

## Reverend Ronald Kurzawa

November 17, 1938 - November 17, 2024

Reverend Ronald Kurzawa was the eldest child born to Sigmund and Helen (Kopas) Kurzawa on November 17, 1938 in Detroit, Michigan. He passed away at his residence in Madison Heights on his 86th birthday on November 17, 2024. He is survived by his siblings, Marlene (Lawrence) Galka, Judith (the late Roy) DeRoche and Richard (Micky Mack) Kurzawa; 7 nephews and nieces, 7 great nephews and great nieces and 1 great great nephew.

Fr. Kurzawa was raised on the Eastside of Detroit in SS Cyril and Methodius Parish. He entered Sacred Heart Seminary in 1953 and also completed High School there. He attended college at St. Mary's, Orchard Lake and Graduate School in Theology at St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan.

He was ordained into the priesthood on June 6, 1964 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament by John Cardinal Dearden. Following his ordination, Fr. Kurzawa served as an Associate Pastor at St. Cunegunda Parish in Detroit from 1964 to 1968 and then St. Bartholomew Parish in Detroit from 1968 to 1973. He became Pastor of St. Clement of Rome Parish in Romeo in 1973 until 1982 when he became Pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Detroit. In 1992 he was given the assignment as Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in St. Clair Shores. In 2002, he was named Pastor of St. Aiden Parish in Livonia where he served until his retirement and granted senior priest status in 2008.

In 1973, Fr. Kurzawa received a graduate degree in Liturgical Theology from the University of Notre Dame. As a result, he served in several consultative roles for the Archdiocese in the area of Liturgy. He also served at various times as adjunct professor of Liturgy at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake and Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit. He was also the coordinator of the distribution of Communion at the Pontiac Silverdome on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit in September 1987.

In addition to parish roles, he served as Priest Chair to the Archdiocese Development Fund, member of the Archdiocesan Council of Vicars, member of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, member of the Presbyterial Council and the Worship Commission of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

In 1990, Fr. Kurzawa was granted the Farwell Award and spent a sabbatical studying at the North American College in Rome.

Fr. Kurzawa has given lectures, workshops and a number of retreats. In retirement, he served the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Oxford along with several Archdiocesan Parishes, most notably St. Hubert Parish in Harrison Township.

Visitation will be held Sunday, November 24, 2024 from 3-7 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 7 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 E. Thirteen Mile Road (west of Hoover) Warren. Fr. Kurzawa will lie in state on Monday, November 25, 2024 beginning at 10 a.m. until the time of his Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 21201 E. Thirteen Mile Road (between Little Mack and Harper) St. Clair Shores.

Fr. Kurzawa enjoyed sharing stories and his adventures. Many of them can be found on his blog at <https://reflectionsateighty.blogspot.com>

Fr. Kurzawa's Funeral Mass will be livestreamed on St. Margaret of Scotland's website at <https://kurzawa.stmargarethome.com>

In Lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Fr. Kurzawa may be addressed to Senior Clergy Village of Livonia or The Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **24.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Prayer Service

NOV **24.** 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate in church

NOV **25.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church  
21201 Thirteen Mile Road  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082

## Funeral Mass

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NOV **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church  
21201 Thirteen Mile Road  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082

# Tribute Wall

DZ

“ *This photo was recently posted on the St. Bartholomew Facebook page. There are many find memories shared and photos posted regarding your brother and uncle during his time at St Bartholomew.*



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**D Zak** - July 12, 2025 at 07:05 PM

RE

“ *Fr. Ron and I were classmates in the program for priests at the North American College in Rome in the fall of 1990. I was impressed by his gentleness, his kindness, his pastoral good sense, and his theological learning. We continued our friendship after the semester in Rome was over. He came down to Toledo at least once; I came to Detroit on a few occasions. It was evident at his 40th anniversary party how much people loved him. Now our friendship will continue through the Communion of Saints. -- Rev. Thomas Extejt, retired priest, Toledo OH diocese.*

