



Fr. Edmond Joseph DesForges

August 5, 1949 - March 12, 2026

Fr. Edmond Joseph DesForges was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 5, 1949, the son Edmond George and Colette (née Morrison) DesForges, the only boy among four sisters. His paternal grandparents were from French Canada, so while a student at Marist High School he began to study the French language, continuing this study at Loyola University in Chicago, with the hope of being a teacher of French someday. Sensing a call to religious life, he entered the novitiate of the Conventual Franciscan Friars in Lake Forest, Illinois, and professed vows on August 11, 1970. Completing his studies at the University of St. Michael in Toronto, Canada, he returned to the States and was ordained to the priesthood on April 30, 1977, at St. Josaphat Basilica in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Although he also considered social work, his major ministries through the years were as the postulant director and in secondary education, teaching both religion and his beloved French. Later, while in parish ministry, he discovered a second love, “Marriage Encounter,” and spent many happy years assisting couples, young and old, into “a listening from the heart.” It was a joy to live with Fr. Edmond. His fellow friars enjoyed his quick witty sense of humor. With his health declining, he was initially admitted into the care center of the Felician Sisters (Chicago, IL) where he had once served as their chaplain, and then in May 2025 admitted into the Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph’s Home for the Elderly (Palatine, IL). He died peacefully surrounded by his sisters and one of his confrères on March 12, 2026, at Northwest Community Hospital (Arlington Heights, IL).

Visitation will be at Marytown (1600 W Park Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048) on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM with a Franciscan Wake Service at 7:00PM. The Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Marytown on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 10:00AM. He will be interred in St Adalbert Cemetery in Milwaukee, WI. Arrangments by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Marytown
1600 W. Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
<http://www.marytown.com>

Funeral Service

MAR **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Marytown
1600 W. Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
<http://www.marytown.com>

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Jack, Georgiana, and Mace Mattieson fondly remember attending Divine Child Hockey games with Father Ed. He always had a special prayer for the Divine Child team, and now we send our special prayers for him.

Mace Mattieson - April 23 at 09:23 AM

S'

“ Fr. Ed was simply one of the most wonderful people I ever knew. He was a great teacher, and someone to talk to when I did my student teaching at Divine Child. His kindness, compassion and caring were truly remarkable. While I am sad to hear of his passing, I smiled thinking about all the laughs we had in class and what a good sport he was (usually) about or immature jokes. Rest in Peace FrEd ❤️



Shawn Shivnen '95 - March 18 at 09:50 PM

GL

“ I had the privilege of teaching in the Social Studies Dept at Divine Child when Father Ed taught various religious dept classes. He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed a Manhattan now and then! He was passionate about making a difference in the lives of his students, maybe not while in High School, but as they became responsible adults. I suppose the best tribute we could pay him would be that he accomplished that goal. Rest in peace buddy!

Gary Lesnau - March 18 at 08:26 PM

MS

“ So grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Fr. Edmond at Divine Child High School in Dearborn, Michigan. He was the Religion Department Chair during my time there. May the Lord welcome him with the embrace of a Father’s love. Well done good and faithful servant!

Mark Sieloff - March 18 at 08:25 PM

ML

In Prayer&Sympathy - and In forever Remembrance of FatherEdmond from his Divine Child friends and families / whose lives HE's touched in so many ways. We've been blessed by his high school Religion classes & finest parish Ministry assistance. Believe also He was our baseball team's (maybe others)-Chaplain. 💖🕊️ Harry, Mary Jo & Catherine'00 Lindback

Mary Jo Lindback - March 23 at 10:43 AM

CP

“ Fr. Ed was a wonderful educator. He will be missed and will always have a special place in my heart.



Claire-Marie Brisson, Ph.D. - March 18 at 01:06 PM

MK

“ Michele Kostyshak lit a candle in memory of Fr. Edmond Joseph DesForges



Michele Kostyshak - March 18 at 10:57 AM

ML

In Prayer, Sympathy and Remembrance ~ of Father Edmond / from his friends and families of Divine Child. He has touched so many lives in many ways / being such fine Religion teacher in the high school, along with his extra ministry to our Church. We have been very blessed by Him ~ and will be forever in Our Hearts 💖🕊️ Harry, Mary Jo & Catherine'00 Lindback

Mary Jo Lindback - March 23 at 09:54 PM

MK

“ *He was a good man who really enjoyed life. He will surely be missed.*

Michele Kostyshak - March 18 at 10:56 AM

ML

For such Loss ~~ In Prayer, Sympathy & Remembrance of wonderful Father Edmond - who has touched us & our families lives at DivineChild in so many ways 🙏🕊️ HE - being a true Blessing to All. MaryJo, Harry & Catherine'00 Lindback

MaryJo Lindback - March 24 at 09:21 AM

ML

For such Loss ~~ In Prayer, Sympathy & Remembrance of wonderful FatherEdmond - who has touched us & our families lives at DivineChild in so many ways 🙏🕊️ HE ~ Being a True Blessing to All. 💖 MaryJo, Harry & Catherine'00 Lindback

MaryJo Lindback - March 24 at 09:33 AM