

Fr. Edward J. Prus

May 15, 1929 - March 11, 2023

Rev. Fr. Edward J. Prus, a beloved Catholic priest, passed away on March 11, 2023, at the age of 93. He was born on May 15, 1929, in River Rouge, Michigan, to the late Stanley and Mary. He was preceded in death by his sister, Stasia. Nephew of the late Mary Jankowski, cousin of the late Leonard (the late Pat) Bloch, Pat Brown, the late Mary Ann Maki and Jerry Bloch.

Fr. Prus was baptized at St. John Cantius in Detroit on May 29, 1929, and received his First Communion and Confirmation at Our Lady of Lourdes, River Rouge. He graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes in June of 1947, after which he worked at All Metal Product's Toy Factory and Detroit Edison Co. construction. In 1951, he was drafted into the United States Army and proudly served his country while stationed in Verdun, France.

After his discharge from the Army, Fr. Prus attended and graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary and later St. John's Provincial Seminary. On June 3, 1961, he was ordained a Catholic Priest at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral by Archbishop John F. Dearden.

Fr. Prus served at various assignments throughout his priesthood. He served as an associate Pastor at St. Philip Neri, Detroit and as a Spiritual Director, English Teacher, and Religion Teacher at Cardinal Mooney High School Seminary. From the mid to late 1960s, he served as a weekend associate at

St. Cyprian Parish, Riverview. At the same time, he was an associate at the National Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak after being assigned in 1961. From 1972 to 1987, he served as the Pastor at the National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak. Fr. Prus then served in the Detroit mission in Recife, Brazil, Nossa Senhora de Lourdes Parish with Fr. Robert K. Singelyn and Fr. Harry Sikorsi until 1991. After returning from Brazil, he served as Pastor of St. Raphael Parish, Garden City until 1999 when he was granted senior priest status.

Fr. Prus resided at St. James Parish, Ferndale assisting at many parishes in the Archdiocese and ministering to the people of God until his death.

Some years before his passing Fr. Prus put a piece of paper in his typewriter and typed a note for this day. In true Fr. Prus fashion, it reads:

"I've enjoyed all of my assignments as a priest and I'm grateful to God for my whole life. I've been blessed with a great family and appreciation for family values. I'm grateful to my parents and family for the gift of my Faith in God.

God has called me to do things that I never thought I could do. I've had the opportunity to be a parish priest and be blessed by the faith life of the people I was sent to minister to. I had the opportunity to be a teacher and learn from the students I was sent to teach. I've been involved in the formation of seminarians and young men preparing for the priesthood and diaconate, and came away inspired by their dedication and determination. I've had the opportunity to serve God's people in another country and grown to appreciate another culture and my own. I've had the chance to be a Pastor, and learn from the people of God how to pastor God's people.

I think that the archbishop appoints us to be pastors, but it is the people we serve who make us pastors. They challenge us to minister to their needs.

I thank God for all the wonderful priests that I've had the opportunity to serve with; Msgr. Glemet, Our Lady of Lourdes; Fr. Howard Hungerfor, St. Patrick, Carleton; Fr. Jim Hayes, Pastor of Shrine; Fr. Charles Ulenberg, St. Philip Neri. These Pastors were powerful examples of pastoring priests.

Wherever I've been I've been blessed by the people of God who have been God's hand shaping my priesthood and blessing me.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to your home parish for their needs, or to the IHM Sisters, or the Felician Sisters."

Fr. Prus' family, friends and fellow Clergy will gather to pay their respects at Our Mother of Perpetual Help -St. James Church 241 Pearson St., Ferndale, Michigan on Wednesday, March 15th, from 2-9 p.m., with a 5 p.m. Rosary and a 7 p.m. Vigil Service. The Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, March 16th, with instate at 9 a.m. until the time of Mass at 11 a.m. at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 Twelve Mile Rd., Royal Oak, Michigan. Interment will take place at St. Patrick Cemetery in Carleton, Michigan.

