



Fr. George Charnley

May 12, 1941 - December 20, 2021

Fr. George Charnley

Beloved son of the late Joseph and Margaret.

Dear brother of Margaret Lipsit, Thomas (Dolores), Mary Jo Gowen, Katie (Greg)Malnar, Barbara (David) Kozlowski, Sheila Hoetger, Peter (Debra), Mary Ellen (David Kator) and the late Sr. Joan IHM and Joseph.

Brother-in-law of Kathy, the late Bob Lipsit and Doug Gowen.

Proud uncle of 25, great uncle of 61, and great great uncle of 6.

Friend of the Schluter family. He leaves behind a multitude of friends and extended family that were an integral part of his life

Fr. George was ordained March 6, 1976, at St Mary of Redford. He served as a deacon at St. Philomena, he then was assigned to St. Joan of Arc from 1976-1979, St. Anne in Warren 1979-1982, St. Dunstons 1982-1986, St. John Neuman 1986-2002 and then retired from St. James the Greater after serving from 2002-2012. After his retirement he continued to be a retired assistant at St. Kenneth.

Visitation will be at St. Kenneth 14951 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 on Tuesday December 28, from 3-8pm with Scripture Service at 7pm. Visitation Wednesday December 29 from 10:00am until the funeral Liturgy at 11:00am. The wake service and liturgy will be livestreamed <https://www.stkenneth.org/online-mass>

A private interment service will be held at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Southfield Michigan.

Donations in memory of Fr. George can be made to the Capuchins www.cskdetroit.org, or St. Kenneth's CSA.

On line sympathy message at www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

Cemetery

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W 10 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI,

Events

DEC 28 **Visitation** 03:00PM - 08:00PM

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI, US, 48170

DEC 28 **Scripture service** 07:00PM

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI, US, 48170

DEC 29 **Funeral Liturgy** 11:00AM

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI, US, 48170

Comments



“ One more photo for good measure. Look how happy the girls are ! <3



The Kasanic Family - April 05 at 07:30 PM



“ We loved Father George. He has remained on our hearts even after leaving St. James so many years ago. We have missed him ever since.

We read all of these memories and we agree with every one. He really was special. We felt such a connection to him. He really knew how to share the gift of God's word in a way that was meaningful to us. He was there for baptisms. first communions, and best of all....just normal days. May you rest in peace Father George. We will remember you fondly always.<3



The Kasanic Family - April 05 at 07:25 PM



“ Our kids loved Fr. George when he was pastor at St. John Neumann. They especially loved when he blessed baskets on Holy Saturday. He always greeted them. My husband and I looked forward to seeing him at St. Kenneth's. He will be truly missed.

Mary Wegrzynowicz

Mary Wegrzynowicz - January 20 at 10:17 PM



“ Fr. George was an inspiration and loved by our entire family. He celebrated the weddings of all four of our children, baptized our first grandchild and then celebrated her marriage as well. He was always there with a listening ear and heart. We loved him.

Tim and Marti Simms - December 29, 2021 at 01:10 PM



“ Father George had a profound impact on my wife and I during our marital struggles and we will never forget him. We will miss you immensely but know you will be a blessing in heaven. Duane and Karen

Duane and Karen Maladecki - December 29, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ Our lives were blessed to have had Fr. George as our pastor (and friend) at St. James. We pray that his family is comforted that he has joined his beloved parents and Sister Joan in heaven. Hit them straight Fr. George, and we'll see you in church. Joe and Marianne Tomasik and Family

Marianne Tomasik - December 29, 2021 at 10:40 AM



“ I'm doubly blessed that I had Father George as my High School Basketball Coach at St. Agatha and later in life he Baptized our son.

Rest in Peace,

Mike Sweeney, St. Agatha Class of 1970

Michael Sweeney - December 29, 2021 at 10:03 AM



“ The Rieger family has had the privilege of knowing/loving George since his SJA days. What a powerful and uplifting force of good.

- * caring servant leader
- * spiritual focus... unconditional love, helping others, forgiveness, compassion, empathy, prayer
- * ability to connect with people from all walks of life
- * encouraged/challenged all of us to be the best version of ourselves
- * down to earth, approachable and uber friendly
- * wonderful sense of humor and engaging laugh
- * sports enthusiast
- * family man



Brad and Laura Rieger - December 29, 2021 at 08:18 AM



“ Agreed. So well said.

Julie - December 29, 2021 at 09:30 AM



“ He was truly one of the most amazing people I have ever met. He was always there for anyone who needed him. I am blessed to have known him, and to call him my friend. His smile will never be forgotten. He made the world a better place. My prayers go out to his family and friends. May he continue to smile and watch over us all.

