



James Griffin Mercer

December 1, 1965 - November 15, 2025

James Griffin Mercer, of Bristow, Virginia, entered into eternal rest on November 15, 2025. He lived a life defined by service, compassion, and faith—devoting himself not only to his family, but to the countless lives he touched around the world.

James was a man of deep conviction and gentle strength. He was passionate about his faith and embodied it in the way he lived, taught, and cared for others. With tenderness, patience, and unwavering kindness, he helped guide many on their spiritual journeys. He found great joy in visiting sacred and historical religious sites, savoring good food, and, of course, enjoying a fine glass of red wine.

James pursued his calling early in life, attending St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania before continuing his formation at Mount Saint Mary's in Maryland. He went on to serve as an active Catholic priest in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, ministering faithfully from 1997 until 2011. His years of service were marked by dedication, humility, and a genuine love for people.

James is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Richard M. Mercer and Tamara Mercer; his nephews, Isaac James Mercer, Hayden Zimmer, and Xavier Smoot; and his nieces, Charlene Madison and Makenna Zimmer. He is

also survived by his his aunt Jean Coby; and his beloved cousins: Pamela Taylor Chisholm (her husband Chizzy and their daughters Aubrielle and Auriana), Shiron Adgerson, Albert Mercer, Jr., Patricia Mercer, Duane Wilson, Yvonne Wilson, Sherida Wilson-Butler, Brian Wilson, Tamy Wilson, La Juan Ayers, La Shahn Ayers, Jason Ayers, Kim Ayers, Kevin Murray, Herod Murray, Tracey Murray, and Yvette Murray.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard M. Mercer, Sr. and Charlene Mercer.

Visitation

Friday, December 5, 2025 • 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Pierce Funeral Home

9609 Center Street

Manassas, VA 20110

Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

8312 Linton Hall Road

Gainesville, VA 20155

Burial to Follow

Saint Mary of Sorrows Cemetery

5612 Ox Road

Fairfax Station, VA 22032

James leaves behind a legacy of faith, service, and love—one that will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and May perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God
rest in peace. Amen.

Cemetery Details

St Mary of Sorrow Catholic Church Cemetery

5612 Ox Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 6. 11:30 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Burial

DEC 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Historic St. Mary of Sorrow Catholic Church
5612 Ox Road
Fairfax, VA 22039

Tribute Wall

KA

“ *In Loving Memory of Cousin James*

Today, we pause to honor and remember our beloved cousin, James, a man whose life was rooted in faith, service, and profound compassion. As a priest, he carried a calling that went far beyond the walls of the church he ministered with his heart, he listened with patience, and he loved with a sincerity that left a lasting imprint on every life he touched.

James lived his faith not only in his words, but in his actions. Whether he was offering comfort during difficult times, guiding others through prayer, or simply showing up with a gentle presence, he embodied grace. His life was a testament to what it means to serve God by serving people.

To his family, he was more than a spiritual leader he was our cousin, our confidant, our source of wisdom and calm. He celebrated our joys, supported us through storms, and reminded us that hope is never lost. His laughter, his kindness, and his unwavering sense of purpose will continue to echo in our memories.

Though we feel the weight of his absence, we also carry the light of his legacy. We honor him by loving one another a little deeper, giving a little more freely, and living with the kind of integrity and faith that he modeled so beautifully.

May Cousin James rest in eternal peace, embraced by the God he served so faithfully. And may we find comfort in knowing that his spirit lives on through the countless lives he touched.

Forever in our hearts.

Your cousin — Kim and family ❤️❤️❤️



Kim Ayers - December 05, 2025 at 08:46 PM

DT

“ *The day that James (along with 3 Diocesan brothers Michael, Rob, and Dave) graduated from the College Division of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.*



Dave Todd - December 05, 2025 at 06:44 PM

AM

“ *Aunt Phyllis, Albert & Patricia Mercer purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Griffin Mercer.*



Aunt Phyllis, Albert & Patricia Mercer - December 04, 2025 at 12:56 PM

RM

“ *4 files added to the album James*



Richard Mercer - December 02, 2025 at 04:05 PM

RM

James, you were such an amazing person and brother. While you were here, my life was exponentially more enriched than if you had not been here. My life will never be the same without you. I love you always.
Richard

Richard Mercer - December 02, 2025 at 05:03 PM

KA

James and I were in seminary at the same time -- St. Charles Borromeo, in Philadelphia. We had so much in common we could have been brothers; in many ways, we were. Although several years my junior, I saw James as the model seminarian and tried to follow his example. James knew how and when to keep his mouth shut -- a virtue that eludes me to this day.

We shared the same spiritual director, classrooms, great meals, and red wine. Our conversations were mainly focused on studies and spiritual topics. To this very day, I miss such times.

In the years following the seminary, we kept in touch the best we could. His focus on Truth, Goodness, and Beauty never faded.

In my thoughts and prayers, he will remain until we meet again.

Pax Frater,

Kent J. Artigues

Kent Artigues - December 04, 2025 at 10:26 AM

TM

I was a classmate of Fr. James years go. He was always very devout and faithful to Christ and His Church. James truly loved the Catholic Church and Our Lady. His fortitude and faithfulness was incredible. Though we lost touch with each other as the years past it touched me deeply when I heard of his passing. Bonds of friendship never break. I am praying for James every day and I miss him. RIP

Thomas McFadden - December 06, 2025 at 07:04 AM