



James "Jimmy" "Chico" Fruge

November 14, 1962 - November 29, 2022

Lafayette -

A Memorial Mass will be held on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 11:00 am in St. John Berchmans Catholic Church in Cankton, LA for James "Jimmy" "Chico" Fruge, age 60, who passed away peacefully at his residence on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, in Lafayette, LA.

Father Ken Domingue of St. John Berchmans Catholic Church will officiate.

Repass will be held on Monday, December 5, 2022, directly after the service at Cankton Town Hall in Cankton, LA.

James "Jimmy" Fruge, also known as "Chico" was born to Mary Sonnier Fruge on November 14, 1962, in Lafayette, LA and he was a lifelong resident of Acadiana. At a young age, Jimmy was fostered by Viva and Tom Perriou of Parks, LA. From the time of his youth, he felt called to the priesthood, so Viva and Tom saw to it that he was enrolled at the Immaculata Minor Seminary in Lafayette, LA. Once he graduated from Teurlings High School and Immaculata Seminary, he attended St. Joseph Seminary College in Saint Benedict, LA near Covington, LA. Jimmy was a member of the Benedictine community as a Benedictine Monk taking the name "Brother Ephrem" for six years.

After he left the Benedictine Monastery, he joined the United States Marine Corps, later joining the United States Army, then Jimmy went on to work for Schlumberger in California. He was an Educator at Teurlings High School for year too. His final place of employment was at Moncla Oil Productions. Wherever he worked or served James developed life-long friends and close contacts.

Jimmy “Chico” loved to travel and visited over 30 countries in his lifetime. He worked as a missionary in his teen and young adult life. Jimmy was fiercely independent, but always made time for friends and family. He was an avid reader, and spoke fluent English, Spanish, as well as Creole-French. Jimmy loved Native American anthropology and artifacts, digging and finding Native American pottery and artifacts. Jimmy enjoyed watching the History Channel as well as cooking for his battalion during holidays when he was in the military.

His nine-month battle with pancreatic cancer is over. He always said, “I’m not afraid to die. I’ve lived a life few could dream of living”. His faith was strong and he was at peace with God. Jimmy breathed his last on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 8:43 am. We pray that he is in The Lord’s Heavenly Home where there is no more pain, or suffering, and the Lord has wiped the tears from his eyes.

Work hard, pray harder, and practice what you preach were his mottos. He believed in God and loved the Catholic faith. James believed in helping others. He could be brutally honest, empathic, and always said what was on his mind. Jimmy was loyal and protective of friends and family.

Jimmy is survived by his siblings, Audrey Thomas and Bobby Fruge; his foster siblings, Tina Periou Bulliard and Thomas L. Periou; along with a host of dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Sonnier Fruge and R. Fruge; his siblings, Jerry Fruge and JoAnna Fruge; as well as his foster sister, Gayle Periou Sheuermann.

The family wishes to offer a heartfelt thank you to Tina and Bob Periou; Jimmy's friend for over 40 years and fellow seminarian, Father Ken Domingue; Joe Chappelle, Chelsey John, Andrew, Chad, and all of the Moncla company family and coworkers; Yvette Francis; Catherine Johnson; Acadiana Cares; YDM Management; as well as Hospice of Acadiana for the care and compassion they offered Jimmy and his family during his time of need.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in memory of James "Jimmy" "Chico" Fruge to local charities such as Covenant House, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Gideon Bible Society, or homeless shelters.

Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory, 206 W. Lafayette St., Maurice, LA 70555, (337) 740-3123, is in charge of Cremation arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John Berchmans Catholic Church
552 Main Street
Cankton, LA 70584

Repass

DEC 5. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Cankton Town Hall
107 Danduran Street
Cankton, LA 70584

Tribute Wall



“ *Rest in peace, my friend.*

Albert Terrillion - December 21, 2022 at 04:43 PM

DS

“ *Mr Frugé was a great teacher. He took his job very seriously; I know he was a role model for many kids. He was extremely spiritual, and was the perfect person to teach religion in a Catholic school. He was way too young to be taken from us.*

Dennis Skains - December 05, 2022 at 04:32 PM

TB

“ *Jimmy is forever my brother and always in my heart. I cherish his kindness and devotion to my parents. He made our trips to foreign countries both educational and fun.
A demain, Jimmy.*

Tina Periou Bulliard - December 04, 2022 at 08:31 PM

DS

“ *Mr. Fruge was one of the most memorable teachers at Teurlings. He was loved and very well respected. He was so influential, and his love for God was so profound. We learned so much from him spiritually and academically. He held high expectations for his students and had faith that we would reach them. He was one of a kind, and we are so blessed to have known him. His obituary is a beautiful tribute to his service to his country and to others. Rest In Peace, Mr. Fruge.*

Dawn Bearb Stutes - December 02, 2022 at 08:22 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" "Chico" Fruge.*



December 02, 2022 at 08:18 PM



“ *I knew Jimmy as James at Teurlings Catholic High; we just called him Fruge'. Intelligent and likeable, good sense of humor. Lost track of him after he left Teurlings and would run into him from time to time, enough for a quick hello. What an impressive life and a great loss for those who were close to him. Condolences to all who are most affected by this loss.*

Phillip Parker - December 02, 2022 at 03:58 PM



“ *James was my son's uncle. He was a good human being who was very loved by his family. Prayer to Bobby, Audrey and the rest of the family. May God bless all of his family and friends during this trying time.*

Jamillah R. - December 02, 2022 at 12:32 PM



“ *I was stationed with Jimmy in El Paso and Yuma. He always enjoyed being around friends and talked about family and Lafayette often. We lost connection after the military but I will miss his sense of humor and laughter. I was lucky to call Jimmy a friend! Lyle Price*

Lyle Price - December 02, 2022 at 10:57 AM

DN

“ My husband and I were stationed in Yuma with Jim and he loved to come over and be with us and our daughters. He loved to cook and we enjoyed eating it. He holds a very special place in our heart.
Diana & Brian Nelson

Diana Nelson - December 01, 2022 at 10:02 PM

JS

“ I knew Jimmy from Schlumberger in Bakersfield, CA. as we were co-workers in the lab. As staunch and hard working he was as an employee, he was equally devoted to his family and friends. He often spoke at length about his family - his home in Louisiana. Jimmy left an indelible impact on everyone who had ever met him - he will be missed. Safe travels to you my friend.

Jarred Sheppard - December 01, 2022 at 09:50 PM

EF

“ Great memories of life at the Abbey, my deepest sympathies and prayers

Rest in Peace Jimmy

Edward Fremin

Edward Fremin - December 01, 2022 at 03:56 PM

BO

“ Jimmy “Chico” Fruge was a wonderful mentor during my college years. He was a great director of our boys camp at camp abbey. I'll remember him with gratitude.

Billy O'Regan - November 30, 2022 at 06:01 PM

AC

“ I knew Jimmy through the Periou family. Jimmy was a sweet, kind soul. I always found him to be just a peaceful gentle man. I wish his family peace and know he is rejoycing in heaven.

Anne Crownover - November 30, 2022 at 05:35 PM

FO

“ So sorry to hear of this. James always had such a fulsome laugh. There was much to admire. FROM: Fr. Timothy, O.S.B., St. Joseph Abbey.

Fr. Timothy, O.S.B. - November 30, 2022 at 11:49 AM