

One minute after a believer dies:

- ✝ Angels usher your soul to Heaven.
(Luke 16:22)
- ✝ You immediately enter God's presence.
(2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- ✝ You are conscious, in command of your thinking, feeling, speech, and memories.
(Luke 16:19-31)
- ✝ You participate in magnificent worship with angels and believers before the throne of God and Christ. (Revelation 4-5)
- ✝ You are aware to some degree of activities and events on Earth. (Revelation 6:9-10)
- ✝ You will recognize and communicate with believers who preceded you to Heaven.
(Luke 9:28-36)

BACK COVER

Celebration of Life



Leonard James Westfall

BORN MAY 21, 1939

PASSED PEACEFULLY ON JANUARY 16, 2023

Funeral Mass

Monday, January 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Saint Clarence Catholic Church

30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, Ohio

FRONT COVER

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Leonard James Westfall

Leonard Westfall, age 83, died peacefully at his home surrounded by family on January 16, 2023. He was born May 21, 1939 in Cleveland, Ohio to Albert Leonard Westfall and Louisa “Lucy” Leisz Westfall. He was the fourth of six children born from 1932-1952—Marilyn Joan, Carol Ann, Albert Joseph, Leonard James, Kenneth Michael and Joseph Frank. Len was a proud graduate of St. Vincent de Paul Grade School and St. Edward High School, and played basketball and baseball on winning teams for CYO (Catholic Youth Organization).

Len’s first jobs were delivering newspapers and working for \$2 a day at a deli stand at the West Side Market. He pursued higher education, first at John Carroll University, then Fenn College. He worked summers for the U.S. Post Office, following in the civil-service footsteps of his dad and two of his brothers. Len also served in the ROTC when he was a college junior, and played on the Fenn College basketball team. After earning his masters, Len spent of his career was in metallurgical engineering at NASA Lewis Research Center. He was an extraordinary problem solver both at work and at home.

In 1963 Len married Mary Ann Kuras and together they had three children—David Leonard (b 1968), Deborah Lynn (b 1969) and Kathleen Marie (b 1972). After Mary Ann passed away in 2011, Len wed Joan Gottschling Marshall in 2013. Len enjoyed fishing, camping and playing low-stakes but high-fun poker with cousins and friends. But he was especially passionate about golf, playing three times a week for 40 years, giving lessons and even engineering improved clubs through his knowledge of metallurgy and composite materials.

Len lived a devout faith-filled Christian life of love, and showed an overwhelming sense of kindness toward others. He was a Big Brother for 10 years. Len and sister Marilyn formed a charismatic prayer group that he led for 15 years; it continues today, 50 years later. One time a man came in without a coat and Len gave him the coat off his back. Len had the gift of speaking in tongues, and would pray “Jesus is the lover of my soul” each night before bed. Len was a true crusader for Jesus, and his unwavering faith surely impacted the lives of those who knew him.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF LEONARD JAMES WESTFALL

Mass of Christian Burial

Presider: Fr. Bob Franco

Entrance Rite/Blessing of Casket

(please STAND)

Family and friends are welcomed by the priest as Leonard 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: ON EAGLE’S WINGS (#440)

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: From the Book of Sirach: *Godly Men*

Reader ends with: “The Word of the Lord.”

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

■ RESPONSORIAL HYMN: Shepherd Me, O God (#461)

■ SECOND READING: From Paul’s 2nd Letter to Timothy: *Kept the Faith*

Reader ends with: “The Word of the Lord.”

RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD (continued)

■ GOSPEL: From John: *Troubled Hearts*

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: HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN (#706)

Presentation of Gifts: Family members 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.

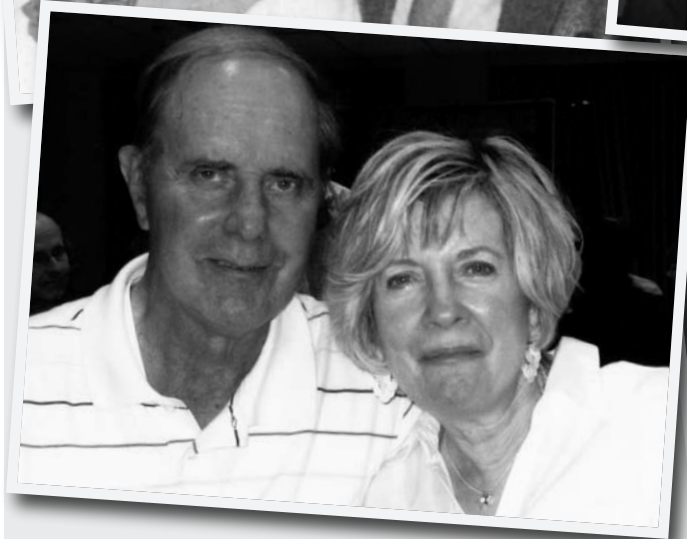
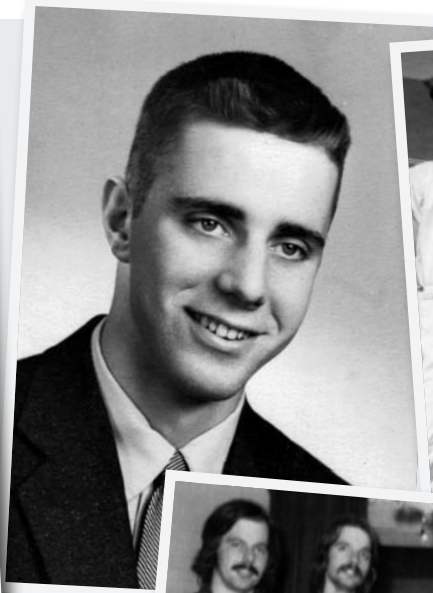
Communion Hymn: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (#329)

Final Commendation and Song of Farewell

Where the Blessing and Dismissal usually occur, the priest invites family and friends to pray silently for Len, commending his soul to the Lord with our prayers, like incense, rising before Him. ~~He prays for Him.~~ offers a Prayer of Commendation.

