



## Erik C. Young

October 22, 1971 - March 13, 2025

Erik C. Young, age 53, of Kankakee passed away Thursday, March 13, 2025 at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. He was born October 22, 1971 in Kankakee, the son of Ovid & Laura (Rees) Young. Erik married Heather Bates on May 23, 1998 in Plano, TX.

Erik most recently worked as a Quality Technician for Federal Signal.

Erik Young was a faithful husband, a diligent father, a beloved brother, and a gracious friend. A gifted scholar, teacher, writer, and storyteller, he was a pastor, mentor, and chaplain who was a champion of labor, an advocate of the poor, a patient instructor, and a loving minister to the sick and suffering. Erik was a tireless voice against injustice and those who would make of Christianity a tool of power, oppression, or intolerance. He was a steadfast follower of Christ the Suffering Servant, an Orthodox Christian who lived and who taught through his life compassion, service, humility, generosity, and the spirit of patient seeking. He imitated the self-emptying love of Christ.

Erik was a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Kankakee.

Surviving are his wife of nearly 27 years, Heather Young of Kankakee; two sons, Quincy and Milo, both of Kankakee; one daughter, Adelaide of Kankakee; and one brother, Kirk of Dallas. Erik is preceded in death by his

parents.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025 at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Kankakee. Interment will follow at Mound Grove Gardens in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-6726

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 20.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

**MAR 21.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
296 N. Washington  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Chur

# Tribute Wall

RL

“ Please accept our sincere sympathies on Erik’s passing. I had gotten to know Erik through his place of work, and he was always kind, level headed, and very fair. He was smart and had common sense, which is sadly lacking these days. Above all, he showed love and compassion to his fellow man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Rob Lewis - March 20, 2025 at 11:34 AM

RD

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Erik when he, Heather and the children lived with his parents at One River Place in Bourbonnais upon their return from Canada. We stayed in touch via social media when I lived in CO and FL over the last 15 years. He kept me up to date on his parents and family. We talked often about our change of careers over the years and our love for the homeless in our community. Prayers for his entire family and loved ones. It was a blessing to know him and his entire family.

Ronda (Roni) Van Drunen - March 20, 2025 at 10:04 AM

MJ

My husband and I have been so saddened to learn of Erik’s passing. His mother, Laura, and I were cousins; but I seldom had opportunity to spend time with Erik or Kirk. I wish that had been different. Tom and I send our regret, sympathy and prayers to Kirk and the extended family who grieve Erik’s loss. I am sure that those of us in the family who were close in heart to Laura and Ovid are united in sending our love to Heather and the children.

Mary Sue Jackson - March 20, 2025 at 10:41 PM

KY

Thank you Mary Sue - it really is a tragic loss. Not just for family but for everyone he touched.

Kirk Young - April 06, 2025 at 02:59 PM

SM

“ Erik and I worked together at Bourbonnais Terrace what seems like yesterday, but was so many years ago. That started our friendship. I remember that he lived a few houses away from Heather, and one day he asked me if he should ask her out. I said absolutely! She'd be lucky to know you. Years later, my son was in the hospital and who walked through the door? Erik! I was immediately comforted just by his presence, his smile, humor and love was what the doctor ordered for both of us. Fast forward to 2023, weeks met up once again at a nursing facility, we hugged and said we need to catch up. I'm so thankful I saw him. He always acted like he was so happy to see me. Heather, Kirk, you and your precious family are in my prayers. He was a force, he will be missed  
Stephanie Meads

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**Stephanie Meads** - March 19, 2025 at 07:19 AM

MS

“ Erik was 2 when Marla and I moved to Bourbonnais and to our work at Olivet. The Youngs became fast friends, and we so enjoyed Kirk and Erik. Kirk, you have had major family losses in a short period of time, and we grieve with you at this way- too -early death of Erik. Trust Him today, Kirk, and you, along with all of his loved ones, “will find a solace there.”

