



Michael M. Plunkett

April 24, 1954 - April 13, 2024

In Loving Memory of Michael Plunkett.

Mike Plunkett, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and esteemed member of the community passed away surrounded by loved ones on April 13th, at the age of 69, in his home in Woodbury, NJ, after a long and courageous battle with frontotemporal dementia. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and profound impact on all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Born in Newark, NJ, on April 24th, 1954, to his late parents Joseph and Irma, Michael was a proud graduate of Glassboro State College, under the guidance of his good friend and mentor, Joseph Mayes. During his time at Glassboro State, he cultivated his passion for music and education, laying the foundation for his impactful career. Professionally, Michael dedicated himself to education, serving as a music teacher in the Deptford Township School District. His love for music inspired countless students; and his guidance left a lasting impression on all those who had the privilege of learning from him.

In addition to his role as a teacher, Mike was deeply involved in the community. He served as a choir director at St. Patrick's Church in Woodbury, where his passion for music and devotion to his faith shone brightly. His leadership and talent enriched the spiritual lives of many parishioners.

Mike's love for life was infectious- he enjoyed countless hours on the beach in Cape May and Wildwood teaching his children, nieces, and nephews how to boogie board and fish. He also had a deep love of History that he passed along to his children through his Civil War Band and many trips to Gettysburg. Mike felt a deep connection to his roots in Ireland and went on many trips there with his family. He greatly admired Irish music playing in numerous Irish music bands and attending frequent sessions.

Though Mike is no longer with us, his spirit will forever remain a guiding light, inspiring us to live each day with purpose, compassion, and love. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, students, Holy Angels community, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He is survived by his loving wife Maggie (Hughes), siblings Susan Rosenberger (John), Edward, Joe (Raphael), and John, children Matthew (Ruth), Michael (Stephanie), Elizabeth (Monica), Seamus, and Ciaran, and grandchildren Onyx, Clara, and Cooper. Mother-in-law Susan Hughes, cousin Charlie Reiley, and many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Friday, April 19, 2024 from 7pm to 9pm in The Chapel at BOUCHER FUNERAL HOME, 1757 Delsea Drive, Deptford, NJ 08096.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 11:30am at Holy Angels Parish at St. Patrick's RC Church, 86 Cooper St., Woodbury, NJ 08096.

Interment Private.

In lieu of flowers, we are accepting donations to either The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration through the link below or to the first annual Mike Plunkett Music Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to

Deptford High School and mail to 575 Fox Run Road Deptford, NJ, Attention: Graham Hall. Rest in peace, dear Mike. Your legacy of love, kindness, and musicianship will live on in our hearts forever. <https://www.theaftd.org/>.

For condolences, please visit www.boucherfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

APR **19**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

The Chapel at Boucher Funeral Home, LLC
1757 Delsea Drive
Deptford, NJ 08096
(856) 464-1097
staff@boucherfuneralhome.com
<https://www.boucherfuneralhome.com/>

A Mass of Christian Burial

APR **20**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Holy Angels Parish at St. Patrick's RC Church
86 Cooper Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 845-0123

Tribute Wall



“ *Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & Gloucester County Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael M. Plunkett*



Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & County Cremation Service - April 17, 2024 at 12:45 PM

JG

“ *I had Mr Plunkett for music class at Oak Valley Elementary school . I'm 54 and a Christian and still think of some of the lyrics of the songs he taught us . Wonderful man that is now in the celestial orchestra of the heavenly host amongst the Church Victorious. See you soon Mr Plunkett 🎵🎸*

Jamie Gallagher - December 26, 2025 at 07:44 AM

SK

“ *We moved from Woodbury several years ago, but we have often talked of how we miss Mass with Mike playing guitar. We gained so much more from the music at those Masses. For that we say Thank You. Always friendly and kind. We are appreciative and send all our sympathies to his wife and family.*

