



## John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr.

August 10, 1942 - December 17, 2023

Dateline: Alton

John Thomas Fitzgerald, Jr., 81, passed away on December 17, 2023 surrounded by family.

John was born August 10, 1942, in Alton, IL, to John T. and Helen (Schulz) Fitzgerald. He was the oldest of six siblings. A graduate of Marquette High School, he lived most of his life in his cherished hometown. He married the love of his life, Karen Ursch, on February 19, 1966, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton.

John attended Ranken Technical College in St. Louis before embarking on a 50-year career as an electrician. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 649. He also taught the IBEW union apprentice program at Lewis and Clark Community College. One of his favorite pastimes was "rewiring the Greenwood Club" every year, a barbeque with his students at the end of the semester. After retirement, he worked as an electric inspector for the city of Alton, where he often fixed the problem rather than failing the inspection. In his spare time, he served as an usher at St. Mary's, volunteered with Meals on Wheels, and beautified flower planters around Upper Alton every spring and summer.

Those who knew John know he was the ultimate tinkerer. There was nothing in the house he couldn't take apart and put back together, and he delighted in fixing things, whether at home, work, or any place he went. He also instilled several truisms in his children: St. Patrick's Day is a holy day in the house. Any summer day not spent by the backyard pool is a wasted one. You'll never find a better donut than at Duke's. And above all, family is the most important thing in the world.

John is survived by his devoted wife, Karen; his five children, Pat (Jamie) Fitzgerald, Jeanne MacAinsh (Steve Koopman), Tom (Kristine) Fitzgerald, Mike (Julie) Fitzgerald, and David (Emmet) Fitzgerald-Sullivan; his nine grandchildren, Ryan and Erin Fitzgerald, Matthew, Brendan, and Jacob MacAinsh, Drew and Maggie Fitzgerald, and Emily and Zach Fitzgerald; three step-grandchildren, Megan (Blake) Roberts, Maddie Blair, and Meredith Blair; and three siblings and their spouses, Patricia and Jacques Schwaab of Godfrey, William and Linda Fitzgerald of Godfrey, and Daniel and Nonie Fitzgerald of Alton.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his brother Thomas, his sister Virginia, and his brother-in-law, Richard Stillwell.

The family is thankful for the caregivers who helped John toward the end of his life, most of all Melanie Stockton, and the continued love and support from John's best friend, Bill Gottlob.

Every Christmas, his children always asked John what he wanted, and every year it was the same: "Peace and quiet. And five healthy kids." We are grateful that he has found peace now.

Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, December 22, 2023 at Gent

Funeral Home in Alton. A memorial Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 23, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery in Alton. Memorials may be made to Helping Hands or the Alzheimer's Association. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Cemetery

525 East 4th Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Mass

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
4th and Henry Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



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December 22, 2023 at 04:13 PM



“ *Ann Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*

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**Ann Z.** - December 22, 2023 at 07:43 AM

BS

“ The sorrow that came with the notice that John (Fitz) had passed away was quickly replaced with good memories of our younger days. I fondly remember sleeping in a tent in the backyard of his parents home on 7th St., and also of sharing rides in his '51 or maybe '52 Chevy after he got his drivers license. He was a year older than me so we waited a year until I could return the favor in my '32 Ford. Lots of fun times in that car. I regret that we did not keep in closer contact during our middle age years, but we were both busy raising families and working. I do remember talking with Karen and John after mass at St. Mary's when my wife (Sheri) and I were in town for one of our family gatherings. It was a chance encounter but we enjoyed very much talking at length after mass. I am very sorry I cannot attend the funeral due to previous commitments that I cannot change. I will continue to carry fond memories of John. I will also pray for Karen and the children during this time sorrow.

*Bob and Sheri Stormer*

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**Bob Stormer** - December 21, 2023 at 09:33 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..



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December 21, 2023 at 06:26 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



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December 21, 2023 at 03:01 PM



“ *John was a wonderful man. His love for his family shines through in every aspect of his life, and it's heartwarming to have witnessed the strong bonds he shared with his family. He has left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him. I can't imagine how the past few years have been, but I like to think of him up in heaven, fixing little projects around to help all of the other angels pass their electric inspections. His absence here on earth will be felt by so many beyond his loving family. I'm so lucky I had the pleasure of knowing him. May his sweet soul rest in peace.*



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**Eileen Baldeshwiler** - December 21, 2023 at 01:28 PM



*Thanks for sharing! My dad was truly a great guy!*

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**Tom Fitzgerald** - December 21, 2023 at 08:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



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December 21, 2023 at 12:25 PM

TF

“ *The Spillers family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*

The Spillers family - December 21, 2023 at 09:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



December 21, 2023 at 09:47 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



December 20, 2023 at 07:03 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



December 20, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



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December 20, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ *Beth G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*

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**Beth G.** - December 20, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



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December 19, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Thomas Fitzgerald Jr..*



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December 19, 2023 at 02:35 PM