Geoff Kandes - December 29, 2021 at 08:02 AM

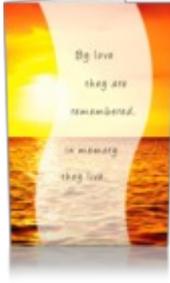


“ Such a holy man, loved by all. Godspeed Fr. George.

Judi and Jim Petruska - December 28, 2021 at 11:59 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of George Charnley.



December 28, 2021 at 09:48 PM



“ On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Fr. George. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of his life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Charnley family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Fr. George.

Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin - December 28, 2021 at 08:17 PM



“ Father George opened his arms to everyone who entered the church. I missed him greatly when he left SJN and visited St James to feel comforted by his words. He baptized my youngest 26 years ago, and was there for her communion and confirmation. He was a neighbor and a wonderful priest. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and community.

Cathy Kava - December 28, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ Father George was so much more than a priest to so many people. He was a mentor. He was a role model. He was a confidant. But more than all of this he was a beloved friend!

He served in his official capacity when he baptized my beautiful daughter, Nicole. He also served in his official capacity at my Dad's funeral in 2015. He was fantastic on both occasions. But beyond those official duties, he was a dear friend to our family and will be missed greatly by so many of us!

I will always remember the unique and special relationship he shared with Patrick and the Schluter family and how that relationship allowed us to grow closer through the years.

Thank you for everything you brought to this world to so many of us. Rest In Peace my friend!

Brett Steele - December 28, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ As friends of the Schluter family, we deeply regret not being able to meet Fr George. We know how much he was loved. We will be praying for his soul and all those who are grieving his passing.

Susan Pecyna - December 27, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“ Father George helped us through a very difficult time in our life when our son Bobby suddenly passed away. . There will always be a special place in all our family's heart for Father George. He made the world a better place!

KIM THATCHER PAUL - December 27, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ We pray that God will bless Fr. George's soul. He was such a blessing to our family.

Finkbeiber - December 28, 2021 at 01:25 AM



“ So happy Father George was able to marry us back in 2016. I grew up at St. John Neuman and it was such an honor to have him marry us at St. Kenneth.



Lauren Campbell-Berger - December 26, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ Father Goerge was a wonderful example of what a man of God looks like. Pat I saw the love he had for you and your family. I know he appreciated you taking care of him and taking him to Pepinos weekly. Nothing meant more to him than all the weekends you guys spent at the lake house together. Father George told me that last trip he went to Florida, was a very special trip that he'd never forget.

Luke Wolfe - December 26, 2021 at 09:02 AM



“ Father George was an original. He was born lucky.....as an Irish American; which gave him the supreme right of the gift of gab, humor, wit and the unparalleled ability to make every one comfortable in his presence. He was the kind of guy one would like instantly. I pray when our Creator assembled Father George, he did not break the mold in 1941.....maybe an ever so slender remodeling so we all can experience the caliber of person he was.
Hey Father George.....See you in Church!

Larry & Cathy Szymanski, St. Kenneth Church.
December 26, 2021

Catherine & Larry Szymanski - December 26, 2021 at 07:11 AM



“ I sit in the front row with my dad and father George use to smile at me and wink at me. He would also say prayers for me so me and my dad will miss him very much

Aiden probst - December 25, 2021 at 11:28 PM



“ I sit in the front row with my dad and he always winked at me and smiled at me and talked to me I will miss him deeply rip father George

Aiden probst - December 25, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ Fr George and I met when he came to St. James as pastor and I was beginning my first year in the diaconate program for the archdiocese. He was always very supportive in my discernment and formation on my journey. I had the privilege to serve with him as his deacon and as the pastoral associate at St James after ordination until he retired as pastor. Always challenging and inspiring, he helped me grow as a deacon. His leadership and personal charisma pushed everyone he met to reach for new heights. As a "people person" he made everyone feel important and valued. He will be missed but his good work will not be forgotten as he rests in peace.

Deacon Glenn Melenyk

Glenn Melenyk - December 25, 2021 at 08:54 AM



“ It was the glimmer in Fr Georges eye when he spoke to you. He listened to what you had to say every time, we loved his homilies and stories of growing up. We always felt he was a part of our family. We will miss him very much and our prayers go out to his family and his best friend Fr Tom.

Angela & Dan Woods - December 24, 2021 at 03:08 PM



“ The Charnley family is in our prayers! We loved Fr. George and are very sorry for your loss. He was a great man, one of strong faith, compassion, humility and service to others. We've been blessed to intimately know him and his late brother Joe - both outstanding men in their own right! We will miss him dearly! May he rest in peace.

