



Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy

February 3, 1929 - December 31, 2020

Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy, 91, recently of the Nottingham, originally of Tipperary Hill, Syracuse, passed away on Thursday, December 31, 2020. Born in 1929 to the late Matthew and Irene Kennedy, he was also predeceased by his siblings, Sr. Mary Camilla Kennedy, MM, Sr. Rita Ann Kennedy, CSJ, Rev. Joseph Kennedy, Rev. Laurence Kennedy, and Rev. Daniel Kennedy, OP.

Ordained on February 2, 1954 in the Diocese of Syracuse, he served at St. Michael's, Onondaga Hill, and as pastor of Holy Family Church, Fairmount and St. Rose of Lima Church, North Syracuse and retired from St. Peter's Church, Rome.

Lt. Col. Kennedy retired from the US Army Airborne. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are his sister, Helen M. (Ralph) Lorenzini; nieces, Mary (Michael) Dunham and Ann Lorenzini and grand nephews, Peter, Timothy and Joseph Dunham.

For all services, Covid restrictions will be in place. Live streaming will be available. For Vigil service and Mass, preregistration is required. Please visit StRoseny.org. or FergusonFuneralHome.com to register. Masks are required. Calling hours will be Monday, from 5 to 7 pm followed by the Vigil for a priest at 7 pm at St. Rose of Lima Church, 409 South Main Street, North Syracuse. Mass of Christian Burial will be Tuesday, January 5, 10 am at St. Rose of Lima Church with Rev. Philip Hearn Homilist. Rite of Committal will be in St.

Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt.

Donations may be made, in lieu of flowers, to the school or church of St. Rose of Lima, 409 South Main Street, North Syracuse, NY 13212.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

4100 East Genesee Street
DeWitt, NY 13214

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Rose of Lima Church
407 S Main St
Syracuse, NY 13212

Vigil

JAN 4. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Rose of Lima Church
407 S Main St
Syracuse, NY 13212

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Rose of Lima Church
407 S Main St
Syracuse, NY 13212

Tribute Wall



“ *Fergerson Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy*



Fergerson Funeral Home - January 05, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ *Fergerson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy*



Fergerson Funeral Home - January 04, 2021 at 06:57 PM



“ *To register for the vigil or the funeral service please use the link here <https://reopen.church/r/OWAJZuy6>
Only those registered will be allowed to attend, in order to help maintain covid protocol*

Fergerson Funeral Home - January 01, 2021 at 03:37 PM

MM

Fr Kennedy was such an amazing priest. He was very Christ like and a true Shephard. He was a very generous and humble man of God. My family loved him. May God grant Fr Kennedy eternal rest in His kingdom. Rest in peace Father.

Mary Ellen Masterpole - January 01, 2021 at 04:35 PM

MM

“ *So sorry to hear of Father’s loss. He was a good man and exceptional Priest.*

Mary Fahey Maybee - January 29 at 09:07 AM



“ *Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

CP

“ *I loved Father Kennedy! Through his kindness and knowledge he gave Nikko his first communion and gave Nina and Jill their first penance. Love his stories!! Great man! Put in a good word with Jesus for me!*



Cindy Pascarella - January 13, 2021 at 10:45 AM

TH

“ To the Family of Msgr Kennedy~

Msgr Kennedy was such a wonderful man and a very reverent priest who helped so many people and families (including my own). He was the epitome of humility and simplicity. His smile and sense of humor was always welcoming and consoling. He was a very dear man, and we are so sorry for your great loss.

Mike and Theresa (King) Hess and family.

Theresa Hess - January 12, 2021 at 03:07 PM

JS

“ Thank you Father Kennedy, you are the best. I will cherish your kindness, humor, love of gardening, and especially your love of Jesus our Lord. May you rest in the peace of Christ and know the everlasting ecstasy of heaven.



Judith Sands - January 05, 2021 at 08:54 PM

AD

“ Arlene Degilormo lit a candle in memory of Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy



arlene degilormo - January 05, 2021 at 01:29 PM

AD

A special place within our hearts, always.....

arlene degilormo - January 05, 2021 at 01:32 PM

NG

I did not know Fr. James but Sister Camilla was a good friend of mine and I remember her talking about him. My love and sympathy to all the Kennedy's and Lorenzini's. Fr. James' love continues to be with you and guide you through the days ahead. Sister Nonie Gutzler, mm

Nonie Gutzler - January 06, 2021 at 11:11 AM

FH

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Ferguson Funeral Home - January 04, 2021 at 06:04 PM

AP

“ Heaven has an angel.