Sharon Kneubuehl - April 20, 2024 at 08:17 PM

GC

“Michael and I were befriended as young men in Cape May Point, NJ. Summers at this idyllic spot provided us relaxed time and youthful energy to swim, play volleyball, party, take walks on the beach and play LOTS of music. Michael encouraged me to better my guitar playing skills. He was a great teacher (it was inborn), introducing me to harmonics and the fingering for the Beatles tune BLACKBIRD, a real challenge for me at the time. The repertoire of music we played - CSNY, Joni Mitchell, Dylan, Doc Watson, Pete Seeger, etc. - still beats strongly within me. We'd soulfully sing and harmonize with various groups of family and friends. I so wanted to play classical guitar as beautifully as he could and did begin instruction in college. But he was the supertalent and I remained pleased enough with my ability to amuse myself and entertain others. Thank you for the gift of your friendship - your kindness, humor, love and understanding. You remain alive in my heart forever.

*Due to medical concerns I'm unable to attend Mike's funeral. I'll be in a church (a nearby Franciscan Friary) memorializing my friend at the same time his funeral is occurring today.
Rest in sweet peace, free from suffering. I love you, Michael.*

Gerry Cohee - April 20, 2024 at 10:11 AM

CJ

“ To Maggie and Mike's family, I'm truly sorry for your loss. I think of what Mike meant to me, and hear so many other former students saying the same thing, and it occurs to me that we weren't even family. He did so much for us that I can't imagine what a loss this is for you all. Mike would write music out for me when I was child, and even as an adult, in the pre-digital age. Any time I asked. I still use it. But where on earth did he find the time? He must never have slept! I loved him as a teacher and music director, for his talents and for his sense of humor! Attached is one of 2 photos I had of Mike. It may have been the last time we played music together. Later, he was so kind to talk with me at my mom's funeral. I will always remember him and try my best to follow his example. God bless you all. Carol Jarzyna



Carol Jarzyna - April 19, 2024 at 03:25 PM

SS

“ Dear Margaret and Family,

We are deeply saddened to hear the incredibly sad news about Mike. He's such a wonderful person and it was an absolute honor knowing him. The world is undoubtedly a much better place because of Mike. He always went the extra mile to bring happiness to others. And so talented too! Truly amazing guy! Sending prayers to all of you.

Sean, Rowena, Apple and Aidan Cole

sean sarkees - April 18, 2024 at 03:49 PM

CL

“ Dear Margaret
I am truly sorry to hear of your dear husband passing I remember his music so well so talented. God bless you and your family 🙏

Carol A Letzgus - April 18, 2024 at 01:39 PM

KT

“ I am so saddened to hear of Mr. Plunkett's passing. I call him that because he taught both of my sons and that is how we know him. He was always friendly in the halls at Oak Valley and always had a kind word and a witty remark to say. He was a great teacher- tough but always fair. My heart aches for Mrs. Plunkett (who taught my oldest) and her entire family. The world is a better place because of people like Mr. Plunkett

Katherine Thompson - April 18, 2024 at 08:49 AM

DD

“ Sending peace and love to the Plunkett family. Mr Plunkett was such an incredible human and inspiration to our students and to the Deptford community. In our family - we continue to share stories every year of where the kids love of music first began ...and it was with Mr Plunkett. The passion and pride he ignited in his students was incredible . I am grateful that our family was able to benefit from his light and love. Our kids will carry his early lessons of pride and belief in oneself well into their future lives. Thank you, Mr Plunkett. .



Dorie Deebold - April 17, 2024 at 11:38 PM

CV

“ Casey Jordan, Moira Leary, Carly Venit purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael M. Plunkett.



Casey Jordan, Moira Leary, Carly Venit - April 17, 2024 at 11:22 PM

JK

“ We were privileged to know Mike and his family through the folk group and choir at Holy Angels Parish/St. Patrick’s Church. He was an incredible musician, history buff, story teller, and unselfish, caring person. We will miss him. May God be with his family.

