

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson

October 30, 1934 - January 20, 2024

JACKSON, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph. January 20, 2024. Age 89. Devoted priest serving the Archdiocese of Detroit for more than 60 years. Beloved son of the late Richard and Geraldine Jackson (nee: McCann). Loving brother of Terry Jackson (Mary Anne), Brian Jackson (Dorothy), James Jackson (Melanie), Geraldine Deighton (Richard), the late Richard Jackson, the late John Jackson and the late Fr. Patrick Jackson. Also predeceased by his nephew Mark Jackson and survived by 91 nieces and nephews. Fr. Larry grew up in St. Clair Shores and attended school at St. Gertrude. He went on to study at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, and the University of Detroit. He was ordained a priest on June 4, 1960 and served at St. Gabriel in Detroit, St. Peter in Mt. Clemens, and St. Dennis in Royal Oak. In 1975 he became the founding pastor of St. Michael in Sterling Heights, where he would shepherd his flock until retirement in 2004. Fr. Larry was kind, gracious, and humble. He fought for the rights of the underprivileged and was a friend to everyone regardless of their background. He was honored to participate in the march in Selma, Alabama in 1965. He spent many "happy hours" at the Ave Maria Club on Russell Island; he enjoyed sharing his favorite spot with many friends and his large family. Fr. Larry will lie in repose at the altar of St. Michael Catholic Church, 40501 Hayes (N. of 17 Mile Rd.) from 3-9pm with a 7pm prayers on Tuesday and again on Wednesday morning from 10am until the time of 11am Mass of Resurrection. Private interment will take place in St. Gertrude Cemetery, St.

Clair Shores. Memorial contributions to any charity of choice are appreciated.
Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at
WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 23. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
40501 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Prayers

JAN 23. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
40501 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Instate / Funeral Mass

JAN 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
40501 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *Father Jackson was at St Peter, in Mt Clemens, when I was in school. I still remember what a kind man he was. We were blessed to have him. May he now enjoy his reward in heaven with the Lord he served so faithfully.*

Donna Atkins - January 29, 2024 at 07:56 PM

CS

“ *I remember Fr Jackson when he first started seminary school. I was just 8 years old. He came from a very loving family. Our family and theirs lived on Euclid in St Clair Shores. In fact his sister Geraldine used to be our babysitter. His brother Jimmy was our paperboy! Im so very sorry for the Jackson family loss! May Fr Larry rest in peace! My condolences to his family!*

craig Spinozzi - January 28, 2024 at 12:09 PM

LA

“ *Larry is the priest we all thought was the ideal.*

Larry - January 27, 2024 at 12:02 PM

DP

“ *As a founding member of St. Michael Catholic Community, We are sorry to hear of Father Jackson's passing. He was a devout priest who always had a warm welcome and smile on his face. He baptized both our children. God has welcomed you with open arms!*

Daniel M Petkoff - January 26, 2024 at 06:18 PM

HW

“ A calming force in a hectic world. A real down to earth advisor...he helped me to raise my my children in a christian manner. May his soul rest in eternal grace

Herbert Wright - January 25, 2024 at 09:48 AM

MS

“ Father Larry Jackson was a wonderful priest. I remember helping him paint his room at St. Peter's Rectory. The pastor as I remember would not have his room painted, so Fr. Jackson asked me to help him. He was very supportive of me in my journey to enter the seminary. When I did not continue my journey to the seminary, he was still a very caring priest. He gave my wife and I our pre marriage classes. And respected my view of allowing any of my children choose whether or not they would be baptized. He joined us In marriage on the banks of the Clinton River. He was a kind and just person who believed in equal rights for all.

Michael Schichtel - January 24, 2024 at 11:03 PM

B(

“ I'm so saddened to hear of Fr. Larry's passing. I've been out of touch with him and St. Michael's for a long time, but carry the lessons he taught and memories of my time there with me everywhere I am. Fr. Larry was the kindest person I think I've ever known. He led by the examples of acceptance and love of others. I'll be forever thankful for his encouragement and the opportunities he gave me as liturgical coordinator and contemporary choir director. His joy of living was contagious. I'll remember him for the wonderful staff retreats at the cottage, the St. Patrick's Day parties where he led the singing and never left the piano's side. There are many other memories too numerous to count and for which I will remember him. Fr. Larry, know you will always be loved. May you rest in peace.

