



Fr. Daniel J. Murphy

November 4, 1929 - March 11, 2017

Fr. Daniel J. Murphy Age 87

March 11, 2017

Beloved son of the late Daniel and Margaret Murphy.

Dear brother of Frank J., Mary (Robert) Keller, and the late Eileen (George) Drotar.

Proud uncle of many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Fr. Murphy is also survived by many cousins and friends both here and in Ireland.

Fr. Murphy served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Port Huron (1956-61); St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pontiac (1961-65); Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Detroit (1965-69); and St. Edith Parish, Livonia (1969-70). He was appointed pastor of St. Timothy Parish, Trenton (1970-79), and then at St. Regis Parish, Bloomfield Township (1979-99). He was granted senior priest status in 1999.

Fr. Murphy served as vicar of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy Vicariate from 1994-97. From 2004-07, he served on the Archdiocesan Pension Board, and served on the archdiocesan Presbyteral Council from 2004-08.

Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Novi
Thursday 3-8pm.

In state at St Regis Church 3691 Lincoln Rd, Bloomfield Hills, Friday 3-9pm
with a Scripture Service at 7pm.

In state Saturday at St. Regis 10:00 am until the funeral Liturgy at 11:00am.
Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Southfield, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Senior Clergy Village 14461
Levan Road Livonia, MI. 48154. Click here to Donate (<http://www.seniorclergyvillage.org/donate.html>)

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W 10 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home
41555 Grand River Ave
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 348-1800
info@obsfh.com

Visitation

MAR 17. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

St Regis Catholic Church
3691 Lincoln Road
Bloomfield, MI 48301

Scripture service

MAR 17. 7:00 PM (ET)

St Regis Catholic Church
3691 Lincoln Road
Bloomfield, MI 48301

Liturgy

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Regis Catholic Church
3691 Lincoln Road
Bloomfield, MI 48301

Tribute Wall

JM

“*Father Murphy served many years as Pastor at St Regis. He was a wonderful pastor. Very steady and responsible. In his homilies he always spoke about all the readings. Conducted very successful CSA drives.*

Jack McGrath - August 21, 2025 at 08:39 AM

PG

“*The out-pouring of love and appreciation for Fr. Murphy was visible at his funeral mass with Family, friends, 50 priests and two Arch-Bishops. We were fortunate to know and love Fr. Murphy for 37 years, beginning when he came to St. Regis. He was always supportive and encouraging whatever the task, like when he asked me to be the "official St. Regis photographer!" In his years as pastor at St. Regis, I was privileged to photograph many special masses, events and parties with Fr. Murphy, his devoted Mother and Family. In March, 1992, our creative and loving gay son, David, 27, died of AIDS. Fr. Murphy was our Rock; he set the time and day for the Memorial Mass, told the congregation at every mass to support the Gach Family and be there for them. He encouraged me to speak at the mass. I will never forget the love, support and compassion he gave to us at that time. He wrote in the church paper that "we must find a Christian response to the issues that she addressed." (of gay people.) He was a pioneer priest in that unspoken topic back then. He truly responded as Jesus did--He was filled with compassion. Thank you, Fr. Murphy, for all you did to help us during those dark days and all you did to help us all come up a little higher! Love and Peace to you in Heaven!*



Phil and Shirley Gach

Phil and Shirley Gach - March 20, 2017 at 03:11 PM

PM

“ *Dr. Murphy was a strong presence at St. Tim's in Trenton. He presented me my first communion, was there for my first confession and confirmation, and led the mass at my dad's and uncle's funerals. May god grant him peace and rest for all eternity.*

paula (roginski-rowe) miller - March 19, 2017 at 06:23 PM

CP

“ *Many years ago I was fortunate to be a secretary at St Regis church and work with Father Murphy. He was always calm and quiet, generous and wonderfully convicted in his faith. I have thought about him through these years and will never forget how happy I was with Father and the wonderful congregation at St Regis. I know the breeze is at his back and he is smiling in shamrocks!! Your religion never mattered --- I was lutheran.*

Carole pavlak - March 19, 2017 at 05:11 PM

AG

“ *Father Dan was truly a man of God. He was a faithful friend to all who knew and loved him. The world is a little darker now with his absence, but God has called him home to his heavenly reward and reunion with all his family and friends who have gone before him. I think the thing I most admired about him was his selflessness and ministry to all who were in need. Although he was dealing with his own health issues, he took the time to visit his friend and my partner Bill Lucken. Bill was dealing with Parkinsons and resided in assisted living. He would give all of us the sacrament of the sick and then enjoyed talking and laughing with Bill about the old days. Although I never got to spend much time with him, his warm personality made me feel as though I had known him all my life. To all of his family, please know that I grieve with you today and share your sorrow. We miss you Father Dan.*

Audrey Geml

Audrey Geml - March 18, 2017 at 06:52 PM

EV

“ *Rest in peace, Dear Friend. We could always count on you, Father, for your friendship, for your advice, for your love. Thank you.*

Eleanor Vallie-Floetke - March 17, 2017 at 08:23 PM

FE

“ To Fr. Murphy's Family & Friends: Detroit lost a great priest in the death of Fr. Dan Murphy. Fr. Dan took my Uncle's (Msgr. John Eppenbrock) at St. Timothy's Parish in Trenton, MI when he retired back in 1969 and was there when he passed away in February of 1970. Dan was four years ahead of me in the Seminary, but knew him through my uncle, and always enjoyed his presence. "Eternal rest give to him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine on him forever. May he rest in peace!. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace."

