



### **Rev. John J. Nichols**

Father Nichols was born on September 29, 1936, the son of Charles T. and Alice (McMahon) Nichols. He grew up in Maine and attended St. Joseph Grammar School and Cheverus High School in Portland, Maine from which he received an Honorary Diploma (Class of 1954) before his family relocated to Milton, MA (24 Garfield Road) where he transferred to Boston College High School graduating with the class of 1954. He was ordained on February 2, 1962 by Richard Cardinal Cushing. He offered his first Mass on February 4 at St. Mary of the Hills Church in Milton.

His assignments have included:

St. Lawrence, Brookline; 1962-1964  
Sacred Hearts, Malden; 1964-1966  
Blessed Sacrament, Saugus; 1966-1969  
St. Joseph, Kingston; 1969-1976  
St. Thecla, Pembroke; 1976-1977  
St. Ann, Wayland; 1977-1980  
St. Linus, Natick; 1980-1982  
Our Lady of the Presentation, Brighton; 1982-1988

On March 15, 1988, he was appointed the fifth and last Pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish in Watertown. The parish was suppressed on July 4, 1999.

On November 15, 1999, he was appointed the fourth pastor of St. Albert the Great Parish in Weymouth. He was granted senior priest/retirement status on March 1, 2002.

After retiring from parochial ministry in 2002 and moving to Goat Island in Newport, Rhode Island, where he served on the Executive Committee of the Newport Music Festival, Father Nichols responded to a request from the Veterans Administration to serve for “a brief time” as a contract chaplain at the VA Hospital in West Roxbury, Massachusetts. His service finally came to an end sixteen years later at which time he took up residence at Regina Cleri in Boston, a home for Boston’s senior and elderly Priests established some years ago by the late Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston.

During his years of service at the Residence, Father Nichols has been a visiting priest at Gate of Heaven Parish in South Boston where he has celebrated Mass on Wednesday mornings and when needed at St. Brigid’s Church and St. Augustine’s Chapel in that same Parish. He has also celebrated Mass once a month for nearly forty years for the Carmelite Sisters at their monastery in Roxbury.

Father Nichols has a brother a priest, Rev. Henry P. Nichols, ordained in May, 1970 and a sister in religious life, Sister Peggy Nichols, CSJ. His other brother and sister were called to the vocation of marriage.

For over a half century Father Nichols has enjoyed a never-ending immersion in all things Irish: history, culture, travel, literature, church and people. Both of his maternal grand-parents came to Massachusetts from Co. Clare in Ireland and most of his paternal great-grandparents came from Co. Cavan in Ireland to America. He proudly holds dual citizenship in both America and in Ireland.

He has been for many years a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, David I. Walsh Assembly, a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

Father Nichols marked his 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood on February 2, 2022.

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