

# 1st Annual Gold Star Mass



"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

**St. Mark's Catholic Church**  
**May 31, 2021**  
**9:00 AM**



We gather today for a Gold Star Mass during which we will rededicate this plaque in memory of the men from St. Mark's Catholic Parish who gave their lives in World War II.

**Gold Star Mass, Monday, May 31, 2021, 9:00 AM**

<b>Prelude</b>	My Country Tis of Thee
<b>Welcome</b>	Lieutenant Colonel Tom Dwyer, 182 <sup>nd</sup> Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard
<b>Processional</b>	Battle Hymn of the Republic
<b>First Reading</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-18a James R. Jorgensen, grandson of James Donovan
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Eagles Wings
<b>Second Reading</b>	Romans 12:9-16 Kitty Parr, Niece of Jack Bushell
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 1:39-56
<b>Homily</b>	Msgr. Brian Brownsey
<b>Blessing of the Plaque</b>	Msgr. Brian Brownsey
<b>Prayers of the Faithful</b>	Danny McDonough, Great Nephew of Herbert Eaton
<b>Offertory</b>	Faith of Our Fathers
<b>Communion</b>	Ave Maria
<b>Remarks</b>	Maria King Carroll

<b>Reflection</b>	Bugle Call
<b>Recessional</b>	Holy God We Praise Thy Name
<b>Hanging of the Plaque</b>	America the Beautiful
<b>Finale</b>	The Star Spangled Banner
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<b>Celebrant</b>	Msgr. Brian Brownsey
<b>Musicians and Vocalists</b>	Kristen Reynolds, parishioner and alum Carl Williams, parishioner and alum Carol Edwards, bugler from the American Legion
<b>Servers</b>	Isabella and Maddie Schmillen, great great nieces of Jack Bushell.
<b>Hanging of the Plaque</b>	Boy Scouts

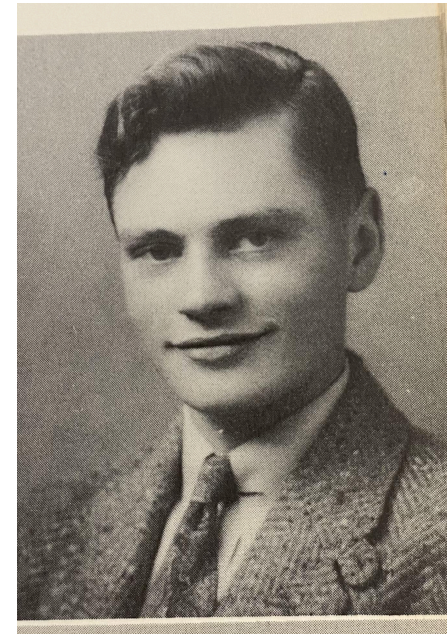
## St. Mark's Parish Memorial Roll from World War II



### **Lieut. Army Air Corps Alfred "Al" Hudson**

Al Hudson was born on November 18, 1918 in Peoria, Illinois to Alfred and Mary Hudson, 201 N. Glenwood Ave. He attended St. Mark's School and graduated from Peoria High in 1936. Al enlisted in the Army Air Corps on May 6, 1941 and was assigned to the 800<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 470<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron Heavy.

Al died on October 23, 1943 at age 25 in a mid-air collision of two B-24 bombers at Mountain Home, Idaho, while he was training as a bombardier. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in West Peoria. He received the following awards: American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Lieutenant Bars, Bomb, and Wings.

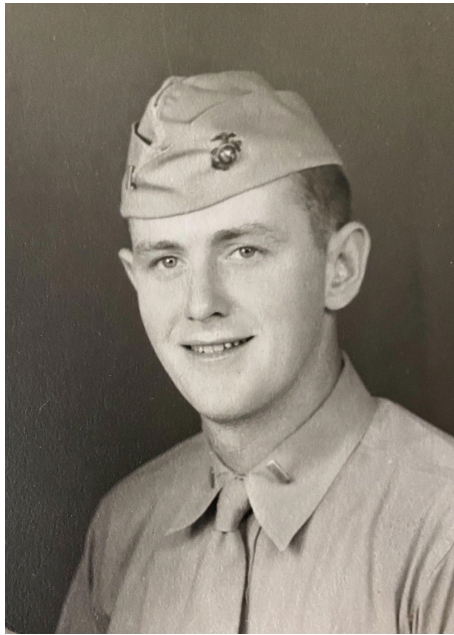


### **PFC U.S. Marines John "Jack" Walter Bushell**

John "Jack" Bushell was born on June 7, 1924 in Peoria, Illinois to John and Louise Bushell. He had two brothers, Robert and Walter "Tony," and two sisters, Geraldine and Mary Lou. Jack graduated from St. Mark's School in 1938 and Spalding Institute in 1942. He worked at the National Refining Company.