Barbara Berger (Carbary) - January 24, 2024 at 03:39 PM

NL

“ I was blessed to have known father Larry for all of my 40 years on this earth. From seeing him weekly at church on Sundays to summer days spent at my favorite place growing up (the cottage), he was such a huge part of my childhood memories that I will cherish forever. Father Larry was such an amazing person and priest who had such an impact in molding my own faith in God to what it is today. He will forever be remember and missed!

Nicole Lively

Nicole (Pratt) Lively - January 24, 2024 at 09:31 AM

KP

“ Blessed to meet Father Larry at St. Michael's. I participated in RCIA and he baptized me as an adult in 2000 in front of my family and friends. He always was very welcoming and a joy to be around. He will be very missed. Prayers for this loss for his family and friends.
Karen Pelc

Karen Pelc - January 24, 2024 at 09:15 AM

LS

“ Our family joined Father Larry in pioneering St Michael's Parish. He presided over my Graduation Mass, my sister's wedding and baptized several of my nieces and nephews. And we looked forward to his appearance every year at our St Patrick's Day parties!! Although he was away for my Father's funeral and was retired for my mother's funeral, we knew he was there in spirit. He will always be remembered by our family as he was the true example of what a Catholic priest should be. Enjoy your reward in heaven Father Larry and thank you for the blessing you were to all of us! Laura Sylvain

Laura Sylvain - January 23, 2024 at 08:01 PM

LB

“ Although I have not been in touch with Father Larry since his retirement from St. Michael's, he has always remained in my thoughts and prayers. He will be remembered as a kind, gentle and loving pastor. Rest in peace.

Lucille Burkey

Lucille Burkey - January 23, 2024 at 06:11 PM

KH

“ Thank you, father Larry, for all the wonderful masses on Russell Island! When you said come as you are, you really meant it! Our kids came right off the swim dock! Rest in peace. Kim, Emil Holka and family

Kim and Emil Holka - January 23, 2024 at 05:56 PM

SL

“ Father Larry was always a jolly good fella..Father to so many..I'm grateful to have known him and fond memories..a servant of God who did his job as shepherd of God so very very well..he'll be missed by so many yet we know we now have another advocate to pray for us and with us

Sally Ieroy - January 23, 2024 at 05:49 PM

MB

“ Enjoyed having him as our parish priest at St. Michael's church - he was wonderful to work with - prayers for his family - the Michael Bommarito family

Mary Bommarito - January 23, 2024 at 04:39 PM

MW

“ I got to know Fr. Larry when I attended my high school lunches at Apple Annies. I graduated with his brother Jim. May he rest in peace and may God give comfort to his family. Michele Wirsing

Michele Wirsing - January 23, 2024 at 04:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson.



January 23, 2024 at 01:27 PM

EF

“ Elva, Scott, Sean McCann, and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson.

Elva, Scott, Sean McCann, and families - January 23, 2024 at 01:27 PM

JM

“ Pat and I are so sorry to hear of Father Larry's passing. We were members of St. Mike's for 16 years and he presided in the communion and confirmation of our daughters Shelley and Janell. His brother Brian and Dorothy lived around the block and we had many get togethers where we enjoyed singing around the piano. He served the Lord with passion and love and will be greatly missed by many. Our condolences to the Jackson family.

Joseph A. Marino - January 23, 2024 at 01:24 PM

BF

Fr Jackson was a wonderful Priest. He baptized some of our children in our home. A loving man who treated everyone with kindness and respect. Loved going to the Island for the annual parish council get togethers. We will all miss his smile, humor and positive attitude.

Bob Forbes - January 27, 2024 at 12:07 AM


DV

“ *So sorry to hear of Fr. Jackson’s passing. I was a student at St. Mary’s in Mt. Clemens, while he was at St Peter’s. Fr. Jackson was such a down to earth priest and really related to the students. He always encouraged us to fight for our beliefs, especially when St. Mary’s was closing and the students picketed in front of the rectory. I know he will be missed by many people, especially his family and friends. My condolences to all.*

*Debbie Moore VanHorn
Mt. Clemens*

Debbie Moore VanHorn - January 23, 2024 at 12:38 PM

JM

“ *Our family was blessed to know Fr. Larry through both St. Michael and him growing up with Bud Grattan and Molly McGraw. Many happy memories. *

Julie and Patrick McGraw - January 23, 2024 at 11:26 AM

AM

“ *Fr. Larry baptized both of my children on Russell Island! He was a wonderful man and he will be missed!*