Sincerely,

Fr. Donald J. Eppenbrock

Sacramental Priest of Ave Maria, St. Denis Parish, Lexington, MI

Fr. Donald J. Eppenbrock - March 17, 2017 at 07:58 PM

KK

“ God bless you Father Murphy. You were a positive support to my father during your years at St. Regis.

Kathy Zack Kupelian - March 17, 2017 at 06:24 AM

KI

“ Remembering Father Dan with loving memories. A great friend who loved us all. We will remember your beautiful smile always. Thank you for sharing your life and words of wisdom with us.

Kim & Rolf Paschedag

Grenelefe



Kimberly - March 16, 2017 at 03:12 PM

KI

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kimberly - March 16, 2017 at 03:02 PM

JP

“ *Dear Fr. Dan,
I have known you all of my life and have always loved you. My memories go back to earliest childhood and my frienship with Maureen and my parents' friendship with your brother Frank and his family. I am so thankful for all of the everyday-Sundays, the celebrations and Masses, funny stories and serious discussions. You gave me my first communion and participated when I was confirmed. You prayed blessings over my sons and myself. I can't imagine a world without you in it. Thank you for everything. I pray for you as you enter into eternal life and a joyous reunion and reward. May God Bless You Always,
With Love,
Julia Schwan Park and Family*

Julia Schwan Park - March 16, 2017 at 09:35 AM

PJ

“ *Father Murphy has been a friend to our family thru being the priest at St. Timothy Parrish in Trenton. We had an untimely death of my brother Frank Eskro in June of 1972. He helped ease our pain. He has been with us thru the happy and sad times. I would send him a St. Patricks day card in honor of my Mom who was proud to be 100% irish. You are celebrating with the other saints on heaven! Thank you for all you did in serving the people of God! Peggy Eskro Julian*

Peggy Julian - March 16, 2017 at 09:16 AM

MB

“ *Father Dan was my mother's first cousin, so we were lucky to have him in our family. He said the funeral Mass for my sister Colleen, making it very personal and special. Besides being a very caring and committed priest, he also was very fun. He loved Ireland and travelled there many times during his life. When he shared his favorite places with Peg and I including the town where my grandmother's relatives lived, we were eager to go. Peg has already gone, and I am currently planning my trip there. Father Dan gave himself a wonderful life, and brought joy and laughter to everyone. God blessed him.*

Mary Ellen Burke - March 16, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fr. Daniel J. Murphy.*



March 15, 2017 at 07:46 PM

KP

“ God bless Father Dan Murphy. We grew up across the street from his brother, the Frank Murphy family and we have many fond memories of Fr. Dan. As kids, we thought it was so cool when he would be over and say mass in the basement. Dear Fr. Dan; a sweet, funny and genuine soul, and now an angel in heaven.

Kathleen Price - March 15, 2017 at 02:48 PM

JB

“ We love Father Murphy he was a wonderful kind sincere man who was a great friend to my father and mother Bud and Marg Campbell and our family! He married us in 1997 at St. Regis Church! He will be in our hearts forever! God bless him our Angel Father Murphy!

Julie Brown - March 15, 2017 at 01:54 PM

SR

“ Father Dan Murphy frequently celebrated Mass on Fridays with the Sisters of Mercy at McAuley Life Center, Farmington Hills. We always looked forward to him coming and he always gave us some thoughts to ponder in the homily. He usually joined us after Mass for coffee and he brought a coffee cake each time he came to share with the sisters.

Father Dan, you are dearly missed and we are grateful for all you have shared with us for many years.

Sister Margaret Platte, RSM - March 15, 2017 at 09:56 AM

MJ

“ Many of my happiest childhood memories include this dear man, and summer days spent on a boat with him. He would let me drive under his supervision! That was always a highlight. I remember visiting him a few years ago. He loved serving God as a priest. I thank God for his life.

Mary Jackson - March 15, 2017 at 09:38 AM

SJ

“ I will never forget the jolliness of Father Dan. You always knew when he came into the village and made himself known. He was a joy to be around and he will be missed so very much. May you dwell also in the fond memories of Father Dan. God bless you all!
Sister M. Sandra

Sister Sandra Jakubowski - March 15, 2017 at 08:26 AM

BJ

“ Fr. Murphy was a dedicated parish priest. He was a great leader at St. Regis Church. He was friendly to all. He was always there for our family. And he was Irish.

Bob C. Hayes, Jr. - March 15, 2017 at 07:09 AM

PV

“ Fr. Dan loved his family and he loved his Irish heritage. He was so enthusiastic when he met with Mary Ellen and me one day to share places we should visit when we went to Ireland. He also shared all of Orna and Mary's information so we could be sure to get in touch with our cousins while we were there, which we did. We did go to Ireland and tried to fit in all the places that Fr. Dan told us to visit; he was a great "travel agent". He was so interested to get our feedback about our trip when we came back. I know that Fr. Dan is happy to be with his parents, his sister, and all of his Irish relatives right now in heaven. He spent his lifetime committed to God and I'm sure that God was happy to welcome him home.

Peggy Varty - March 14, 2017 at 05:52 PM

PV

“ Fr. Dan loved his family and he loved his Irish heritage. He was so enthusiastic when he met with Mary Ellen and me one day to share places we should visit when we went to Ireland. He also shared all of Orna and Mary's information so we could be sure to get in touch with our cousins while we were there, which we did. We did go to Ireland and tried to fit in all the places that Fr. Dan told us to visit; he was a great "travel agent". He was so interested to get our feedback about our trip when we came back. I know that Fr. Dan is happy to be with his parents, his sister, and all of his Irish relatives right now in heaven. He spent his lifetime committed to God and I'm sure that God was happy to welcome him home.

Peggy Varty - March 14, 2017 at 05:27 PM