



James J. Smith

April 9, 1942 - November 18, 2024

James J. Smith, age 82 of Blue Bell; passed away on Monday, November 18, 2024 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on April 9, 1942, son of the late John and Jeane (Araszkievicz) Smith. He was the beloved husband of Theresa C. (Garbacz) Smith for over 55 years.

Jim was born in the Olney section of Philadelphia and was a member of Holy Child RC Church. His early education included St. Mary's Academy, Norwood Fontbonne Academy, and LaSalle College High School. Jim went on to graduate from Villanova University with both a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Jim spent much of his career working on the research and development of communications related avionics systems, components, and devices for the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center located at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, PA. He was dedicated to his work and made lasting contributions during his 32 years there.

Throughout his life, he was known for his sharp intellect and creative approach to problem-solving, especially when it came to working with his hands. Whether he was building something new, updating the house, fixing something that broke, helping his children or grandchildren with homework, or

finding inventive solutions to everyday challenges, Jim's resourcefulness and skill were unparalleled. Jim was able to fix almost anything.

Jim loved spending time with his family, including their cherished yearly vacations to Ocean City, NJ. He enjoyed travelling with his wife, especially his visits to Poland. His love of cars, desserts, and family meals were among the simple joys that brought him happiness. Jim was an active parishioner of St. Helena RC Church in Blue Bell, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister, and devoted his time and talents, especially through volunteering and sharing his woodworking expertise.

Above all, Jim was devoted to his family. He loved his wife, children, and grandchildren with a depth of devotion that knew no bounds. His family was his pride and joy, and he found fulfillment in the bonds they shared.

Jim's legacy of courage, strength, love, service, and dedication will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Besides his wife, Theresa; Jim is survived by: 3 daughters: Amy McLaughlin (Edward), Laura Smith and Carolyn Smith; a sister, Theresa Rose (Thomas) 4 grandchildren: Olivia, Kate, Violet and Grace; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to pay respects on Saturday morning, November 23rd from 8:30 to 10:15AM in St. Helena RC Church, 1301 Yost Rd, Blue Bell, PA 19422. Mass will commence at 10:30AM in the Church. Internment, St. Patrick Cemetery in Norristown.

In lieu of flowers; memorial donations may be made to: St. Helena Church at the aforementioned address or to Fox Chase Cancer Center at FoxChase.org/giving.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery

Dekalb Pike
Norristown, PA 19401

Previous Events

Morning Visitation

NOV **23**. 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM (ET)

St. Helena RC Church
1489 Dekalb Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Funeral Mass

NOV **23**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Helena RC Church
1489 Dekalb Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Tribute Wall

BM

“ I am so sorry to just now hear of the passing of Jim. He will be remembered for his keen wit but also his gentle love that I was blessed to witness. May he rest in peace with Almighty God.

To his wife Theresa and family. Never forget Jim and be happy that you were able to be a part of his life and he in yours. Take with you the gentle, warm gestures he was so good to give and his love for Mary as he so often displayed praying the rosary. Keep these things alive in your heart and he will always be near.

God bless you and allow Mary to be your protection and guide.

Brother Matthew Levis O. De M.

Bro. Matthew Levis O. de M. - November 25, 2025 at 11:12 PM

BD

“ Jim will never be forgotten. He was a very generous, loving, caring man with a great sense of humor. He welcomed us every Sunday in the summer, for many years. He, slaved over the grill preparing our dinner, never complaining. We will be looking at the sky for his shining star at nighttime and for the cardinal in our backyard by day. Missing you Jim. Until we meet again. Love, Bernice and Bill ❤️❤️

Bernice and Bill Dalton - November 23, 2024 at 06:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James J. Smith.



November 21, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James J. Smith.

November 21, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ Theresa O. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James J. Smith.



Theresa O. - November 21, 2024 at 09:20 AM



“ Zenita Henderson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James J. Smith.



Zenita Henderson - November 21, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ Zenita Henderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James J. Smith.

Zenita Henderson - November 21, 2024 at 08:32 AM