Jennifer and Albert Kilpatrick - April 17, 2024 at 09:43 PM

MC

“ We remember how helpful Mike and his Music Ministry helped us to have wonderful music at our son’s funeral. I’ll never forget him for that (and then not accepting any payment).
Maureen and Bill C.

Maureen Compton - April 17, 2024 at 08:49 PM

AM

“ Mr. Plunkett was my music teacher at Oak Valley. He was so funny and kind. He gave me tickets to the Deptford High production of My Fair Lady. I had never seen a musical before. That experience changed my life.
I've been teaching for 32 years; every year I bring students to Broadway. Mr. Plunkett introduced me to a new world; it changed my life. So grateful to have known him.

AnnMarie Marrassini - April 17, 2024 at 07:56 PM

LZ

“ Love, Zach purchased the *Magnificent Life Spray* for the family of Michael M. Plunkett.



Love, Zach - April 17, 2024 at 03:18 PM

LZ

“ Love, Zach planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael M. Plunkett.

Love, Zach - April 17, 2024 at 03:18 PM

LA

“ Love, Ariel, Sean & Alex purchased the *Country Basket Blooms* for the family of Michael M. Plunkett.



Love, Ariel, Sean & Alex - April 17, 2024 at 02:12 PM

KB

“ Mike was one of my biggest supporters in my music journey. He arranged for me to play a flute solo with the choir when I was 10 years old, and that support continued into adulthood as he cheered on every step of my music career.

I remember an assignment he gave us - I don't remember exactly what we were required to do, except that at age 7 I looked through the yellow pages (this was the 90's well before Ask Jeeves!), found the phone number to the Philadelphia Orchestra, and called them to ask how much money their orchestra members made 🤔

He was a kind person, a wonderful musician, an amazing teacher, and had a fantastic sense of humor. I will be donating to the Mike Plunkett Music Memorial Scholarship Fund that will benefit Deptford High School graduates going into music. His legacy lives on through his students 🍀❤️🎵

Kim O'Hare Bonacorsa - April 17, 2024 at 12:10 PM

BL

My prayers and condolences go out to the Plunkett family. As I moved to Arizona over 20 years ago, I was unaware of Mike's health problems. I knew him through the Diocesan Choir of Camden and he taught me to be a choir director. You could not find a better musician or, for that matter, a better human being. I will always remember him. Rest in peace, Mike.

Barry LuBrant - April 17, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ 65 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & County Cremation Service - April 17, 2024 at 11:58 AM



“ *I'm so sad to hear this news. Mike and I performed together in a flute/guitar duo, and I taught his children. He was kind, and a serious musician.*

Ronna Ayscue - April 17, 2024 at 10:09 AM



“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Boucher Funeral Home, LLC & County Cremation Service - April 17, 2024 at 09:47 AM

MP

“ Mr. Plunkett was a master educator. We didn't always agree on the "best" genre of music, but he always had a open mind and helped to teach me to have one as well. He was talented, compassionate, and funny; the best of mentors. I had the unique experience of not only being his student, but his coworker as well. He is one of my teachers that has had a great influence on my world, and countless others. It saddens me to hear of his passing. My deepest condolences to his family.

Michelle Carite Powell - April 17, 2024 at 08:57 AM

DS

“ My deepest condolences to Mikes family. He was a wonderful caring person and music educator. He has left a legacy of a love for music that encompassed many generations. My prayers are with the family. A person that truly made a positive difference in the lives he touched.

Dave Schmaldienst - April 17, 2024 at 08:27 AM

DH

“ Mike had a way of getting the best out of folks ... playing Mass at St Pats with Mike was a joy and a pleasure. A great mentor, he made me a better musician and person. RIP my friend.

David Herwig - April 17, 2024 at 08:07 AM

SM

“ Mr. Plunkett was one of “those” teachers - the kind you never forget because of their enthusiasm, talent, and humor. I've never forgotten the memories of summer marching band camp at Deptford High School - in the heat, on the asphalt. “Plunk” could always make us laugh. My condolences to the family. Rest easy, my friend.
Sue (Tigue) Murphy. Class of 1984.