Michael Belczak - December 24, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ We loved Father George from his first mass at St. John Neumann over forty years ago. He had such magic and knew how to make everyone feel like his best friend. Whenever he gave me Holy Communion, he had a sparkle in his eye. I will miss that sparkle so much. Father George always said, "See you in church."

See you in Heaven, Father George.

Gail Maloney

Gail Maloney - December 24, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ He was a wonderful pastor and I really enjoyed talking with him. He was the reason we had such a successful st john neumanns singles group. Although he was not directly involved in the group, he was always supportive if the group and all the dances we had. A mailing list of around 3,000. And many great activities and many happy marriages.

Scott Bertsch - December 23, 2021 at 07:06 PM



“ Words cannot express the sadness my family and I are feeling. I met Father George almost 50 years ago when he became our associate pastor at Saint Joan of Arc. Since that day we became life long friends. While life took us in different directions, we were blessed to find out that he was going to be our new pastor at Saint John Neumann. At the time we were a very young and growing parish with a lot of young people new to the area. Father George saw a need for all of us to connect. So he formed several groups of which one was the "Young Married Group". It was there where we met our dearest and long lasting friends.

He was an exceptional priest whose door was always open. I will always cherish those long conversations, dinners and events that we attended together. He always welcomed you with open arms, a gentle smile, and warm hug. He was always there when you needed him. His love and compassion for all of us can never be matched. I will never forget him flying 600 miles to preside over my parents funeral mass but that was the kind of person he was. Always caring and being there to help others through their time of grief. My family and I are eternally grateful for all that he did for us. We were blessed to have known him as a friend and have him as our priest. Our world needs more people like Father George.

Father George always had this closing statement if you ran into him around town which was "...see you in Church!" It always brings a smile to my face and I have never forgotten that. Well Father George, we will deeply miss you but we will "see you in Heaven"...sometime soon my friend, sometime soon.

God Bless you Father George and your family.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Randy, Kathy, and Allie Hollenstine

Randy Hollenstine - December 23, 2021 at 11:07 AM



“ I met Fr. George almost 50 yrs ago. He made you feel like you were talking to your friend next door. He had an ease about him. Subsequently he met my wife to be, Jan. He married us in 1977. He baptized our three daughters, married two of them and if not for a previous commitment would have married all three. He was a friend and confidant of my parents Art and Mary Ann. He was the person my Father requested say his funeral Mass and he did, with grace. I'm at a loss. He meant so much to our entire family. What a good soul! Rest In Peace George.

Ken VanElslander - December 23, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ I was a neighbor of Father George in West Bloomfield. I began to chit chat with him at our mail boxes and soon realized what kind and wonderful neighbor I had. My wife Emily soon introduced herself to Father George and also agreed that we had a great special neighbor. Upon my wife's passing Father George celebrated her service as the caring spirit he embodied. I moved, but continued to keep in touch with Father George who always gave me comfort in lieu of his illness. Father George I know you have been given a special spot in heaven near my fallen goldenheart. God Bless and thank you Father George for your special friendship! Sincerely, Bob Mc Donald

Bob Mc Donald - December 22, 2021 at 11:23 PM



“ After a late finance meeting at St. John Neumann, Fr. George asked me if I wanted to get a bite to eat. We went to the Rusty Nail and everyone in the place, staff and patrons alike, greeted him. I asked, "Does everyone in Canton know you?" He smiled and said, "Not everyone, but I guess a lot of them are here tonight." So respected in the community, and already sorely missed.

Mike Kelch - December 22, 2021 at 06:11 PM



“ Way back at St. John's Seminary we called him "Domcharnley" because he looked so much like our classmate, Tim Dombrowski. Ironically Tim passed to heaven just a couple months ago so "Dombrowski" and "Domcharnley" will be united again.
— Mark Fisher

Mark Fisher - December 22, 2021 at 03:55 PM



“ Colm and I had our first date at St John Neumann. Father George recognized right away that we were new to the parish and welcomed us. Like the Good Shepherd he knew his flock! The following year he officiated at our wedding. We will miss you
Father George
Colm and Linda Boran

Linda Boran - December 22, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ Fr. George was a classmate at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth. Grateful for his devoted years of service to so many. May God grant him eternal rest and peace and the reward of his labors.