A Parishioner - January 04, 2021 at 03:06 PM

ES

“ To the family we extend our deep felt condolences. Msgr. Kennedy was very dear to us.

Always with a smile, stopping to chat; a comfort for me & my husband's hospitalizations.

He would always show up for a visit. I really don't know where he got the energy for all the visitations he did every week. Even when getting around became more difficult.

I have been a practicing Catholic for all my 70+years. Father Kennedy was truly the only priest I loved, & felt really cared about. Loved his rolls too!

God Bless you.

Emily & Raymond Sharp

Emily Sharp - January 04, 2021 at 02:06 PM


TG

“ *Father Kennedy was our pastor at Holy Family when my brother and I attended HFS, and my family stayed in touch with him when he moved to St. Rose and Rome.*

I remember his quiet, humble, and reverent demeanor and his great smile. Father was at every school and parish event sleeves rolled up and helping out until the end. He always made time for everyone who approached him listening with undivided attention, then pausing while rubbing his head and looking you straight in the eyes before sharing a few words of needed encouragement, advice, congratulations, or a witty remark. He always seemed to know just what to say at the moment. Father Kennedy was a great role model for all...a genuinely caring person and holy priest. He taught by example - quietly helping others no matter their status or situation. His commitment to visiting parishioners in the hospital every day had such a positive effect on so many-my grandmother and aunt appreciated his many visits to St. Joseph's Hospital more than he'll ever know. Like so many others sharing memories, we were so blessed to have had Father Kennedy in our lives. He will truly be missed.

Tracy (Teich) Giacobbi - January 04, 2021 at 12:04 AM

DJ

“ *Thank you for sharing. Thinking of this sweet , gentle servant of the Lord who blessed even the least of us. God bless him eternally and his memory .* 

Diane Joyce - January 03, 2021 at 09:32 PM

PR

“ *When my husband Bruce was in a coma Father Kennedy came almost daily to check on me he gave me hope in a time that was very difficult . He helped me with my most difficult decision. I will always keep him in my heart and great full for everything he done to help me when I needed him the most*



Paula Rowe - January 03, 2021 at 10:44 AM

BD

“ *Father Kennedy was my pastor at Holy Family for 12 years. He was such kind and gentle man. When my Father died who was not a Catholic we asked him to participate in his services. He said some wonderful things about my Dad at the calling hours, the services and also said the final blessing at the cemetery. My family will be forever grateful for his kindness.*

Betty Duxbury - January 03, 2021 at 08:39 AM

C(

“ It was my pleasure and honor to have known Father Kennedy. Our first encounter was while working at Holy Family as a high school student. I (as the cook was off), was responsible for Father’s first meal as he moved in and got settled as our new Pastor. He was very polite and gracious as he appeared to enjoy that hamburger meal, prepared by a very nervous and scared high school student. He turned out to be one of my favorite bosses however, as he was always positive, supportive, and very low maintenance. Our encounters continued in life as he officiated my marriage ,as well as my father and aunt’s funerals. He and my dad had developed a friendship during his time at Holy Family, and following my dad’s passing continued to support keeping a candle lit in honor of the Sacred Heart, a dedicated practice that my dad had started. I would also see him at St. Joseph’s Health where I am employed, as he would spend a lot of time visiting his parishioners who were patients. During those visits I would tell him “Father, you look great, you don’t change.”He would respond by saying, “you need your eyes fixed.” Father Kennedy, thank you for being such a strong presence in my life, as well as your dedicated service over the years. Rest In Peace Father Kennedy.

Colleen (Moynihan)Gilchriest - January 02, 2021 at 07:21 PM

MI

“ Thank you for your kindness and years of service to our community. You were an incredible human being and you surely made GOD proud. Godspeed!

Mischel - January 02, 2021 at 02:18 PM

PK

“ *Father Kennedy held a special place in my family’s heart. He and my dad would trade Air Force stories and sometimes a cold beer after my dad drove his lawnmower from our home on Beverly Drive to cut the grass at Holy Family. Father Kennedy was so kind to me and my late husband when he allowed us to listen to records for our premarital counseling because I worked days and my husband worked nights. He was warm and wonderful officiating our Friday the 13th evening wedding in 1974. God Bless You and Keep You, Father Kennedy. You were loved deeply by so many.*

