



## Rev. Arthur J. Murphy

November 26, 1929 - December 20, 2013

The Reverend Arthur J. Murphy, Roman Catholic Priest in the Archdiocese of Hartford and Pastor Emeritus of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hartford, died in the early morning on Friday Dec. 20, 2013 at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, with his brother Steve at his side. He was the son of the late James J. and Lucy Jackman Murphy of West Hartford. The founding pastor of St. Thomas, the Rev. John F. Callahan baptized him into the Christian Life on Dec. 16, 1929. Father Murphy was a member of the 1st graduating class of St. Thomas the Apostle School, St. Thomas Seminary "49" in Bloomfield and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, NY, "55". He was ordained on May 19, 1955 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford, by the late Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien. He was an avid golfer and member at Wethersfield Country Club for many years, a dedicated Alpine skier, an instructor in Religion and Marriage at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, 1958-1961, and at South Catholic High School in Hartford from 1965 – 1991. He was a member of the Capitol Region Conference of Churches for 25 years. He was a former Chaplain for the Catholic Daughters in the Americas, currently served as Chaplain of Council 3600, Knights of Columbus at STA, and celebrated 50 years as a priest in 2005. After a temporary assignment at St. Thomas, Goshen, in 1955, he served in the following parishes; 55-57 St. Mary, Lakeville, 57-64 St. Patrick, Waterbury, 64-75 Sacred Heart, Wethersfield, 74-91 St. Mark the Evangelist, West Hartford, and 91-until his retirement on August 26, 2011 at St. Thomas the Apostle in West Hartford. He

continued in his retirement to help at St. Thomas the Apostle until recently. He is survived by his 2 sisters and 2 brothers; Sr. Mary Ellen Murphy RSM at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, Vincent C. and Nancy Murphy of Sherman, Sheila Rose and Walter Gilbert of No. Falmouth, MA, and Stephen D. and Donna Murphy of West Hartford. His many nieces and nephews also survive him. He was predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law Anne Marie and John Melly formerly of Niantic and Vero Beach, FL. Funeral services will begin Sunday Dec. 22, with Calling Hours from 1-4 p.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church 872 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. His Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday Dec. 23 at 11:00 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will be the principal celebrant. Burial will be in his family plot at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Donations in his memory may be made to St. Thomas the Apostle School, Fr. Arthur J. Murphy Scholarship Fund, 25 Dover Rd. West Hartford, CT 06119.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery

1 Cottage Grove Rd  
Bloomfield, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

DEC **22**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
872 Farmington Ave.  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 233-8269

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
872 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ To the family of Father Murphy,

*This week we say good-bye to our dear friend Father Arthur Murphy in a packed Saint Thomas Church. What a beautiful tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the priesthood.*

*My family had the privilege of knowing Father from his days in Waterbury as parishioners of Saint Patrick's Church. My father (Nicholas D'Alonges) was Father's barber. Through the years Father Murphy was in attendance at many family events. He was there when my husband and I were married 48 years ago, Father concelebrated when my brother, (Father John D'Alonges) celebrated his First Mass at St. Patrick's and he offered much comfort to my parents when Father John passed away in 1997. And Father Murphy was with us when my parents celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.*

*Father Murphy was truly a dedicated clergyman and we were blessed to have had him in our lives as a lifelong friend and it was memorable for me to attend his funeral mass and to Vincent, as a former student at Sacred Heart High School, I do remember "the stare."*

*Thank you to The Murphy Family for sharing your brother with so many.*

*Sincerely,  
BEVERLY D'Alonges Gugliotti - Saint Patrick's - Waterbury*

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**Beverly Gugliotti** - December 24, 2013 at 08:52 AM

ML

“ To Sister Mary Ellen Murphy,

*My deepest sympathy to you and your family on the passing of your brother. I am sure the loss of his presence is balanced by the knowledge that he is with his Lord Jesus, Whom he served for so many years. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you, Mary Ellen.*

*Mary Ann Fitzgerald Lally, Eastford, CT*

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**Mary Lally** - December 23, 2013 at 12:28 PM

JC

“ To the family of Father Murphy,

*My family was very fortunate to have had a longstanding relationship with Father. My parents (Brendan and Nancy Heavin) and aunt (Sister Joan Marie Prisavage) knew him from his early days in Waterbury. He was also an influential resource in counseling my aunt as she contemplated joining the Sisters of Mercy. Father Murphy married my parents and also married my husband and me nearly 25 years ago now (we will celebrate our 25th anniversary in a few months). I remember many occasions where Father came to our home for dinner over the years, or my parents shared stories of their visits or times when they took him out for lunch to catch up. They were always filled with recounting fond memories and lots of laughter! I heard about his golfing, his ski trips, and remember my parents telling me he showed them slides of his amazing travels.*

