



Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas

May 23, 1946 - June 18, 2020

Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas, 74, of Peoria, IL transitioned to his heavenly home at 7:09 am, Thursday, June 18, 2020 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

Rev. OJ, as he was affectionately called, was born on the New Hope Plantation in Louisiana to proud parents, Millard, Sr., and Ophelia (Preston) Nicholas. He moved to Peoria, IL and worked at Caterpillar many years. OJ Loved the Lord! He has lived an extraordinary life by the grace and mercy of his Lord and Savior. He met the Love of his life, Freddie Mae Smith at Church. They have shared more than 39 years of love and marriage.

OJ loved serving people and would help anyone in need. Many saw his great works daily as he faithfully served as a Minister with the Benevolent Center at the Southside Mission where he poured into people shining the light on Christ and saving lives for Jesus.

OJ was an all-around great guy. He was a gifted singer who in his younger days sang back up to celebrities such as BB King and Al Green. He often expressed his excitement of meeting Miss Diana Ross back in the day. His church members at New Cornerstone loved to hear him sing his favorite gospel song, "The Woman at the Well". In his spare time, OJ loved fishing, especially with his friend "Duck", Mr. Donald Stapleton. OJ also loved watching African movies and spending time with his wife and family. He was an avid New Orleans Saints fan. He also loved his basketball and was a big fan of Michael Jordan and Steph Curry.

OJ leaves to cherish his most precious memories his loving and devoted wife, Freddie Mae Nicholas of Peoria, IL; his children, John (Virless) Moore of Peoria, IL, Octavius "Tave" Grismore of Bloomington, IL and Tamika Nicholas of Peoria, IL³; his god son, Shemar Gray of Peoria, IL; two brothers, Roosevelt Nicholas and Donovan Nicholas both of Bloomington, IL; four sisters, Maxine Stevenson of New Orleans, LA, Mary (Edward) Nicholas-Williams of Donaldsonville, LA, Diane Ealem of Vacherie, LA and Anna Mae (Ray) Gaston of New Orleans, LA; a host of grand; great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Millard Nicholas, Jr., and Willie Nicholas and three sisters, Geneva Lacey, Ann Marie Williams and Donna Lee.

Rev. OJ was a Charter member and Associate Pastor at New Cornerstone Baptist Church where a private Funeral service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, June 27, 2020 with a two-hour visitation from 9 am to 11 am. Rev. Dr. Mark A. McConnell will bring words of comfort. Rev. OJ will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery. The funeral service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150> promptly at time of the service. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing and attendance limits will be observed. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

As the States begin re-opening in response to the Global Coronavirus Pandemic, some people are returning to their previous normal living standards. Unfortunately, we are now in our new normal as unreal and sometimes uncomfortable as the socially distancing and continuous use of protective masks may feel.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

Thanks in advance for your cooperation! *

It is our responsibility as a Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible. The church can socially distance and seat a limit of 50 or less people. All others will be able to flow through and view prior to beginning the Celebration of Life Ceremony.

Cemetery Details

Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 27. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Cornerstone Baptist Church
3609 West Harmon Highway
Peoria, IL 61604

Celebration of Life

JUN 27. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

New Cornerstone Baptist Church
3609 West Harmon Highway
Peoria, IL 61604

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*



Simons Mortuary - June 29, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*



Simons Mortuary - June 26, 2020 at 03:30 PM

JF

Rip cousin 🙏🌹

Joann Miller (cousin) Allen family - June 27, 2020 at 03:29 PM

AI

My dear friend, I did not know you were longing for our Heavenly Home so greatly.

Time could not deny you your heavenly space and you continued to run your race.

A few weeks ago, the finish line came into your view and you crossed over when you heard your Fathers voice say, your race is finished, your run is complete, receive your Crown of Victory, for in righteousness, you did compete.

"Well done my son, well done"

Well done my friend, well done!!!

Apostle Steve Humes III - June 27, 2020 at 04:49 PM

LA

This truly shows the beautiful man Reverand O J Nicholas

Linda Hardy Avondale Arizona - June 28, 2020 at 11:49 AM

TF

Gone but never forgotten

Theresa Freeman - June 28, 2020 at 01:34 PM

ON

Blessings to Family members 🙏

Ophelia Neal - June 29, 2020 at 10:46 PM

LH

He is truly missed. Mom speaks of him often. Rest well OJ, rest well

Linda Harris - October 20, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ *Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Burial at Lutheran Cemetery*



Simons Mortuary - June 29, 2020 at 10:59 AM

BI

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas. May God grant you his peace and loving guidance and protection during your time of sorrow. R.I.P. Bro. "OJ" 🕊️



Brenda Idreez - June 29, 2020 at 07:16 AM

KD

“ One of my favorite memories of Uncle OJ was hearing him sing one of my favorite songs. *Touch the Hem of His Garment* by Sam Cooke. Hearing him sing it would always put a smile on my face!! ❤️ Rest on Uncle OJ.. another link broken but reconnecting on the other side

Kizzy Dorsey - June 26, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ Simply Elegant *Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas.



