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Rev. Father Elias Katras

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Father Elias Katras, of Hopewell Township, formerly of Ambridge, died April 25, 2011, in the Beaver Heritage Valley Hospital, surrounded by his family and loved ones.

Born October 26, 1951, in Campbell, OH, Father Elias was the son of the late John and Sevasti Katras. His family moved to Tarpon Springs, FL, where he grew up and completed his high school. During his high school years, Father Elias felt a "calling" to serve the Lord. After completing high school, he went to Thessaloniki, Greece, to study at the University Of Thessaloniki School Of Theology. He completed his Masters in Theology, in 1973, and returned to Tarpon Springs, FL, where he served as youth director until 1975, when he married Panagiota, his presvitera of 36 years. Father Elias served parishes as an assistant priest in Astoria, N.Y, and Charlotte, NC. He also served as main priest in Tulsa, OK. In 1981, Father Elias came to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, in Ambridge, PA, where he served his beloved parish for 22 years as their priest, spiritual father, and friend. During his tenure there, he was instrumental in completing the interior Byzantine iconography of the Holy Trinity Church. Father Elias also served on the Spiritual Court of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh for 15 years.

After, he became ill in 2003, his beloved parishioners showed tremendous support and love for their spiritual father. Also, the Metropolis and all the parishes of diocese of Pittsburgh under the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos showed great support during these difficult times. Father Elias surely felt their blessed love and devotion.

Surviving is his beloved Presvitera of 36 years, Panagiota; his beloved sons,

John (Lindi), Demetrios (Izabela), and Stavros Katras; his loving granddaughter who he adored, Eliana; his beloved sister, Kalliopi (Mike) Zoides, Philadelphia, PA; his mother-in-law, Stavroula Nikolopoulos; his sister-in-law, Evagelia (Nikos) Alexopoulos; his nephew, Yiannis Alexopoulos; his niece, Yioryia, all of Greece; his nephew, Michael Zoides, of Philadelphia, PA; his uncle, Stavros Katsetos, Stamford, CT, and his extended families in Tarpon Springs, Florida and Connecticut.

Visiting hours will be on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 and Thursday April 28, 2011 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. both days.

Funeral will be on Friday April 29, 2011 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 11 a.m. (Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m.)

The family would like to thank his long time physician and friend Dr. Peter Manoloukas, of Wilmington, NC, his current physician Dr. Oliver, and the other doctors of the Tri-

state Medical Group, as well as the nursing staff for their support as well as the Practice of Drs. Sturm and Laracuenta.

In addition, the family would like to express gratitude to father Elias' past as well as current care givers, Michelle Dobson, Jennifer Varavette and Shannon Spencer for the wonderful care that they provided.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 2930 Beaver Road, Ambridge, PA 15003.

Trisagion service will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at the church.

If anyone wishes to send flowers, please have them sent to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

BOHN-MATICH FUNERAL HOME INC., 1099 Maplewood Ave., Ambridge, PA, is in charge of arrangements.