Fr. Tom Simons
Grand Rapids Diocese

Fr. Tom Simons - December 22, 2021 at 02:23 PM



“ Fr. George was a very compassionate person with a great sense of humor. He will be missed dearly. Until we meet again,

Mary Jane Soucy



Mary Soucy - December 22, 2021 at 01:19 PM



“ A bright light has surely dimmed. He always had time for a kind word or to lend an ear. His love for his family was evident in everything he said and did. St. Kenneth indeed had a gem. My parents were fortunate to call him a friend and he is pictured here blessing their 60th wedding anniversary in 2016. I'm sure my Mom was there to greet him and welcome him to heaven. Rest easy now Fr. George
The Richard Carbott family.



Ruthanne Pawley - December 22, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ We will all miss Father George’s warm personality, engaging spirit and being an all around great man. His presence at St. Kens will continue as he watches us from above!

Nancy & Bob Griffith



Nancy & Bob Griffith - December 22, 2021 at 10:26 AM



“ St. Kenneth will deeply feel the loss of Fr. George. He had a wonderful way of making his homily REAL and applicable to families. It was evident in everything he did that family was important to him, even ours. May the Lord's peace be with his family and friends at this time.

Mike & Tina Pierzynski - December 22, 2021 at 08:42 AM



“ Our world has dimmed. Father George. A beautiful man. So special, spiritual, humble, funny and for real. To say he will be missed is an understatement. To say he is so loved is a given. Baptisms, marriages, first communions, sickness and death... he was always by our sides. Rest well, we will meet again one day.

Kathy Morley - December 21, 2021 at 10:24 PM



“ A great friend with engaging compassion as a spirited coach and vibrant minister, especially to young people. Loyal and fairhful to the end. Ken Kaucke and I were planning dinner together this week when word of his death welled up tears. I loved that guy for so much joy, care and friendship through Brighmoor, Garden City and St. Clair Shores. Light a bolt of lightening the news tore our hearts.

Lawrence M. Ventline - December 21, 2021 at 09:34 PM



“ Fr. George will be dearly missed at St. Ken's. His compassion for all, and humble way of sharing God's word and love was like no other.
Our deepest condolences to his entire family and all who mourn his loss.
Bill and Susan Bresler

Bill and Susan Bresler - December 21, 2021 at 09:24 PM



“ Can't even begin to explain what Fr. George meant to us! He was an amazing pastor and knew exactly how to bring people together. He started the young married group at SJN and gave us our extended family that has endured over 30* years of births, deaths, weddings & so much love! He walked through the deaths of all four of our parents and concelebrated all of the funeral masses - he was always there when you needed him most. This world will not be the same without him, but we know he has taken his rightful & most special place with our Lord & Savior! God Bless you Father George and May you Rest in Peace until we meet again!
Bob & Lisa Lepping

Lisa Lepping - December 21, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ Fr. George was a wonderful priest and helped me return to deeply trusting in our Catholic faith! He encouraged me to continue coming to St. John Neumann after I read a eulogy at a friend's funeral there and since that moment I knew I had found my spiritual home! Fr. George also comforted me on 9/11- we arrived at All Saints Catholic School for their Tuesday Mass at the same time! I was in tears and filled with fear and Fr. George put his arm on my shoulders and said- Lin, It's not the end of the world! things will be alright! Now let's go to mass and pray together! I will always remember that moment!! He shared his trust in our Lord completely and I am a blessed person for knowing Fr. George! I will cherish his memory!! My most sincere sympathy to the entire family!!

Linda Demmer - December 21, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ May God bless Fr. George as much as he blessed us.

Skip & Fran Ryder - December 21, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ Amen to that.

Kathy Morley - December 21, 2021 at 10:08 PM



“ Father George was the best! Never met a priest I loved more. So genuine. caring. Great sermons.

To Pat my deepest sympathies. It was always great to see you two together around town. He loved you very much and I could see how important he was to you.

Hang in there Pat. He will always be there, watching over you and your family.

robert armiak - December 21, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ It was a privilege to have Fr. George share his ministry with the people of St. Kenneth in his retirement years. The love and friendship that Fr. George and Fr. Tom had for each other radiated throughout his service to us. He loved us and we loved him. Rest in peace but will miss you and your smile. Thank you for everything and will still "see you in church".

Sandi Stockel

Sandi Stockel - December 21, 2021 at 03:40 PM



“ Fr. George will be dearly missed at St. Ken's. His compassion for all, and humble way of sharing God's word and love was like no other.

Our deepest condolences to his entire family and all who mourn his loss.