*I feel fortunate that my husband and I had taken the time to visit Father at St. Mary's home within the past year and brought our son, Ryan, with us as well. He was so interested in Ryan's college applications and his plans for the future. As he was chatting with Ryan, he managed to enjoy some of the chocolates we brought him! :)*

*He will certainly be missed, but we are richer for having shared some wonderful times with him.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with your family!*

*Michael and Joan (Heavin) Conlan - Southington, CT*

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**Joan Conlan** - December 22, 2013 at 05:55 PM

MD

“ To the family of Father Murphy,  
Our deepest condolences on the passing of the Faithful Chaplain of Council 3600 and long term Shepherd of the West Hartford Catholic Community. Father Murphy set an example with his life for all of us to aspire to. As Council Chaplain he presented our members, each month, with a Reflection on life from his experiences and from the Bible, for us to think about. Father Murphy was a Priests' Priest. There is no better example for a Priest to follow than he. Recently Council 3600 held a special meeting and it turned into a Celebration of his 84th Birthday.  
Sincerely, Michael and Kathy DeConti



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**Michael DeConti** - December 22, 2013 at 04:57 PM

BM

“ When I was a young girl in Waterbury, Father Murphy came to our parish. He worked with the CYO, including a trip to New York for a convention. Although we all had a good time, we never thanked him for his efforts. I could not let this moment pass without letting his family know how much I gained from his leadership. He was always available to us and listened to whatever we needed to share. Later in life, I met Sister Mary Ellen Murphy at St Joseph University, another positive experience. All in all, I have much for which to thank the Murphy family. You have added a great deal to my attempts to lead a meaningful life.  
Barbara Monti

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**Barbara Monti** - December 22, 2013 at 08:29 AM

WH

“ *Father Murphy's welcoming smile made our trips to St. Thomas The Apostle church very enjoyable and memorable to 4 generations of our family. His sermons were directed at all age groups and we took from these weekly reflections his guidance that helped us keep Christ 1st in our daily thoughts and actions. Thank You Father Murphy, you were truly a shepherd to your flock. The Hunter Family*

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**William ( Bill ) Hunter** - December 22, 2013 at 07:34 AM

SD

“ *I was lucky to know Father Murphy from church and from South Catholic High School. He will be truly missed . Susan Dounouk Dipinto*

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**susan dounouk dipinto** - December 21, 2013 at 08:40 PM

PK

“ *Father Murphy was the most kindest, caring man on the face of this earth. He helped me and my family in our darkest times. May he rest in peace in the arms of the Lord.*



*My deepest and sincerest sympathy goes to Father Murphy's family and to those at St. Thomas the Apostle Church with whom he made his home. He will be missed by many especially those who knew him well as I did. Thank you Father Murphy for caring about us.*

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**Paula Fabrizi Kiely** - December 21, 2013 at 12:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Molloy Funeral Home** - December 20, 2013 at 04:38 PM



*I thank you Fr. Murphy for your warm welcome to me and my disabled daughter, Sofia. I thank you for joking about her exuberant noises in the middle of Mass and telling her that she looked cute in yellow, your favorite color. I thank you for having your helper stop your wheel chair so that you could touch my daughter's hand when you saw her after an event. I thank you for those priceless moments when You and Sofia would look into each other's eyes for a moment of profound, silent speaking of your hearts, one to the other. I thank you for telling me that it was an honor for you to have me present at STA Masses; that one statement had an indescribable impact on me. I thank you for praying for the repose of the souls of less than savory characters and emphasizing to us the need to pray for everyone. I thank you for your jokes - and for taking our spiritual needs quite seriously. Please pray for us all the more, now that you are with Our Lord and Our Lady, whom you love so much.*

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**Monique d'Auteuil** - December 20, 2013 at 10:13 PM

J

*I'll never forget Father Murphy. I attended his ordination at the age of 12. Little did I know that one day he would be my pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle. I will always remember his definition of freedom, "not the absolute right to do what you please, but the right to do as you ought", a good rule to remember. By being the good priest that he was, Father showed the transcendent power and glory of the priesthood. God rest you, Father I pray that one day we will meet in heaven.*

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**John F. Daly III** - December 21, 2013 at 12:46 AM

RC

*I will fondly remember Father Murphy from his first days as an assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Wethersfield where I served as an altar boy. Each year Father O'Neill would send us to Fenway for a ballgame. One year my family was vacationing at Black Point and I was disappointed that I might miss the trip, NOT to worry. Father Murphy agreed to give me a ride back to Black Point after the bus returned from Fenway....great Priest who inspired my faith that stays with me to this day.....may the road rise to meet him and may he be numbered among the Saints in heaven.....rest in peace Father Murphy.*

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**Rich Colbert, Bristol, CT** - December 21, 2013 at 06:40 AM