Patti Kuhles - January 02, 2021 at 12:13 PM

DF

“*Father Kennedy was so wonderfully kind and understanding. I had been living overseas when my then fiancé and I requested that he marry us back in 1982. At a time when priests were reluctant to officiate at interfaith weddings, Father was incredibly accepting of the fact that my future husband had been raised in the Jewish faith and had no desire to convert. Steven and I had limited time to plan our event as we needed to return to Italy in a matter of weeks, and Father Kennedy did everything he could to accommodate our time limitations and to make Steven’s family feel as comfortable as possible during our religious ceremony. When I told him how much his efforts were appreciated, he responded that he had hoped Steven’s relatives would leave Central New York with a favorable impression of Catholicism, that I would continue to be a practicing Catholic rather than leaving a church that I felt had abandoned me, and that Steven and I would raise our children in the Catholic faith. All three wishes were realized. Once my husband, daughter, and I settled in Syracuse, we looked forward to attending Mass at Holy Family, where Father Kennedy delivered such uplifting, welcoming, and often humorous homilies. After Father was assigned to St. Rose of Lima, my husband and I would often encounter him at St. Joseph’s Hospital, where he brought comfort to patients, including, on numerous occasions, my dad. How blessed our family members are to have known such a spiritual, charitable man.*

Donna Coloton Forman

Donna Coloton Forman - January 02, 2021 at 11:45 AM

AV

“ We were blessed to have had Father Kennedy at Holy Family. He was the essence of what a priest should be. Caring, humble, loving, giving and best of all, a friend to everyone. I was hospitalized one February, and we were in the midst of a terrible snowstorm. I told my family not to come because the driving was dangerous and they agreed. In walks Fr. Kennedy to my room cover in snow to give me blessings. I told him it was too bad out and he should not be out. He laughed and said he had someone with him to protect him. That was Fr. Kennedy. Always giving and always caring. He will be missed by all. His love of his parishioners was constant and his sense of humor was timeless. We will keep his memory in our hearts forever. He was one very special man. God has a new Angel in heaven. We love you Fr. Kennedy. Andy and Nicki Villa and family.



Andy & Nicki Villa - January 02, 2021 at 11:13 AM

JM

Father Kennedy was wonderful selfless man and a priest like no other. My Husband (Ralph) and I were truly blessed to have had him in our lives. Even after he moved on from Holy Family we kept in touch. This world has lost a great soldier of the Lord. I'm know his rewards in heaven will be plentiful, but knowing Fr Kennedy he'll give them away to someone who needs them more!

Our Sympathy to the entire Kennedy Family,

Joan Mastry and family

Joan Mastry - January 02, 2021 at 01:50 PM

SW

“ Words to not do justice to the kind of human being Fr. Kennedy was.. He has left a lasting impression on those he came in contact with. When he left Holy Family a group of us went to St. Rose every year to celebrate his birthday , cake & Ice cream we continued when he went to Rome. In Rome we went out to lunch, I will miss that this year. God Bless you Father. Sharon Williams



Sharon L Williams - January 02, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ I lived across the street from the Kennedy's until I was 8 yr. old- I played with Helen-I remember their Mother's home made bread with jam on it. My brother played w/Daniel. Such a lovely family--so many serviced in the religious life--Sorry to read that one more has gone. R.I.P>Fr. Kennedy-

God's Blessings,

Joan Myers Green

Joan Green - January 02, 2021 at 10:38 AM

CS

“ Heaven has another saint! Humble and kind always...I remember coming to say goodbye to him when he was leaving St. Rose to thank him for being "the kind giant down the street" (I was working at St. Margaret's). He laughed. He took the time always to listen...a kindness I will never forget. To his family, friends and Staff at St. Rose...my deepest sympathy. Rest in peace, Father Kennedy, pray for us as we pray for...and to...you.

Carleen Smith - January 02, 2021 at 09:49 AM

PA

“ We were so blessed to have Msgr. Kennedy with us at St. Peters'. We all grew to love him. I was especially privileged to know him at Rome Hospital where I worked. He was so faithful in his daily visits to the sick esp. to those in the Nursing Home wing. When he would leave, I'd ask "how was your visit?" His standard answer was always "Another easy day". He was a wonderful friend and a remarkable priest. May he rest in peace. God bless, Father.

patricia austin - January 02, 2021 at 09:19 AM

CF

“ So many great memories of Father Kennedy and St. Rose! Our boys attended school and Father Kennedy was there for both of them from K-6th. Words that come to mind to describe him are holy, humble, funny, compassionate, kind, and selfless. He knew all the kids and loved to go through the school and be with them. I coached CYO basketball and he would stop in at most games to see the kids play. He embodied everything good about the Church and the Catholic religion. We are fortunate to have known him for the last 30 years and while sad to see him go, know that he lived a full life and went on the express trip to Heaven! Great man and a great priest.