Bill and Susan Bresler

Bill & Susan Bresler - December 21, 2021 at 05:14 PM



“ Fr. George was at St. Philomena Parish as a very young man fresh out of the seminary! I worked in the office for over 25 years and he and Fr. Lentine had a very close relationship. Fr. George learned from the very best Fr. Lentine. When we started to do home First Communions, Fr. George came to our house and we had a beautiful First Communion for our daughter which was made very special because Fr. George had also become a friend of ours! God Bless you and your very extended family. Rosanne and Jack Herrinton

rosanne Herrinton - December 22, 2021 at 05:37 AM



“ Beautiful Man, beautiful Priest, Humble Soul. We all loved him. We were all distressed when he left St James. When I told him, that, he said "Just keep coming to Church. Just keep coming." He never put the focus on himself. I'm sure the gates of Heaven flung open for him !!! He was a model Priest. Thank you Fr. George!!!! Hope to see you in our Heavenly Home one day!

Pam Barnett

Pam Barnett - December 22, 2021 at 08:36 AM



“ May Father George rest in peace. My sympathy to the entire Charnley family. You are all in my prayers.

(Mrs. Gorman) Teresa Gillis

Teresa Gillis - December 22, 2021 at 10:45 AM



“ St. John Neumann lost Fr. George years ago, but any parishioner from our time with him will readily agree that he was a very Special human being, who walked with us and talked with us and made us his own...

lola nestor - December 22, 2021 at 05:15 PM



“ To the Charnley family and friends of Fr. George - you have my sincere Sympathy of his passing. You will be in my prayers. I am not surprised by the tributes already posted, since I knew him as a fine man. I will remember Fr. George as my classmate at St. Gregory High School, Class of 1959.

Helen Roslonski Gatti - December 22, 2021 at 07:17 PM



“ I was greatly saddened to hear of Fr. George's passing. I will truly miss his homilies and sense of humor. He was a great priest who really understood the faults in all of us and helped us with his good advice.

Enjoy heaven!
Mary Ann McQuaid

mary mcquaid - December 22, 2021 at 08:58 PM



“ Father George was my friend Classmate and teammate from the 6th grade on thru highschool.
Senior year Champs in basketball.

Dennis Shaw - December 22, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ I remember him as a boy, when his family lived next door to mine on Wildemere. We played baseball together, and everyone liked him. I am saddened to learn of his death.

Bernie Cooney

Bernard Cooney - December 22, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ Fr. George was the second pastor at St. James in Novi. He became very important in every activity. He always had time to talk and listen!
Cathy Beal

Catherine Beal - December 23, 2021 at 12:13 AM



“ I grew up about two blocks from Fr. George. If I recall correctly they had 10 children and I was one of seven children. We all went to school at St. Gregory on Dexter. It was a pleasure to have him saying Mass at St. Kenneth (my current parish). We will truly miss him.

Carmen Schinker - December 24, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ Farewell Fr. George! Your journey is over and what a journey it was! I have known him for over 73 years. Starting with our grade school days at Detroit St. Gregory, the Charnley family was always involved in the parish in one form or another. From basketballs to bingo to blessings, the parish was their playground and their place of refuge.
Our families have been involved with each other for years. Whenever we needed a priest for a service it was “Call Fr. George.” We knew it would be a memorable occasion. Judy and I have been friends of the Charnley family from the grade school years until now.
If the archdiocese is looking for a “poster image” for a priest, they need look no further. Fr. George checks all the boxes.

Thank you Fr. George for your friendship, your compassion and for sharing your journey with us.

Pat and Judy Twomey

Pat Twomey - December 27, 2021 at 12:08 PM



“ I met Father George many years ago when he was a deacon at Saint Philomena Church.in Detroit just across from Grosse Pointe. He was beloved from day one. I was fortunate to attend his ordination celebration at St Mary's of Redford around 1976. Luck of the Irish after many years he became pastor at Saint James in Novi where we had moved . He had a multitude of friends and always treated everyone with compassion and love. May he rest in peace among the angels. Sending warm wishes and love to his family. Jane Marshall Spence December 27th

Jane M Spence - December 27, 2021 at 01:17 PM



“ Fr. George was one of a kind. His faith, his kindness, and his love of people especially children made one feel like you knew him forever. He was a great boss and friend. He will truly be missed. He was always there to lend an ear, give advise and support to anyone

who needed it. So many people have so many stories to tell and to remember him by, His love for his family was so deep and he held them all so close to his heart. His countless number of friendships he developed over the years is unlike anyone else I've ever known and all of them were so important to him in so many ways.

It is a privilege to call him a friend. He will always be part of our lives in one way or another. He now enjoys a peace that is well deserved.

Jan Jacobs

Jan Jacobs - December 28, 2021 at 09:38 PM