

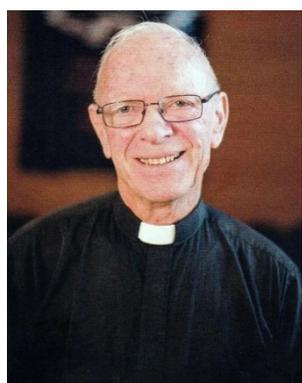
17 February 2026

## Fr Roy W. Thaden

22 January 1943 – 17 February 2026

*He was 83 years old, in his 84<sup>th</sup> year of life; in his 65<sup>th</sup> year in the Society; in his 53<sup>rd</sup> year of Priesthood; and in his 49<sup>th</sup> year of Final Vows.*

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| <i>Ort.</i> .....22 January 1943                                       | <i>Ord.</i> .....29 June 1973                              | <i>Transcribed</i> ..... ORE -> ZAM 8 September 1977                             |
| <i>Loc. Nat.</i> .....Tacoma, WA, USA                                  | <i>Loc. Ord.</i> .....St James Cathedral, Seattle, WA, USA | <i>Defunc.</i> .....17 February 2026   |
| <i>Ingr.</i> ..... 7 September 1961                                    | <i>Tertiaship</i> ..... Spokane, WA, USA                   | <i>Loc. Defunc.</i> .....Los Gatos, CA, USA                                      |
| <i>Loc. Ingr</i> ..... St. Francis Xavier Novitiate, Sheridan, OR, USA | <i>Grad.</i> .....Professed of 4 Vows                      | <i>Date of Funeral</i> .....27 February 2026                                     |
| <i>Mag</i> .....Kabwe, Zambia  | <i>Dies.</i> ..... 8 September 1977                        | <i>Place of Funeral</i> :... Chapel at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center, Los Gatos, CA |
| <i>Stud.</i> ....JST, Berkeley, CA, USA; Gonzaga U, WA, USA            | <i>Loc. Grad.</i> ..... Luwisha House, Lusaka, Zambia      | <i>Place of Burial:</i> .....Mt. St. Michael's Cemetery, Spokane, WA, USA        |
|  |  | <i>Prov.</i> .....SAP  |



Fr. Roy W. Thaden, SJ died peacefully on Tuesday, 17 February 2026, at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California, after an extended illness. He was 83 years old and had been a Jesuit for 64 years.

Roy was born on 22 January 1943 in Tacoma, Washington. After graduating from high school, he entered the Society of Jesus on 7 September 1961 in Sheridan, Oregon. He was ordained a priest on 29 June 1973 at St. James Cathedral in Seattle, Washington. Following ordination he completed tertianship in Spokane, Washington. Earlier in formation he had done regency in Kabwe, Zambia (1968–1970) and a year of language studies in Malawi, as well as theological studies in Berkeley, California, and graduate work at Gonzaga University. He pronounced his final vows on 8 September 1977 at the chapel of Luwisha House in Lusaka, Zambia.

After his studies he returned to Zambia, where he would serve for more than four decades as a member of the former Zambia–Malawi Province. He was widely known for his zeal, generosity, and readiness to help wherever needed. His ministries were varied and influential: he was the first chaplain at the University of Zambia and was instrumental in building the interdenominational Christian Centre on campus; he served as vocation promoter (and later director of vocations), novice master at Xavier House in Lusaka (1996–2007), superior of several communities including Luwisha House, English teacher, spiritual director, retreat director, and formation workshop facilitator. He also worked in communications apostolates, producing Catholic radio and television programs and serving as Deputy Director of Loyola Productions. In later years he again served as superior and chaplain at the University of Zambia. Those who knew him remember both his energetic apostolic spirit and his deep commitment to prayer, reflection, and community life.

In 2019, already in fragile health, he returned to the United States and moved to Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, where he continued a quiet ministry of prayer for the Society and the Church until his death.

Fr. Thaden was predeceased by his brothers Robert, Lawrence, and James. He is survived by his sister, Sr. Elaine Thaden, OSF, and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends and Jesuit companions throughout the world. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