Cartini family - January 02, 2021 at 09:15 AM

BK

“ I'm so sorry to hear this. He married my husband and I 30 years ago and we have lived next door to the family home for over 20 years. He was a beautiful person and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen and the family.

Betsy Kelly - January 01, 2021 at 09:04 PM

PO

“ *The last time I saw Father Kennedy was at the hospital before my father passed. A wonderful man and priest who was pastor at Holy Family for many years before being reassigned. I hated to see him go. He was the gold standard for a priest and human being and will be missed by anyone who had any contact with him. Rest in peace and enjoy your well earned reward.*

Patrick O'Connell - January 01, 2021 at 09:03 PM

KH

“ *Karen Hunter sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy*



Karen Hunter - January 01, 2021 at 09:01 PM

MC

“ *I met Msgr Kennedy at St Peter's Church in Rome. On Tuesday mornings he would have coffee with a group of us at our Mission of the Christ Child, our parish food pantry. He was so congenial and had a great sense of humor. He shared many interesting stories with us.... while in the army or baking his mother's famous "Depression Rolls" for parish meals. He will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace, Father!*

Mary Ann Cox - January 01, 2021 at 08:26 PM

AE

“ Ann Marie Ezzo sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy



Ann Marie Ezzo - January 01, 2021 at 07:43 PM

AE

Father Kennedy was such a personable, caring, smart priest. When I was hospitalized a lot in the 90's. Father Kennedy always came to visit. One time I was asleep and he wrote on a tissue Kilroy was here and slipped it in my bible on my tray. When he would anoint me for the sick he would touch my forehead and he said "well your head is warm there must be something inside there". When he came up to give my son his last rights he hugged me and said "Your a good Mom" . We were sad to see him leave St Rose. The world has lost a great man, priest, veteran and man. Father Kennedy may your beautiful soul RIP. Fly high with God and the Angels. The Ezzo family 🥺😭💔💔🙏🙏

Ann Marie Ezzo - January 01, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ Msgr. Kennedy was my pastor at Holy Family from 3rd grade to 8th grade. I fondly remember talking Yankees baseball with him and being comforted when he came to school for a visit, tapping me on the head and saying hello. It was at my father's funeral that I saw him last, June of 2017 after not seeing him for many years. As I headed to the podium to help contribute to the words of remembrance for my dad I was filled with so many emotions I couldn't move, that was until I looked at Msgr. Kennedy and he pumped his fist and gave him a reassuring "you will be fine" nod. Just one of many examples of how much we all leaned on Msgr. Kennedy. God bless
Ted Merante

Ted Merante - January 01, 2021 at 07:36 PM

MV

“*Father Kennedy was a wonderful man, I put 4 children thru Holy Family School and he is well remembered by all of us. The lottery program was created to help to decrease tuition and he oversaw the program. He was an amazing Priest and gave freely of his counsel and support to parishioners both at St. Rose and Holy Family. He was one in a million. He surely is receiving many good wishes and thank you in heaven now. God Bless Him. He will be surely missed.*

Marilynn Vrabel - January 01, 2021 at 07:33 PM

PL

“*Msgr. Kennedy was a faithful, loving, generous servant of God. He always had a smile on his face. He loved the children & shared his best recipes at the parish festivals & Friday fish dinners. I'm fortunate to have known him. RIP Msgr. Kennedy. You will be missed.* 🙏

Patricia Longdo - January 01, 2021 at 07:02 PM

MA

“*Father Kennedy was pastor at Holy Family when I was a child. When I moved to North Syracuse and started my family, I chose St Rose as my parish because of him. He was always kind and accepting, and his stories always brought a smile. I always thought he was wonderful. He will truly be missed.*

Maria, Caitlyn & Natalie Ackerman - January 01, 2021 at 06:03 PM

EM

“ Both of my children went to Holy Family & still remember how he called the children by name & his famous noggies! Father Baptised both of my children & was such a beautiful comfort to my husband & our family when my husband was sick. Such a humble servant, such a caring soul. It was such a grace to know you Father. May our Blessed Lady welcome you to her son. Love you always

Elizabeth Merante - January 01, 2021 at 05:18 PM

CO

“ Colleen lit a candle in memory of Rev. Msgr. James M. Kennedy



Colleen - January 01, 2021 at 04:36 PM

PF

“ My children went to Holy Family School and Father knew each child by name. Loved his stories. He will be missed.

PATRICIA A FOX - January 01, 2021 at 03:07 PM