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**Rev. Thomas Extejt** - February 24, 2025 at 08:48 PM

TO

“ *My name is Terry and I own a mobile hearing service. I met Fr Ron this past summer at the Reserve and instantly became friends. Sharing my parochial school upbringing and siblings involvement with the Archdiocese. He enjoyed sharing his stories about his role in the Pope's visit at the Silverdome and continued services in the senior center where he lived. I visited him a half dozen times including the evening before he passed away. He was very very tired from his chemo treatments.. I will cherish my friend forever.*

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**Terrence Ozog** - November 25, 2024 at 05:47 PM

“ In memory of our Dear Father Ron,

*I feel most fortunate to be a relative of Father Ron. His mother (Helen) and our Grandmother (Pauline Zloty) were sisters of the Kopas Family. He was always there, especially in our family's time our mourning. Father held the funeral mass when our mother, Nancy Zloty passed away in November 2017. Then in November last year when our father, Donald Zloty passed away...rejoining his wife and the Kopas family in heaven. During his homily, he shared a few stories that I hadn't heard before about our father (involving mischief of the cousins) and those days growing up together in the City of Detroit.*

*And now, here in November, Father Ronald Kurzawa...  
For our family, the heavenly Father must have something special for the month of November...there must be.*

*Speaking on my sister's (Lynn Brady) behalf:*

*Fr. Ron was involved with every major Catholic event in her life from the beginning; Baptism...then her first Communion performed at our home in Warren, MI. Later, there was her Confirmation. He also performed the marriage ceremony when Lynn married her husband, Jim Brady. A few years later he performed the baptism of their first son, Zachary.*

*We will miss his kindness, his wisdom, his sermons and most of all – his stories and fond memories of the entire Kopas Family, where until a few days ago, he proudly held the position as the patriarch of the 'Kopas Clan'.*

*We will also miss his blog; "...And Eighty if You're Strong" <https://reflectionsateighty.blogspot.com/>*

*You have to read his final installment, as Father Ron put it;*

*"It is time to produce the final segment of this Book".*

*It's a must read as he describes his first interaction with 'Bishop of*

*Rome', specifically, Pope John Paul II. You have to read this for yourself – another great story with a surprise that will bring a smile to your face and lighten your heart :-)*

*We will also miss his sense of humor.*

*One such memory for me was just last year. With that warm smile on his face, he said; “And contrary to popular belief, no, Moses and I were not college roommates.”*

*As I have said on more than one of these occasions:*

*Instead of saying goodbye, I prefer to say; ‘Until We Meet Again’*

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**Bryan Zloty** - November 25, 2024 at 02:05 PM

DL

“*Fr. Ron confirmed me and baptized all three of my children. In addition to being a wonderful priest of integrity and compassion, he was also a huge influence to me to listen to God’s voice in my life and in my heart. He will be greatly missed, but know he is at peace in his heavenly home. I have no doubt he was welcomed home with open arms. May his perpetual light shine on.*



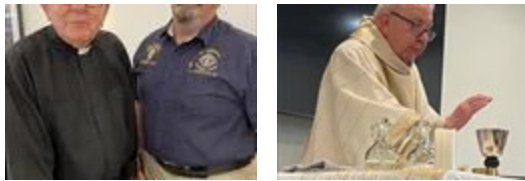
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**Dana Lentini** - November 24, 2024 at 02:38 PM

RR

“ From all of Sir Knight Fr Ron's Brother Knights of Columbus prayers and sympathy to all. Fr Ron joined our St Hubert Council 11658 and 4th Degree Assembly 0490 serving as Faithful Friar awarded Knight of the Year 2012-13. His writings inspirational, his sermons from his heart both educational and understandable in the current world. As my friend it was nice to visit and share a glass of wine over discussions of any and all social or religious subject. Peace be with you.

PGK/PFN Ron Rabine



Ron Rabine - November 24, 2024 at 01:43 PM

DP

“ Married Me in 97 !! Went above and Beyond to Perform Ceremony at My Wifes Church !! Now both have passed !! Welcome to Heaven !!

