



John V. Baratta

February 8, 1952 - June 16, 2025

Wantage- John V. Baratta, age 73, passed away on Monday, June 16, 2025 at Overlook Hospital in Summit after a lengthy illness. Born in Brooklyn, New York to the late Ross and Phyllis (Di Sciorio) Baratta, John lived in Lodi before moving to Sussex County 35 years ago. He attended Jersey City State College, where he studied piano and organ, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education. He taught at West Essex Middle School and retired from Roxbury Middle School as band director. After retiring from teaching instrumental and vocal music in the public school system with thirty-two years of service, John served as the Minister of Music for The Old Dutch Church in Kingston, New York; where he was organist, choir director, and hand bell ensemble director. He had served as the house organist for the Middletown Paramount Theatre and Lafayette Theatre located in the state of New York. John also served as organist for the silent film series at the Grand Theatre located in East Greenville, Pennsylvania. He was the Minister of Music at Grace Lutheran Church for over 20 years. Most recently, John was the organist for St. Monica R.C. Church in Sussex. Other activities include, past chairman of education for the North Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In the past, John has partnered with the New York Theatre Organ Society presenting organ demonstrations to students aged kindergarten through high school. In addition, he also provided organ lessons for interested students at Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, New York as part of an outreach program sponsored by NYTOS. Some of John's past

accolades include: recipient of the Music Talent Award and the Music Achievement Award given by the Garden State Arts Center. Also, during his tenure as a band director in the public schools, he was awarded the honor of conducting the New Jersey Region One Middle School Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble. As a result of the many years in public school education, John has written and published a method book aimed at middle school instrumental instruction. Some highlights of John's recital series include performances at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in New York City and at many of the local churches in and around the Tri-State area. John is survived by his husband, Robert G. Holler and his two brothers, Ross Baratta and his wife Cheryl of Clifton and Steven Baratta and his wife Lori of New York. Friends may pay their respects to the family on Sunday, June 22, 2025 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 23, 2025 at St. Monica R.C. Church, 33 Unionville Avenue, Sussex. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in John Baratta's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **22**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Monica R.C. Church
33 Unionville Avenue
Sussex, NJ 07461
stmonica@ptd.net
<http://www.stmonicasussex.org>

Tribute Wall

BN

“*Mr. Barratta was an amazing teacher. He was firm, compassionate, and had a dry sense of humor. On a band trip to Toronto when I was a Roxbury student he got fed up waiting for us to get served breakfast at the restaurant we were at. We were on a schedule. He didn't make a scene, he just started going into the kitchen and bringing out plates of pancakes. I'll never forget him with those pancakes. He was one of my all-time favorite teachers and I have always felt lucky to have been his student.*”

Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika - June 23, 2025 at 07:32 PM

JC

“*John was a wonderful musician, an amazing teacher and a better person. He was always so kind to me as I began my teaching career and his lessons stay with me and are shared with my students to this day 25 years later. John's legacy at Roxbury is not forgotten and I send all my deepest love and condolences to his friends and family.*”

*Jeffrey Conrad
Band Director, Roxbury NJ*

Jeffrey Conrad - June 23, 2025 at 12:21 PM

PS

“ On behalf of myself and the Mendelssohn Club of Kingston, NY we offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends. I first met John when the NYTOS brought him to the Hyde Park School District to teach in our new organ program in the music department. John immediately won over faculty and students alike. It was through John’s leadership that the new program gained acceptance and enthusiasm for playing the organ. Many students of his students came after school for lessons and practiced during their lunch and study hall periods.

His love of people and his willingness to share his considerable musical gifts was a true gift to us all, but he unfortunately was given far too short a time with us. He will be truly missed by those of us privileged to have known him and made music with him.

Paul Scatenato

Paul Scatenato - June 23, 2025 at 08:11 AM

KH

“ Johnny was a talented musician and now the angels will have a new choirmaster.

Kathleen Harmon - June 22, 2025 at 08:38 AM

TF

“ The Noll Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John V. Baratta.



The Noll Family - June 21, 2025 at 09:37 AM

SN

“ Sandy, Alan, Alex, Nicole purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of John V. Baratta.



Sandy, Alan, Alex, Nicole - June 20, 2025 at 07:17 PM

SN

“ Sandy, Alan, Alex, Nicole planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John V. Baratta.

Sandy, Alan, Alex, Nicole - June 20, 2025 at 07:17 PM

SV

“ I have missed John greatly since his absence at the Old Dutch Church. He was a kind and patient person all around, but also in leading the choir. He was an incredibly talented musician. John meant a lot to us and we will remember him.

Stephanie Marie Vastola - June 19, 2025 at 07:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John V. Baratta.



June 19, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John V. Baratta.

June 19, 2025 at 03:48 PM

WH

“ I have loved having John as our music director and choir director at Old Dutch Church. He taught me so much about music and singing. His incredible love and generosity to us was matched by his experience. He created an environment where we learned without shame. We could make mistakes and get correction in a very loving way.

I miss this man so much. It's really hard to express. He has made a large footprint on this earth.

willow Kristen Harrington - June 19, 2025 at 01:10 PM

RP

I am deeply saddened at the news of the untimely passing of John. In my 27 years as Pastor of St. Monica's I had the unexpected privilege of meeting and then hiring John to serve the parish community as the organist for the weekly 5:00pm Saturday Mass.

He went on to play for many Weddings and funerals over a number of years making those occasions a prayful and memorable experience for all in attendance.

He was a kind and gentle man and a talented musician as a pianist and organist.

He enriched the prayer experience of the parish everything he did.

He even went out of his way to arrange to be able to play for the 40th anniversary of my ordination on a Sunday morning.

I will never forget it as long as I live.

Hiring John was the best decision I ever made.

He has left this life all too soon and will surely be missed by all who knew him in his personal and professional life.

I pray he will rest in peace!

God Bless you John

May the angels lead you into paradise

rev. charles A. perricone - June 22, 2025 at 05:10 PM

AE

During Covid, several of us area musicians got together to play trios with John at St Cecelia's. It continued afterwards, playing advent music in Sparta. Every time we played was magical and totally satisfying. John is missed, but the memories and his amazing abilities on organ will stay with me.

Anne Erickson - November 21, 2025 at 11:34 AM



I have just learned of John's passing and my heart is filled with sadness. He gave his heart and soul to Grace Lutheran church in River Edge NJ, driving the long distance from Sussex twice a week for 20 years. He made our little organ sing, and always challenged his choir to do the very best. We were all better because of him. May we all get to sing for him again! Ray Stubblebine, Mathews, VA

Ray Stubblebine - April 25 at 12:55 AM