Fr. Edward J. Prus was a faithful servant of God and a beloved member of the Catholic community. He will be missed by so many.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. May Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery

Carleton, MI 48117

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Ferndale
241 Pearson
Ferndale, MI 48220

Rosary

MAR 15. 5:00 PM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Ferndale
241 Pearson
Ferndale, MI 48220

Vigil Service

MAR 15. 7:00 PM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Ferndale
241 Pearson
Ferndale, MI 48220

Visitation

MAR **16.** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Funeral Mass

MAR **16.** 11:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall

RM

“ He gave the best hugs. Walking out after mass, him standing at the door greeting everyone with an embrace. Standing in the envelope of his robed arms was true peace and safety.

RMLong - July 18, 2024 at 06:40 PM

JM

“ Father Prus was the most Christ-like human being I ever knew. We were blessed to have known him. Thank you for leaving us with words to remember you forever.

Jean Maki - March 29, 2023 at 03:31 PM

MM

“ Jesus on Earth. There are no words that can accurately describe the incredible kindness and intense spirituality of this man. He meant so much to me and to our family for the last 50 years, as a priest and a dear friend. May he rest in peace with God, whom he served so beautifully while he was with us.

Michael Murphy MD - March 23, 2023 at 02:09 AM

SI

“ It wasn't just what Father said, it was the beautiful sound of his voice also. His influence on me, my siblings and my parents was simply wonderful. I visited him after a mass at St. James with bagels once. We went into the rectory kitchen and ate them with tea...for 90 minutes. What an experience that was! Thanks Father and bless you.

steve isbell - March 18, 2023 at 02:54 PM

MM

Jesus on Earth. There are no words that can accurately describe the incredible kindness and intense spirituality of this man. He meant so much to me and to our family for the last 50 years, as a priest and a dear friend. May he rest in peace with God, whom he served so beautifully while he was with us.

Michael Murphy MD - March 23, 2023 at 02:08 AM

CS

Fr Ed was a dear family member. Our family spent many Polish Christmas Eve (Wigilia) celebrations with him at my Grandma's home. He concelebrated my wedding. Truly a man of God. He had a huge heart and ALWAYS saw the good people. Heaven truly gained an angel.

Cathy Sokoloski - April 26, 2023 at 08:34 PM



I have never enjoyed a mass as much as my family did when he was at St. Raphael. He was like Jesus reincarnated. Much loved by the Garden City Parish and by others. A truly Godly man

Judy Dwyer - August 26, 2024 at 04:53 PM

SK

“ When I was in Shrine Grade School, during a children’s Christmas Mass, Fr. Prus entered the church as E. T. He explained that we should all use our heart light to share God’s love to the world. And to be Christ’s light in the world. I will never forget that or his radiant smile and loving spirit.

Shelly Kuhn - March 18, 2023 at 08:27 AM

CN

“ *My Dear Fr. Prus, You continued to teach us, as you made this final journey. Thank you for allowing us to be with you in spirit, as you made your way. I thank God for you being in my live . Many people call you a living Saint, because of your humble ways of teaching us our faith. Rest in Peace, my dear friend.*



Cecilia Nesbitt - March 15, 2023 at 07:12 PM

JC

“ *Our dear friend is never going to be forgotten. He brought the kind of man he was to being the best priest that he was. We treasure our private times with him....always immediately hearing from him after sending him cards and never knowing when he would pop into our home next and always with sausage or bread, but never empty handed. He was brave and loving and the world is better because he was in it because no one wouldn't want to emulate his ways. The Cross Family*

Joanne Cross - March 15, 2023 at 05:30 PM

JW

“ Like many have said Fr. Prus was an extraordinary man, both to me and my family. He was a true to life saint. As the leader of our Shrine flock , he guided us through our dark times like only he could but in better days also shared with us the wonders and goodness of life. I can't think of a better model of how to live as a human. The world is a better place because of him. God's speed on your new journey, you will remain in our hearts forever.

P.S. In 1974 ,Mike Murphy, bobaloui and I were hitch hiking to K'zoo for weekend at Western visiting my brother and our first ride out the Shrine Parking lot was Fr. Prus. No fatherly lectures only shared excitement from a fellow traveler.□

*Jeff Walker
(S.H.S."75")*

Jeff Walker - March 15, 2023 at 11:33 AM

DO

“ Father Ed was one of the best priests I've ever met. He always knew how to speak the word of God to make us feel God's love for us. Such an inspiration. He gave both of my girls their first communion at St Raphael. May he rest in heavenly peace 🙏

Donna - March 15, 2023 at 11:09 AM

MG

“ The world was a much better place with Fr. Ed in it! His infectious smile lit up a room. We have many fond memories to cherish.

