



Rev. John A. Blaska

January 6, 1927 - February 26, 2018

Rev. John A. Blaska

Age 91, of Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Entered Eternal Life on February 26, 2018.

Fr. John was a well-read person in theology, scripture, counseling, and social work. A deep love for the Church as the Body of Christ, and love for the Church as he preached the Gospel. He will always be remembered for reminding people "You are the Church!, we are not simply spectators, but you are hearers, and doers of the word! You have a vocation and a ministry which you acquired at baptism!"

Entered Into Life on January 6, 1927 in Detroit, Michigan to the late John and Elizabeth (nee Kengel) Blaska. Ordained on June 6, 1953 in Detroit, Michigan.

Attended St. Alphonsus Catholic School in Dearborn before going on to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, and St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth. Following his ordination, Fr. John's first assignment was at St. Mary of Redford, Detroit, then on to Our Lady of the Rosary, Detroit, Our Lady of Loretto, Redford, and Guardian Angels in Clawson. While serving at Guardian Angels Church, he started two parish missions which later became St. Anastasia Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, both in Troy. His next assignments he was asked to become the Pastor at St. Joseph's Parish in

Monroe, then to St. Theodore Parish in Westland where he was involved in planning a new church edifice, St. Genevieve Parish in Livonia, and his final assignment at St. Ives Parish in Southfield.

Chaplain of Children's Hutzel and Art Center Hospital's for 3 years, director of the Ministry to Priest's Program in the south region of the Archdiocese of Detroit for 3 years, Chaplain of Fr. Daniel A. Lord Council of the Knights of Columbus for 15 years, and Sanctuary of Bellbrook in Rochester Hills. Fr. John conscientiously offered considerable care for the sick in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes during his 64 years a priesthood. For his 60th anniversary he wrote a book, "Jesus, the Giver and his Helpers."

Loving Brother of the late Robert Blaska. Dear Cousin of Frank (Nan) Blaska, Joseph (Clare) Blaska, Elaine Garavaglia, Mary Ann Blaska, Noreen Hall, Patricia (William) Grimshaw, Thomas Hall, Joseph (Cheryl) Hall, Suzanne (Richard) Pientak, Marjorie Champagne, Joan Fraser, Ann (Al) Reisner, Karen (Paul) Parrott, Margaret Schulte, Marge (Robert) Dynes, and Mary (Hal) Gasco. Also survived by many family and friends.

Visitation at the Christ Our Light Catholic Church, 3077 Gloucester Rd. (W. of Coolidge Hwy.-Btwn Big Beaver Rd. and Maple) Troy, Friday 3-8pm with Scripture Service 7pm. In state Saturday 10 am at Christ Our Light Catholic Church until time of Mass 11:00 am. Interment Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Family request donations to Focus Hope, 1355 Oakman Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48238 ~ <https://www.focushope.edu/donate>

Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home- Utica
Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

17100 VanDyke
Detroit, MI 48234

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Christ Our Light Catholic Church
3077 Gloucester Road
Troy, MI 48084

Scripture Service

MAR 2. 7:00 PM (ET)

Christ Our Light Catholic Church
3077 Gloucester Road
Troy, MI 48084

Instate At Church

MAR 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Our Light Catholic Church
3077 Gloucester Road
Troy, MI 48084

Funeral Mass

MAR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Our Light Catholic Church
3077 Gloucester Road
Troy, MI 48084

Tribute Wall

BB

“ I worked with Fr. John at St.Ives parish for nine years. He was a great listener and friend, he stayed open-minded all the way to his retirement. At his retirement dinner he said something I'll never forget: "When I was a young priest I thought I could change the world. After twenty years of parish work I thought 'maybe I can see a few souls to the pearly gates. After forty years, I realize I'll be lucky if I can save my own ass."



*God Bless you John!
Deacon Brian*

Brian J. Black - September 25, 2018 at 11:05 AM

CM

“ Covenant House Michigan sends our thoughts and condolences to the family and friends of Fr. Blaska. He supported our mission of serving many homeless youth at Covenant House Michigan. He was part of our family. We appreciate all he has done and is still doing to help us. May he rest in Peace.
Gerry Piro, Executive Director, Staff and Youth of Covenant House Michigan will keep all of you in our prayers.
Love and prayers,
Carolyn Millard - Development Manager

Carolyn Millard - May 07, 2018 at 10:27 AM

TB

“ Father Blaska was the priest for my First Communion and my Mom's funeral, among many other sacraments when he was serving Pastor at St. Theodore's -I'll pray for him and his family.

theresa bizoe - March 04, 2018 at 12:31 PM

NK

“ Fr. Blaska was associate pastor at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Detroit, 1958-1961. We are grateful for his involvement in the ongoing development of our parish. Fr. Blaska will be remembered Sunday in our Mass and in our prayers.

Norbert Kidd

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Norbert Kidd - March 03, 2018 at 02:34 PM

BP

“ Fr. Blaska was assigned to St. Mary of Redford when I was a student there. Graduated in '57. I was a member of St. Genevieve parish when Father was pastor there. He was so kind and consoling when my mother passed into Gods time. Officiated at our 25 th anniversary mass. He left many good memories to all he served. He has his reward in heaven now for all the goodness he did in Gods service. He will always be remembered by the many people whose life he touched. †



Betty (Grasseschi) Paglione - March 02, 2018 at 10:22 PM

CT

“ Fr. John was the pastor at St. Theodore's in Westland when I moved to southwest Livonia with my family in 1973. I was 8 years old and joined the ranks of the altar boys at that time. Over the next 10 years of being an altar boy there, I got to know Fr. John pretty well. What a kind, caring, compassionate, honest and reverent man he was! When I was troubled about certain things as a teenager, I went to him for advice and he was always able to help. He knew my whole family and had dinner with us at our home. He always had nothing but kind words for people. He would struggle to find something good to say even about people or events that were not so good. During my college years, I would regularly visit him at the rectory to give him computer lessons. When my wife and I got engaged, we joined St. Genevieve parish so that Fr. John could perform the ceremony and he did a wonderful job. Over the nearly 30 years since then, we have visited him around Christmas time many times wherever he happened to live. Some years, we'd just call to chat. One time, he took us on a tour of the Christmas lights of Rochester. Other times, we'd take him out to dinner and he would insist on paying. All through my life and the lives of my family, Fr. John has always been there as a guiding light and an inspiration for us all. His levity and warmth and gentleness has left a lasting impression of what a good Christian should be and I thank him for that. I know he's in a better place now but I will miss him dearly.

Chris Teslak - March 02, 2018 at 07:16 AM

CT

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Chris Teslak - March 02, 2018 at 06:27 AM



My father, Peter Nieckarz, was the altar boy instructor at St. Ted's. I'm sure you worked with him. My father passed away last May.

John Nieckarz - March 03, 2018 at 12:23 PM

FM

“ *We were extremely fortunate to have such a warm, caring, 'human' priest during our formative years at Detroit's St. Mary of Redford parish and school in the mid 1950s.*

Fr. Blaska was always kind, non-judgemental, very insightful and deeply religious -- yet his great sense of humor always provided a funny story or joke to 'break the ice' in any tense situation.

We also considered ourselves lucky because Father joined us at so many of our great class reunions, most recently this past September, before he became ill.

Godspeed, Fr. John. Many good wishes, happy thoughts and warm memories accompany you on your journey home. It's comforting to know that we now have another angel up there putting 'good words' in God's ear.

Fred McEvoy

Fred McEvoy - March 01, 2018 at 06:44 PM

MB

“ *What a great man and holy priest. Thanks John.*



Michael Battersby - March 01, 2018 at 07:34 AM