christ at the time of death.

■ **FIRST READING:** Acts 10:34-43 (Reader: Julie Alford, sister)

Reader ends with: "The Word of the Lord."

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

■ **RESPONSORIAL HYMN:** Psalm 27 - The Lord is my light and my salvation.

■ **SECOND READING:** 1 John 3:1-2 (Reader: JoAnn Aerni Kahl, cousin)

Reader ends with: "The Word of the Lord."

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD (continued)

■ GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

Priest ends with: "The Gospel of the Lord."

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

■ INTERCESSIONS

RESPONSE TO EACH PETITION: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn: SEE US, LORD, ABOUT YOUR ALTAR (#368)

Presentation of Gifts: Nieces Cassandra Alford and Sarah Alford Olic will bring up bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Priest: Pray, that my sacrifice...to God, our Almighty Father.

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of His Name,
for our good and the good of all His holy Church.**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: It is right and just.

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(please STAND)

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

PEOPLE: **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him...forever and ever.

PEOPLE: **Amen!**

Communion Rite

■ THE LORD'S PRAYER

■ SIGN OF PEACE: Please exchange a gesture of Christ's peace with those around you.

Communion Hymn: COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR (#465)

Final Commendation and Song of Farewell

Where the Blessing and Dismissal usually occur, the priest invites family and friends to pray silently for Michael, commending his soul to the Lord with our prayers, like incense, rising before Him.

The priest then offers a Prayer of Commendation.

Recessional Hymn: HOW GREAT THOU ART (#430)



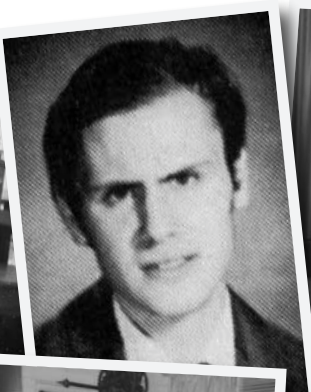
A Word of Thanks

Michael's family wishes to thank all who have joined us for this Mass of Christian Burial and celebration of his life. Please join us in the church hall for a luncheon after this service has concluded. And let us continue to pray for one another with the assurances of our faith in Jesus Christ and his promise of everlasting life.

If you would like to support a special-needs organization in memory of Michael, we kindly ask you to consider donating to one of the following in his name:

> **St. Jude's Children's Hospital:** <https://www.stjude.org/donate/>

> **Jewish Family Services Association of Cleveland** (where Michael's group home was):
<https://www.jfsa-cleveland.org/cash-donation/>



Memories of Michael



“Bikes were Michael’s thing. I remember how he’d ride bicycles with my mother. I’ll never forget the little girl who lived next door. Michael liked her, I think her name was Mary Beth. He got chicken pox from her—and then gave it to me!”

- Julie Alford, sister

“I remember Michael happy and laughing most of the time. He would argue with us sometimes, trying to get his point across. I’d question him and he would keep answering until he was understood! Love that! He also would never take our word ...he was inquisitive and needed answers.”

- JoAnn Aerni Kahl, cousin

“A memory I have about Michael is when I visited him in Maple Heights. He was very happy to be employed and making money for the first time in his life. He was also excited to have a new girlfriend at work. I think her name was Suzy or Sally. He was so excited to tell me about her and how they were going to go to the movies together. Also, he seemed to

really like living in the group home in Maple Heights. He had a good relationship with a couple of the staff personnel. I was happy to see him doing so well. Michael had a huge heart. He will always be remembered and we hope to see him again one day in heaven with your sweet mother.”

- Tracie Aerni Chudowsky, cousin

Cousin Patrick Westfall recalls when he got a moped in his teen years. He didn’t have a license for it yet when Michael hopped on the bike and took off, tooling around the neighborhood without a helmet—or license! Patrick yelled, “Stop! Stop!” and thought he’d really get in trouble or, worse yet, Michael would get hurt. All was well that ended well, tho.

“Michael taught me what it felt like to be loved by a little brother. In later years I’d visit him, bring him a gift and take him out to eat, sometimes at the old Ernest Angley Cathedral Buffet before it closed. When I came to the group home and he saw me, he’d say, ‘Oh Julie!’ I loved it—it tickled me pink.”

- Julie Alford, sister

“I have wonderful memories of our families visiting together and Michael was always a special part of that! Having loved ones with special needs in our lives makes our lives deeper and richer and makes us wiser and more loving. God is so wise and I’m sure Michael is celebrating with your mom, my dad, and all our cousins and aunts and uncles.”

- Ann Waters Rivera, cousin

*"If you desire to make a difference in the world,
you must be different from the world."*

– ELAINE S. DALTON



COUSINS BY THE DOZENS!
1990, VALLEY CITY, OHIO