Marilyn and Butch Glanert - March 15, 2023 at 10:19 AM

PF

I never knew Fr. Prus, but this picture made me think of him in connection with St. Philip Neri--whose was known for his great sense of humor. I ask Fr. Prus to pray for me...and accept sincere sympathy to all who knew and loved him.

PATRICIA F. FOLEY - March 16, 2023 at 02:44 PM

GM

“ *Loving and Caring, A true Shepherd of Gods people*

Gerry Mato - March 15, 2023 at 10:05 AM

JC

“ *I will be forever grateful to Fr.Prus for guiding me though a new chapter of my life. He was one of those special priests you don't forget. Peace to him and all who mourn.*

Judy C. - March 15, 2023 at 10:01 AM

KG

“ *I have fond and lasting memories of Fr. Prus as a kid attending Shrine Elementary School and serving for his masses. But my fondest memory is when he presided over, and delivered the eulogy of my father's funeral mass a few years ago. What a sharp memory he had.*

Fr. Prus was such a great man, he'll be remembered for generations to come. Rest In Peace at Gods side Fr. Prus, you deserve it, and Thank You for being part of my life.

Kevin Gervais - March 15, 2023 at 08:24 AM

AC

“ We truly were blessed to have Fr. Prus in our lives. He and my father shared a long friendship, filled with faith, love and respect. He baptized and married many of my family members, shared many meals with us, prayed with us, laughed and joked with us. We are better people because of him. Although we will miss him, we are confident that he will be watching over us.



Amy Campbell - March 15, 2023 at 08:05 AM



“ When we leave this earth the love that we’ve given and received remains behind to light the lives of all whom we’ve touched. Each memory is a candle burning bright.
Shine on in our hearts and minds Fr. Prus. You are loved beyond the bonds of this earth.
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

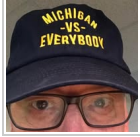
Suzanne Fisher - March 15, 2023 at 01:04 AM

AN

“ Enjoy this wonderful conversation Fr. Prus had in which he shares stories of his early life, his call to the priesthood, and his life as a priest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqMw0axuQLE>

Anonymous - March 14, 2023 at 11:27 PM



“ *Father Prus was a very young priest at St. Philip Neri in Detroit when my parents first married back in 1953 and they just adored him. Over the years we were fortunate to meet him and quickly realized how special he was. I'm certain he is basking in the Glory of Heaven now.*

David Weaver - March 14, 2023 at 06:46 PM

JC

“ *We were all blessed to have him as a friend. Such a kind soul. He is now with his best friend Dr. Bruce Bauer. Bruce and Prus on the loose!*



Jerry Campbell - March 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM

JM

“ *Father Prus bought my Christmas tree from the Shrine lot for me when money was particularly tight and I didn't share my financial troubles with him at all! His saintly charism and giving heart we should model in everything we say and do. May God grant him rest.*
- James Mio, Principal Shrine Catholic Academy

James Mio - March 14, 2023 at 02:43 PM

MT

“ *I am grateful for the example of priesthood Father Prus gave to me and to so many. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.*

Msgr. Daniel Trapp - March 14, 2023 at 09:46 AM

CH

“ *Father Prus, You gave so many of us faith and it is the best gift ever. By giving us faith, you lost nothing and we gained everything. Your positive attitude changed everything. It's funny how when we enter this world we come in crying while the world rejoices and when we leave this world it is just the opposite. While you are rejoicing we are crying. Thank you for being an OUTSTANDING human being. In release.....We begin!!*

claudia Klemet Halpin - March 13, 2023 at 09:38 PM

DH

“ *I had Fr. Prus as a teacher at Cardinal Mooney high school seminary. He was always positive and upbeat. You always felt better when he was around. As a pastor he responded very quickly at times of emergency. Doing so I am sure was a sign of God's presence in difficult moments. I wonder if that immediate response did not come from his time in the army. God uses all things in our lives to make us what He wants to be. Thanks be to God for Fr. Prus' love in action to so many people. May the Lord show him mercy and grant him eternal life.*

Dcn. Gerry Holowicki - March 13, 2023 at 08:43 AM