Recessional Hymn: HOW GREAT THOU ART (#430)





A Lifetime of Memories from Len Westfall

Over the past two years Len's daughter Kathleen asked her Dad two questions most everytime they talked. She got this idea from the 2011 book "300 Questions to Ask Your Parents Before It's Too Late" by author Shannon Alder. Here are excerpts from some of their conversations.

WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY YOUTH

What affected you most as a child?

“I was the youngest for 8 years, and my mother used to get me breakfast (oatmeal) and pray with me or read the Bible. No other kids were around—Mike and Joe were not born yet.”

What was your neighborhood like?

“A lot of kids. We lived in a downstairs in a double. There was a group of nine guys that ended up gathering at our house. Our house was the headquarters, we were the 135th Street gang.”

What did you want to grow up to be?

“When I was in high school my cousin Bill Waters was a engineer at NASA, so I wanted to be an engineer.”

Did you ever take a stand against what your friends wanted to do?

"I didn't drink or smoke and some of the crowd did. 9th and 10th grade."

WISDOM I GAINED FROM MY FAMILY

What family traditions were most important to you? “Going to Mass together as a family.”

What did you love most about your mother, and why? “I had double pneumonia and almost died—her love saved me.”

What are your favorite sayings or expressions?
 "I love you."

MY VIEWS ON MARRIAGE AND LOVE

How can people ask someone on a date?

“Ask them to dance. I was a good dancer.”

What have you learned about being married?

“The best thing you could do is make your wife happy. Spending time with your wife.”

WHO & WHAT INFLUENCED MY LIFE

What changed the direction of your life?

“Asking the Holy Spirit to fill my life. From 5th - 12th grade I had a paper route. I’d go to Mass daily by myself after the route.”

In your travels, where are your favorite places?

“Canada to go fishing 2 or 3 times at age 55. When I was 16 years old, I would go to North Olmsted park and have an all-day picnic with the family, we played basketball, horseshoes, and cooked hot dogs.”

Were you moved by the spirit to do something?

"I prayed with your mom every day especially when she got sick. I researched natural healing; she was to live 3 years but lived for 15 years."

WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW

How do you feel about growing older?

"The best thing is that I'm forced to see heaven as a reality, the worst thing is losing strength."

In your opinion, what matters most in life?

“Getting to heaven. Eternal life is a billion dollars. I acknowledge God’s presence, I have prayer time and read the Bible daily.”



Evening Prayer to Our Blessed Mother

Night is falling dear Mother, The long day is o'er
And before thy loved image I'm kneeling once more
To thank thee for keeping me safe through this day
To ask thee, this night, keep all evil away.

Many times I have fallen today, Mother dear
Many graces neglected since last I knelt here.
I am going to rest for the day's work is done,
Its hours and its moments have passed one by one.

And the God who will judge me has counted them all
He has numbered each grace, He has counted each fall.
In His book they are written against the day
Oh Mother, ask Jesus to wash them away.

For one drop of His blood for which sinners is spilt
Is sufficient to cleanse the whole world of its guilt.

And if before dawn I should draw my last breath
Or the sleep that I sleep be the long sleep of death
Be near me, dear Mother, for Jesus' dear sake
When my soul on eternity's shore shall awake.

***The backstory about this prayer:** In February 2020 at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Len was called to pray the Rosary together as an extended family—his wife, children, siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews. Each Tuesday at 7 pm for the past three years, Len has gathered family together on a Rosary conference phone call, led by his son David. The above prayer closes each Rosary. It's origin? Len's maternal grandparents Joseph and Lucy Haspray Leisz. His eldest cousins Bill Waters and Joan Davis Kleinhenz remember reciting this prayer with Grandma and Grandpa Leisz when a day spent together would always end with everyone getting on their knees to say the Rosary together as a family. Today family members continue to honor their grandma and grandpa by reciting this Evening Prayer to Our Blessed Mother, just as their grandparents taught them to do so many years ago.*



A Word of Thanks from the Westfall Family

To his family and to everyone he touched along the course of his life, Len Westfall was a husband, father, brother, son, mentor, teacher, coach...but most importantly, he was a friend to everyone he encountered. Thank you to all who have been a part of our dad's journey, and for being with us today to celebrate his mortal life on earth and his eternal life at the Lord's table in heaven. Saying farewell to our dad until we see him again isn't easy. Yet your presence at his Mass of Christian Burial has helped lift our grief and increase our joy in being blessed for having him in our lives. If you would like to make a memorial gift in honor of Len, we suggest the West Side Catholic Center in Cleveland, Ohio, a Cuyahoga County social service agency and homeless shelter that offers hot meals, hospitality, clothing and household goods, emergency services, advocacy, a family shelter and a housing solutions program to those in need at no charge, regardless of religious affiliation. You can support WSCC's remarkable work by visiting <https://www.wsccenter.org/give>