Sue (Tigue) Murphy - April 17, 2024 at 06:58 AM

KP

“ He was my music teacher when I started Oak Valley in 1983. Two of my boys who have excelled in music were also blessed to have Mr. Plunkett as their elementary music teacher. This graduating class of 2024 had Mr. Plunkett his last year teaching when they were in 4th grade. 🙏 for his family.

Karen Pino - April 16, 2024 at 10:04 PM

TS

“ So sad to hear, so young. He and my late husband worked together, shared the love of history and the Civil War. Mr. Plunkett also taught my son. Was a very well-liked teacher. My condolences to the family.

Tammi Smyth

Tammi Smyth - April 16, 2024 at 08:58 PM

JW

“ I'm so sorry to hear this news. Mr. Plunkett has been known to me, as long as I can remember. That is because, he taught 3 generations of my family! I remember my Grandmom talking about him when he taught my aunts! Then many years later, he became my teacher. I still remember songs we sang in music class especially at Halloween time. Then, as an adult I went to his home to arrange his performance at my wedding! Several years later, he became my daughter Rylan's music teacher just before he retired! Mr. Plunkett was and always will be a true Oak Valley treasure. My condolences to his family and friends as I know he will be greatly missed.

Jodie Walls



Jodie Walls - April 16, 2024 at 03:52 PM

JB

“ My heart is so sad at the loss of my dearest friend. Mike and I go back 45years. We shared raising our families along with all the joys and hardships that go along with it. Everything I learned about music I learned from my friend. We often sang together at weddings and funerals, and many times learned new music in the sacristy of the church right before the services! I will always remember the joy we shared when we sang together Being in the choir was a honor and I cherish the years I sang with such wonderful people. I will miss my dear friend immensely, but I know that he’s in the heavenly choir, probably conducting, whole, happy, and angelic...rest in peace Michael you will be missed.

Jane Basile - April 16, 2024 at 03:26 PM

JP

“ I am grateful to Mike for the many years of beautiful music he provided as choir director and as organizer of St. Patrick's Day concerts. Most especially, I am grateful for his kindness and encouragment to me in my ministry as cantor. He has been and will continued to be missed at Holy Angels but I know he is at peace enjoying and singing along with the heavenly choirs!

Judy Principe - April 16, 2024 at 01:43 PM

AD

“ I came to know Mike on the cusp of his courageous battle with FTD, a vile illness I was very familiar with. His beautifully written and highly descriptive obit are indicative of a life well-lived and one well-spent sharing the gifts he was blessed with. His love of family, friends and his faith will be remembered and celebrated when speaking his name, playing his tunes and attending the Mass. Slán, a Mike, go dtí go gcasfar le chéile muid arís. (Farewell, Mike, until we meet again.)

With profound sadness at your loss,
Adrienne (Bobby) Daily
Cousin to Susan Hughes
and Maggie Plunkett

Adrienne (Bobby) Daily - April 16, 2024 at 01:00 PM

NT

“ Mike Plunkett was an incredible music teacher who truly sparked my love for music. Thanks to him, I discovered classics like West Side Story, learned to play the recorder (still can!!), joined choir every year that I could, & even returned to sing as an adult for his retirement. He was a cornerstone of my childhood, and his soul will always resonate with me. His passion for music and his kindness were unforgettable to me, leaving an indelible mark on all the children he was able to teach... and although his memory may have faded, the impact he had on me will shine brightly forever.



Nicole Truitt - April 16, 2024 at 12:22 PM

TF

“ The McGair Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael M. Plunkett.



The McGair Family - April 16, 2024 at 12:21 PM

TF

“ The McGair Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael M. Plunkett.

The McGair Family - April 16, 2024 at 12:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael M. Plunkett.



April 16, 2024 at 10:45 AM

TF

“ The North/Parchinski Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael M. Plunkett.

The North/Parchinski Family - April 16, 2024 at 10:45 AM