



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

News

Contact: Vicki Cessna,
Executive Director of Communications

Vcessna@diokzoo.org

269.349-8714; ext 1350

269.929.8298 (cell)

www.diokzoo.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fr. Lawrence Farrell enters Eternal Life

1944-2022

**Beloved pastor served St. Monica Parish
for 21 years**



KALAMAZOO, Mich. (March 21, 2022) – Reverend Lawrence Farrell, 77, Pastor, St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, entered into eternal life on March 20, 2022. Fr. Farrell had been challenged with declining health in recent months.

Fr. Farrell was born August 25, 1944 in St. Louis to Lawrence and Catherine (Hughes) Farrell. He attended Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in St. Louis and graduated from St. Louis University High School before continuing his studies at St. Louis University (1962-65) and St. Louis University Law School (1965-67). He was married to the late Jane Marie Brosnan for close to 30 years who predeceased him in death in 1995. During their marriage the couple welcomed three children: Lawrence III, Maura and Andrew. Following the death of his wife and a distinguished professional career as a businessman and actuary, Fr. Farrell discerned a vocation to the priesthood and was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Kalamazoo when he was 52 years old. He attended Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, earning his Master of Divinity. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 21, 2001 for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

“While Fr. Farrell’s journey to the priesthood was unique, he drew upon his own rich experiences to journey alongside his parish families,” said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. “Additionally, Father was unwavering in his commitment to the protection of unborn babies and cultivated a strong devotion within his Parish community. We pray in a special way for peace and

consolation for his children and their families, and for the St. Monica Parish community he so lovingly served for the last 21 years. May God grant him the Heavenly rewards of his labors here in the Vineyard of the Lord.”

In addition to his 21 years as Pastor of St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, Fr. Farrell also served in various diocesan roles, including Director of the Propagation of the Faith, Chairman of the Priest Retirement Board, Diocesan Presbyteral Council, Chaplain for Catholic Committee on Scouting and many more. He also served as the Canonical Pastor of Hackett Catholic Prep from 2016 until 2021. [see “priestly assignments’ for additional information.]

Fr. Farrell is survived by his three children, four grandchildren and a multitude of family and friends.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR REV. LAWRENCE FARRELL

Sunday, March 27, 2022: The Rite of Reception of the Body will be held following the Noon Mass at St. Monica Parish, 534 W. Kilgore, Kalamazoo. Fr. Farrell’s body will lie in state at St Monica’s until 6 p.m. The Rosary will be prayed at 6 p.m.

Monday, March 28, 2022: Reception and Visitation at Betzler Life Story Funeral Home, 6080 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29, 2022: Visitation at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial – St. Augustine Cathedral

A private burial will be held immediately following the Mass at Mt Everest Cemetery.

Rev. Lawrence Farrell Priestly Assignments:

Priestly Assignments: Diocese of Kalamazoo

2001-2001	Parochial Vicar	St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo
2001-2022	Pastor	St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo
2015	Canonical Pastor	St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo
2016-2021	Canonical Pastor	Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo

###

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 21 Catholic schools. www.diokzoo.org.