Jack enlisted in the U.S. Marines on December 10, 1942 and went to boot camp in San Diego. He served in Company L, 24<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division in the Marshall Island Group on the South Pacific. Jack died on February 1, 1944 at age 19 in the assault of Roi and Namur Islands. Jack is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, West Peoria. He received the following awards: Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, Pacific Campaign Medal with two battle stars, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.





### **Lieut. U.S. Marines James Richard Donovan**

James Richard Donovan was born on February 17, 1919 in Peoria, Illinois to Leo and Nelle Donovan, 101 E. Sherman Ave. Jimmy graduated from St. Mark's School in 1932, where he was a Boy Scout, and Spalding Institute in 1936, where he was the quarterback of the football team, a tennis player, and treasurer of the senior class. He attended the University of Illinois and worked as a sportswriter for the Peoria Journal Transcript. Jimmy enlisted in the Marines in April 1940. He was in the 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. He married Helen Murray in 1943 at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. Their daughter Margaret Ann was born on August 14, 1944.

Jimmy was injured in fighting on Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. He died three days later on June 18, 1944, age 25, and was buried at sea. His name is listed on the Courts of the Missing, Honolulu Memorial and there is a cenotaph at St. Mary's Cemetery in Peoria. Jimmy received the following awards: American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, Pacific Campaign Medal with two battle stars, and World War II Victory Medal.



### **PFC U.S Army Robert E. Klepfer**

Robert E. Klepfer was born on January 28, 1912 in Keokuk, Iowa to Mr. and Mrs. T.L. Klepfer. Two years later the family moved to Peoria, Illinois, where they lived at 116 Kellogg. Robert graduated from St. Mark's School in 1926 and Spalding Institute in 1930. He worked with his father at American Freight Lines and American Transport Service. He was married to Edith Klepfer of Pekin, Illinois. Robert had two sisters, Eleanor and Ruth Maubach and two brothers, Bernard, who served in the Philippines, and Richard, who served in India.

Robert was inducted in the Army in 1943. He served in the First Army as an infantryman with the 112<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The Division landed at Normandy on July 22, 1944 and entered the hedgerow area of France. Robert died on September 17, 1944, age 32, in the Battle of Wallendorf after the fall of Luxembourg. He is buried at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. Robert received the following awards: Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, European Campaign Medal with one battle star, and World War II Victory Medal.



**Lieut. Royal Air Force, Lieut. U.S. Army Air Force  
Eugene F. Weisbruch**

Eugene Weisbruch was born in 1916 to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weisbruch of 224 Garfield St., Peoria, Illinois. Eugene attended St. Mark's School and graduated from Spalding Institute in 1931. Eugene was employed by Hiram Walker before enlisting in the Canadian Air Force in May 1941. He flew 15 combat missions for England before transferring to the U.S. Army Air Force in December 1943.

Eugene was lost and killed on September 30, 1944 in the area of Borneo co-piloting a B-24 Bomber with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Bomber Squadron of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group, Heavy, while flying out of Wake Island. His name is listed on the Tablets of the Missing in Manila, Philippines. Eugene received the following awards: Pilot Wings, Canadian and American, Purple Heart Medal, Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Pacific Campaign Medal with four battle stars, Canadian European Medal with two battle stars, and Army Good Conduct Medal.