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**Marla and Gary Streit** - March 18, 2025 at 09:51 PM

MR

“ I remember a certain time when Jim and I were visiting Ovid and Laura in Bourbonnais, and Erik, who couldn't have been more than 6 or 7, was to meet some of his friends who were going to play baseball. As we dropped him off at the field, the car door had barely swung open and, jumping out he cried, "Guys! I'm here!!" I'll never forget his joy and delight, as well as his supreme confidence that those friends really needed him! Now the game could begin! He lived his life that way--glad to be a part of the human family and ready to help anyone anywhere he could. Sincere condolences to the sweet family he has left behind. You'll see him again. Marcia Rees, Aunt

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**Marcia Rees** - March 18, 2025 at 04:05 PM

MB

“ I worked with Eric for a while in the Pastoral Care Department at St. Mary's Hospital. He as an open-minded and intelligent man with whom I was able to share many thoughts and insights. I have missed our conversations since he moved on from the hospital. He was a positive force in our community.  
-Max Brigham

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**Max S Brigham** - March 18, 2025 at 03:50 PM

DK

“ So saddened to hear of the loss of your brother. You probably remember that our parents were music faculty at Olivet while growing up in the 70's. I believe it was 1979, just after Debbie and I were married, your parents went on a weekend getaway to Toronto. They had us stay at your house and we took care of you and Erik. A very special memory. It's so awesome to hear how you guys grew up and the paths where life has taken you. Doug and Debbie Kranich

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**Doug Kranich** - March 18, 2025 at 09:09 AM

KY

*I DO remember when you came to stay with us*

Kirk Young - March 19, 2025 at 01:58 PM

AE

“*Heather I was so shocked to hear of your unimaginable loss. May God, who is able, meet all of your needs during this most difficult time and bring you and your children peace and comfort now and in the days to come.*

*I love you 💕💕 Alicia*

Alicia Ezell - March 18, 2025 at 05:07 AM

HE

*Thank you, dear friend.*

Heather - April 02, 2025 at 01:51 AM

JC

“*Erik was the essence of Christ-like love. A gentle spirit, wicked sense of humor, and above all else, a compassionate, caring man to all who ever was blessed to know him. My heart breaks for you, Heather. Peace and comfort.*

Jerry Cohagan - March 18, 2025 at 12:25 AM

F(

“*I am so thankful to have had Erik as a professor at Olivet. I am a better person as a result of knowing him. He will be dearly missed.*



Felicia Clark (Baer) - March 17, 2025 at 10:11 PM

KA

“ *Condolences to Kirk, Heather and family. The Young's were our neighbors. I used to babysit Erik. Kim Kronst Anderson and Anita Kronst*

Kim Anderson - March 17, 2025 at 05:02 PM

KY

*Thank you Kim*

Kirk Young - March 17, 2025 at 06:27 PM

KR

“ *We are so very sorry to hear the news. You both were like family to us for many years. Erik's open, honest heart and unrelenting kindness, even with the knowledge that humanity can often disappoint us, made him a true diamond in the rough.*



*He was my brother at heart, and I am incredibly broken up by his loss. Heather, I am so very, very sorry. You two were a perfectly matched pair, a beautiful example of a strong, unshakable marriage. It often drew other couples into your orbit to learn about the magic you two created so effortlessly.*

*Our hearts go out to you and the kids. You all were his life. And I know it was a life he loved dearly and a life he felt was well spent. I see pieces of him in each of your children. I hope they hold fast to his memory. May they also know that his greatest joy was loving each of them, the incredible family you both made with love.*

*May his name bring comfort, love, and the unique mixture of peace and laughter that only Erik could exude so easily.*

Kristi Ross - March 17, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MG

“ Heather, Quincy, Addie and Milo... my heart breaks for you all. Erik touched so many lives without leaving any space for doubt. I am so sorry. Gone too soon. Sending you all my love and prayers for strength, comfort and peace. 💜🙏🕯️

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**Marie Gilbert** - March 17, 2025 at 02:06 PM

JT

“ 1 file added to the album *So blessed*



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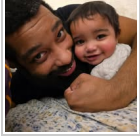
**Jean E Thomas** - March 17, 2025 at 12:41 PM

JT

*So blessed to have such a friend*

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**Jean Thomas** - March 17, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Please pray for the repose of the soul of Erik, and for the Holy Spirit to comfort his beautiful family. He taught the Bible study at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Kankakee, and was my Godfather when I was received into Orthodoxy. He will be missed.



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**Josiah McElroy Sr.** - March 17, 2025 at 12:38 PM