Daniel Parker - November 24, 2024 at 01:40 PM

BP

“ Fr Ron married us in 2014. There were many non Catholics in attendance. Several of them told me how great he was and how much they loved the ceremony. He was the main inspiration for me becoming an Alter Boy. I know the people were he lived loved his Sunday Masses in the 'movie room'. RIP Fr Ron, you will be missed by many.

Bob Prochaska - November 24, 2024 at 11:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Reverend Ronald Kurzawa.

November 22, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reverend Ronald Kurzawa.



November 22, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ Fr.Kurzawa married us at St. Bartholomew in Detroit in 1973. Although our paths didn't cross again we still remember him fondly. He was always friendly and supportive to couple of youngsters getting married. His homily was excellent and with humor and kindness. (still have the tape recording). May he rest in peace with Jesus Christ.

Robert and Sharon Czarnowski - November 22, 2024 at 08:44 AM

SO

“ My heartfelt sympathy to all of you in Fr. Ron's family. I have truly wonderful memories of him. In 1993 he hired me to be the Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish. He was everything a good priest and pastor should be for his people and his staff, and it was a real blessing to minister with him. He had healthy, updated theology and a compassionate heart. He also gave wonderful homilies! I will always be especially grateful for his support of me when my mother died. I wish I could be there for his funeral, but I no longer live in Michigan. My thoughts and prayers will be there.

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**Sr. Ginny Silvestri, OSM** - November 20, 2024 at 10:39 PM

MK

“ Father Ron was a brilliant homilist. His powerful sermons inspired me & deepened my faith. He was a blessing in my life & and a lifelong friend of my family. A Christmas memory that I will always cherish — when I was a little girl, Father Ron gifted me the honor of placing the baby Jesus in the manger at St. Clement Church in Romeo. One of his many God given talents was his creativity. I remember the year when Father Ron left the Christmas 🎄 tree up in our church until Easter - all of the pine needles fell off and he transformed the tree into a cross. Forever in my heart ❤️ 🙏.

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**Marie Krawchuk** - November 20, 2024 at 09:28 AM

CP

“ We thought the world of Father Ron! He made every mass that we attended at St. CLEMENT in Romeo meant full to all who attended. He gave our son, Patrick, a private confirmation. The Lord will welcome Father Ron in Heaven! Carole & Paul Poljan & family

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**Carole & Paul Poljan** - November 20, 2024 at 09:15 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Reverend Ronald Kurzawa.*



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November 19, 2024 at 07:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Reverend Ronald Kurzawa.

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November 19, 2024 at 07:35 PM



“ *Father Ron married us on 6/6/06 at a weekday Mass in the chapel at St. Aiden. We were a little wary of being married on that date, and he explained to us that was the day that the devil was defeated. He was a good friend, a great pastor and a good man. I offer my prayers for him and his loved ones. May he rest in the peace of Our Lord.*  
*Mary Christina Beyers*

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**MaryChristina Beyers** - November 19, 2024 at 02:57 PM



“ *On behalf of the Capuchin friars, I offer prayers and sympathies for the family and friends of Rev. Ronald Kurzawa. He was a long-time supporter of the Capuchins and their ministries for nearly 20 years. May he rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him.*



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**Br. Brenton Ertel OFM, Capuchin** - November 19, 2024 at 01:16 PM

TR

“ Remember working and praying with Fr. Ron at St. Bartholomew in the early 70s. Trained me in Liturgy. Rest in Peace.

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**Thomas Rzonca** - November 19, 2024 at 12:16 PM

DA

“ I remember Fr.Kurzawa when i was a student at St. Bartholomew in Detroit. I remember him as being very kind and always a smile on his face. He was a good friend to my father Richard Janowski who was an usher at the parish. May He rest in peace with our Lord and Blessed Mother.

*Donna Janowski Alpaugh*

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**Donna Janowski Alpaugh** - November 18, 2024 at 08:38 PM