

In Loving Memory

*Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water,
he saw heaven being torn open and the
Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

Mark 1:10



Jean Claude Desir

Sunrise
September 2, 1939

Sunset
November 13, 2021

Service:
Saturday, November 27, 2021 - 11:00 am

Holy Rosary RCC
1510 Adeo Avenue • Bronx, New York 10469

Obituary

Jean Claude Désir was born in Petion-ville, Haiti on September 2, 1939. He was the son of André and Suprina Désir. He was the apple of his mother's eye; she proudly called him, "Monsieur Jean Claude Désir, garçon manman." He was a true "mama's boy" who loved and honored his mother. Right before he transitioned on November 13, 2021, he called out for her. His mother worked hard to educate him and sent him to elite schools in Haiti. He was the son of a servant but dined at the table of his mother's bourgeoisie employers because they embraced him and rewarded him for his vigorous intellect and academic performance.

At the tender age of 21, he married the young and beautiful 17-year-old Immaculeuse Jacques on April 29, 1961. Together they built a family and had ten children. Here are their names in birth order, from the oldest to the youngest: Marie Claude Désir, Gina Delva, Rosie Herivaux, Harry Désir, Alex Désir, Marie Flore Désir, Jean Claude Désir, Jr., Stanley Désir, Patrick Désir, and Patricia Melcher. He was a proud father who reveled in the realization of his dream of having so many children fondly calling him Papa!

He also dreamed of a better life for his children outside of what was available to them in Haiti and envisioned a new life in America. He immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York on a late spring day on June 12, 1980. His wife whom he lovingly called Bebete later joined him in December 1982. Joining forces, they petitioned to have all their children come to America as well. His only directive to his children was to work hard at school so they might become the full realization of his and his wife's American Dream. He lived to see his children obtain college degrees, establish careers, marry, and have children of their own.

In his life, he worked hard to provide for his large family and wore many hats to do so. He was a teacher, a tourist guide in Haiti, a pastor at the Church of the Nazarene in Petion-ville, a longshoreman, a New York City taxi driver, an herbalist, and a businessman. One of his proudest moments was obtaining his bachelor's degree in accounting from Mercy College at the age of 54. The accomplishment exemplified his love of learning; he was indeed a thinker, a life-long learner, and a reader. He was the man who considered his books his best friends.

Jean Claude Désir leaves behind his wife of 60 years, 10 children, 15 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, his younger sister, Ann-Marie Désir, and his loving brother, Edouard Désir. He is pre-deceased by his granddaughter, Alexandra Helene Herivaux, his sisters, Delourdes Désir and Marlene Désir, and half-sisters Immacula Kernizan and Pierrette Baptiste.

His memory will be cherished by the many family members and friends who loved him. He leaves behind a legacy of courage, strength of character, integrity, dignity, and humility. He was indeed blessed by God.

Order of Service

Initial Rites

Rites at the Church Entrance

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Verse before the Gospel

Gospel Reading

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation Hymn/Procession with the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Rites/Communion Hymn

Post-Communion Prayer

Final Rites

Commendation

Closing Hymn

Disposition

Woodlawn Crematory
Bronx, New York

No Time For Sad Remembrances

**There's no time for sad remembrances
Because I'm home where I belong
I've conquered all my battles,
I've even heard the trumpet's song.
I've climbed my highest mountain
And I've reached an even peak,
And I've found that peace and true reward
That you have yet to seek.
There's no time for sad remembrances
For you have a precious life;
So find comfort in my journey
Please don't bear this pain and strife.
Oh! My Father's house is perfect
Just like He said it would be,
So dry your tears
Because I'm home and now I'm free.
I am part of all the beauty
That your world has yet to see;
So don't be sad about my journey,
Just be glad that I am free!
-Author unknown**

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

McCall's Bronxwood

Funeral Home, Inc.

4035 Bronxwood Avenue

Bronx, NY 10466

718-231-7647

Fax 718-231-7665

E-mail: Director@McCalls.net

Web: www.mccalls.net



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