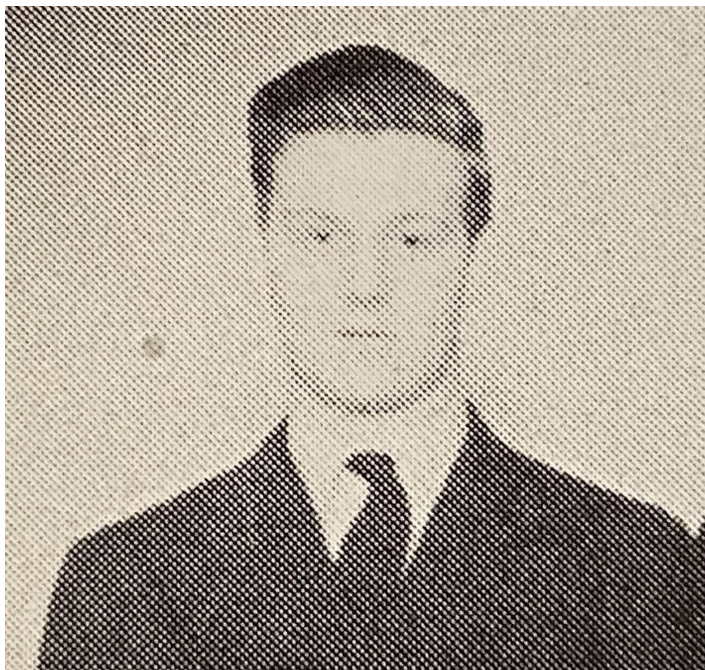


**Seaman 1/c U.S. Navy Herbert Anthony Eaton**

Herbert Eaton was born on January 24, 1923 to Hermina and Herbert J. Eaton, 829 Ayres Ave., West Peoria, Illinois. Herb had three sisters, Catherine, Bernadette, and Eileen and three brothers, Jim, who served in the Navy, Joe of the Army, and Don of the Army Air Corps. All four boys left for the service within six months' time. Herbie graduated from St. Mark's School in 1937 and attended Spalding Institute. He worked at Western Union and Hiram Walker.

Herbert, served as a Naval Armed Guard aboard Merchant Marine ships. He was on the oil tanker the U.S. Fort Lee when it was torpedoed on November 2, 1944 in the Indian Ocean. Herbert escaped in lifeboat #4 but was never found. His name is listed on the Tablets of the Missing in Manila, Philippines. Herbert received the following awards: Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, Pacific Campaign Medal with two battle stars, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.





### **PFC U.S. Marine Corps Thomas “Tom” Joseph McClurg**

Thomas McClurg was born on January 24, 1923 to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McClurg of 1604 Main St. Tom attended St. Mark's School and graduated from Spalding Institute in 1941. He worked at Caterpillar before he enlisted in the Marines in 1942.

Tom left for Camp Elliott on November 10, 1942. He went to jump school at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. Tom was a Marine paratrooper in Company K of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Parachute Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Amphibious Corp. Tom was taken prisoner by the Japanese during fighting on the island of Tarawa in December 1943. He was declared dead on December 10, 1944 at age 21.

Tom's name is listed on the Tablets of the Missing in Manila, Philippines. He received the following awards: American Campaign Medal, Jump Wings, Pacific Campaign Medal with one battle star, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.



### **F/1c U.S. Navy Vincent Dayton Lamb**

Vincent Lamb was born on July 29, 1918 in Moline, Illinois. His father, Dayton Lamb, preceded him in death and he was survived by his mother, Mrs. Harry Schreiner and his stepmother, Mrs. Florence Lamb. He was engaged to Louise Hand. Vincent graduated from St. Joseph



High School in Rock Island in 1936. He came to Peoria to work in the apprentice program at Caterpillar, where he was a foreman before enlisting in the Navy on May 22, 1944. Prior to entering the Navy, he lived at 425 W. Rohmann in West Peoria and was a member of St. Mark's Parish.

Vincent was a fireman F/1c in the Navy. He was killed in a mail truck accident on December 29, 1944 at age 26. He was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Rock Island. He received the following awards: American Campaign Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.



Shurter. Herbert attended St. Mark's School, where he was confirmed in 1939. Before enlisting in the Army, Herbert was employed by Hart-Carter Co.

Herbert died on January 13, 1945, age 19, while serving with the 334<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 84<sup>th</sup> Division in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. He was buried at Henri-Chapelle American Memorial Cemetery in Liege, Belgium. He received the following awards: Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and the European Campaign Medal with two battle stars.



### **Pvt. U.S. Army Herbert A. Kelch**

Herbert Kelch was born on February 14, 1927 to Mr. and Mrs. Julius A. Kelch of 208 Cedar St., West Peoria, Illinois. He had two brothers Robert and Albert, who also served in the Army, and five sisters: Bernice Chance, Delores, Patricia and Barbara, and Emiline Lowry

*God of power and mercy, you destroy war  
and put down earthly pride. Banish violence  
from our midst and wipe away our tears,  
that we may all deserve to be called your  
sons and daughters. Keep in your mercy  
those men and women who have died in the  
cause of freedom and bring them safely into  
your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask  
this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

**Alfred Hudson  
John “Jack” W. Bushell  
James R. Donovan  
Robert E. Klepfer  
Eugene F. Weisbruch  
Herbert A. Eaton  
Thomas J. McClurg  
Vincent D. Lamb  
Herbert A. Kelch**



**Once a Marksman, Always a Marksman.**