June 26, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas.



June 26, 2020 at 07:19 AM



“ A truly good man has left this world and the world is better for having had him for this short time. It was a privilege to know OJ and count him as your friend.

Arden Muller - June 24, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ "Tave" our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family due to the loss of your loved one. Weeping may endured for night but JOY will come in the morning. Yours in Christ Reverend Val & Colleen Powe Centralia Illinois.

Reverend Val Powe - June 23, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ SENDING MY LOVE AND SUPPORT TO MY COUSIN FREDDIE, YES OJ WAS ONE OF THE GOOD ONES, PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM PRAYING FOR YOU.
LOVE YOU,
DIANE HERRON
BLOOMINGTON, IL

DIANE D HERRON - June 22, 2020 at 05:09 PM

MA

*Sending my prayers to you Freddie and Tammki . Thi k
Sending prayers to you,Freddie and family. OJ was a loving and giving
person it no was problem doing what he could for you, he truly be
missed.😭love you cuzin.*

Mary Anderson-Farris - June 22, 2020 at 08:31 PM

AH

“ *Rev OJ would go out every day and pick up trash in the
neighborhood, sharing Christ with anyone who would listen. His
presence and his prayers will be greatly missed. Praying for the
family 🙏*

Annette Housley - June 22, 2020 at 01:17 PM

SC

*We met OJ thru volunteering for south side misson.We instantly
became friends. He was a perfect example of a true Godly man,who
loved the Lord he served. Al & Sharyn Cochran praying for all who
loved him*

Sharyn Cochran - June 24, 2020 at 10:27 AM

AH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Ms Freddie and family,
during this time. We love you.*

Aliesha S Hosea - June 22, 2020 at 01:15 PM

RW

“ *Renessa Watkins sent a virtual gift in memory
of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*



Renessa Watkins - June 21, 2020 at 01:51 PM

SM

“ Shirley Mallory lit a candle in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas



Shirley Mallory - June 21, 2020 at 12:18 PM

PA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Freddie and family. My heart and soul have been hurting since I heard the news so if there is anything that I can help with during this sad time please contact me. I love you all and God bless love you # lmsJ



patricia Anderson - June 20, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas.



June 20, 2020 at 05:37 PM

DW

“ To my dear brother I will miss our daily calls and prayers and talking about our grandchildren you will be truly missed OJ!
From your sister Patricia



Darlene Wade - June 20, 2020 at 04:09 PM

BM

“ *Barb Miller purchased the 5.5" EBN Kneeling & Praying Angel for the family of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas.*



Barb Miller - June 19, 2020 at 11:53 PM

RN

“ *Rufus And Kim Nelson sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*



Rufus and Kim Nelson - June 19, 2020 at 09:06 PM

JS

“ *Jeanette And Gerald Stewart sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*



Jeanette and Gerald Stewart - June 19, 2020 at 08:51 PM

RW

“ *Richard And Theresa Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas*



Richard and Theresa Walker - June 19, 2020 at 03:58 PM

RW

“ God saw that Reverend O J was getting tired, and a cure was not to be , So God put his arms around him and whispered "Come with Me " With tearful eyes Freddie and Tameka you watched him suffer and saw Reverend fade away. Although you Loved him dearly you could not make him stay. A Golden heart stopped beating Hard working hands now rest. God broke your Heart to prove to you . He only takes the Best .During the years Reverend minister to the rich, poor, broken hearted, to the lost,the thief , drug addict ones who stolen from him, hated him. Reverend working at the Mission down street from his home for years a True Servant of God. Wow God is saying well done my Faithful Servant!! Reverend Loved his church Family True man of God !! I'm wiping my eyes will miss him dearly . You're gone but never forgotten you made it over to Glory. I visualize you now how u would Leap and Praised the Lord on Sunday's morning. Sister Freddie, Tamika, grandchildren and family You will have your days of crying Reverend OJ is waiting with open arms . The Church Family is here for You We Love You !!

Richard and Theresa Walker - June 19, 2020 at 03:57 PM

MR

“ Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of
Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas



Mattie Risby - June 19, 2020 at 09:49 AM

JN

“ Mrs Freddie I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Rev OJ. He was a awesome person. He was adopted by Grandma FANNIE as he was her spiritual partner and grandson. We all loved him so much. I hope that he tells my Moma hello for me . Blessings to the family for comfort and healing. AMEN

Jetuan Norris - June 19, 2020 at 04:01 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas.



June 19, 2020 at 03:06 AM

RB

“ I am so sorry to hear about Rev. OJ passing my prayers go out to the family and may the Peace that only GOD can provide be yours.

ruth bush - June 18, 2020 at 10:32 PM

RB

“ Ruth Bush lit a candle in memory of Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas



ruth bush - June 18, 2020 at 10:26 PM

KA

“ Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of
Rev. Oliver "OJ" John Nicholas



Karen Ashby - June 18, 2020 at 10:05 PM