Angela Munroe - January 23, 2024 at 09:15 AM

PA

“ went to school with all the Jackson family at ST, Gertrude

PatvFITZGERALD - January 23, 2024 at 09:00 AM

MM

“ Ah so many, many memories at St. Michael with Fr. Larry. Ty and I joined the parish before the building existed. I remember attending mass at Wyandot Middle School and at the PIME Missionary Chapel. Our children received First Communion and Confirmation at St. Mike with Fr. Larry. Ty and I found it such a privilege to be asked by Fr. Larry to be Mass Lecters; Ty to perform with others in the annual reading of the Passion. How our family enjoyed decorating the church for Christmas. All done under the kind, supportive quiet guidance of Fr. Larry. We always looked forward to Fr. Larry inviting St Mike volunteers every year to a pot luck picnic at Ave Maria on Russell Island. And oh we cannot forget St. Patrick Day get togethers with singing and music. Who will ever be able to take Fr. Larry 's place leading us in singing a boy scout camp song: “Vas ist das here?” or the chicken dance? My personal image of Fr. Larry entering heaven this week is of a surprised group of choir angels hearing Fr. Larry, Fr. Pat, Fr. Dave, Mark, and Ty harmonizing some Irish ballad... As only they were able to do it! God speed Fr. Larry! We will all miss you!

Mary Mittelstaedt - January 23, 2024 at 02:38 AM

NM

“ I did not know Father Larry personally; but as St. Mark wrote, “By his fruits ye shall know him.”

One of Father Larry’s nephews is a very good friend of mine. My friend had a very traumatic and dark childhood and young adulthood. Through out it all, his uncle, Father Larry, did not abandon him to his self-destructive behavior. So my friend always knew that Father Larry stood beside him and that no matter what, wanted and expected the best for him and from him. With that love and nonjudgemental support my friend has grown to be a successful caring adult in our community.

Neil McEachern

Neil McEachern - January 22, 2024 at 10:52 PM

LS

“ I had the privilege of working for Fr. Larry for 26 years as Bulletin editor and Religious Education Secretary. He married us, Baptized my two children, gave them first Communion & Confirmation. I will forever hold those memories in my heart. May you rest in peace and may GOD hold you in the palm of his hands You will truly be missed. lynda sills

Lynda Sills - January 22, 2024 at 09:13 PM

AH

“ I am sorry, it’s Anne, I met to say the McNamee, not McCann’s—
God Bless

Anne Carney Hamrick - January 22, 2024 at 08:53 PM

AH

“ My name is Anne Carney Hamrick, John’s sister—I met Father Larry for the first time in Canada when I was a young girl—he said mass and then we had a great get together with his family and the McCann’s—he was so kind and so personable with everyone. I know he will be terribly missed 🙏

Anne Carney Hamrick - January 22, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson.



January 22, 2024 at 08:39 PM

KS

“ I was probably 10 or so when he came to St. Gabriels and my mom and dad were very involved with the school and church. he was very good with our family and his faith he got my older brother on the right path in life ..I know he will b sadly missed may he have a joyful life with his family in heaven

Karen Scharf Saunders - January 22, 2024 at 08:00 PM

BL

“ Father Lawrence Jackson was a blessing to the Jackson family and mutual love shared by all. I did not know him but the love this family shares by his family is very touching to me. God bless the Jackson family-Barb LeClaire ❤️

Barbara LeClaire - January 22, 2024 at 03:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson.



January 22, 2024 at 03:32 PM



“ DC O'reilly lit a candle in memory of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson



DC O'reilly - January 22, 2024 at 02:42 PM



Chris and Family, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved uncle, you always spoke so highly of him. Love and Prayers....Dom

DC O'reilly - January 22, 2024 at 02:43 PM



“ Fr. Larry was a great friend. He was one of the finest priests we have ever known. His Masses on Russell Island were one of the nicest parts of the summer. He will truly be missed. Who will we enjoy a Manhattan with after Mass now?
Dan and Diane Stock

Dan and Diane Stock - January 22, 2024 at 02:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph Jackson.



January 22, 2024 at 02:21 PM



“ *Fr Larry was a very engaging man and just a delight to be around. I am very honored to have been his cousin and will remember the times we spent at the McCann reunions and Fr Larry leading all of us in a variety of Irish songs. My very sincere condolences to the entire Jackson family.*

John Carney - January 22, 2024 at 02:08 PM