



Msgr. Gerald Alan Priest

December 30, 1939 - July 31, 2019

A Funeral Mass for Monsignor Gerald Alan Priest, 79, of Crockett will be held on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler with Bishop Joseph E. Strickland as the principal celebrant. Burial will take place at Holy Cross Cemetery at 5 p.m. in Texarkana, Texas under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Msgr. Priest passed away Wednesday, July 31, 2019 in Crockett, Texas. He was born December 30, 1939 in La Crosse, Wisconsin to Ben and Ruth Priest. He was ordained a priest on June 1, 1968 and was named a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor by Pope John Paul II on January 22, 1996.

He served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Marshall, Texas (1978-1992), St. Anthony Parish in Longview, Texas (1992-1993), and Sacred Heart Parish in Texarkana, Texas (1993-2010). He also served as parochial administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish (Jefferson, Texas), St. William of Vercelli Parish (Carthage, Texas), St. Catherine of Siena Parish (Atlanta, Texas), and he was the founding priest of St. Lawrence of Brindisi Mission (Waskom, Texas). He proudly served as chaplain of several law enforcement agencies and helped organize the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

Msgr. Priest was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving family including his sister Bunny Nance; nieces, Dawn Nance

Cosgrove, Bridgitte Krupke; and nephew, Lt. Col. Chris Nance.

Pallbearers will be the Knights of Columbus and the priests of the Diocese of Tyler.

Visitation is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday August 4, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler. The Office for the Dead and Rosary will follow the visitation at 6 p.m.

If desired, memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
423 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75702

Rosary

AUG 4. 6:00 PM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
423 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75702

Funeral Mass

AUG 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
423 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75702

Reception following service

AUG 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
423 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75702

Rite of Committal

AUG 5. 5:00 PM (CT)

Holy Cross Cemetery
Texarkana, TX 75503

Tribute Wall

LL

“ I just learned of Gerry's passing. I met him soon after his ordination when he came to Good Shepherd church in Garland, Texas. We immediately became friends and spent much time together. I was a dallas police officer and one day he asked me if he could ride with me, I said of course. He loved it! He rode with me regularly and then also with many other officers he met. He actually became the first DPD Chaplin. His picture is in the 1972 DPD yearbook as a reserve officer. I helped him move to Tyler when he got transferred and we lost track of each other. He was a fine man, priest, officer and friend. So sad to hear of his passing. My condolences to his family.

Len Larsen - March 13, 2023 at 03:53 PM

JR

“ Such a personal loss! He will always be in my heart! He brought my family into the faith, and was there for us over the years, always. Fond memories of his riding along with me in the Dallas Police, We could tell some stories! He will always be with us, his good deeds and great memories will always live on with us. A real gentleman, and man of God.

Joel Ratliff - November 25, 2020 at 03:55 PM

SN

“ Enjoyed so much the years we were together at the ICPC annual training seminar. Gerry has been missed for several years however not forgotten and always fondly remembered. His contributions to our organization definitely had an impact and helped make it what it is today.

Stu Nelson, ICPC

Stuart Nelson - August 25, 2019 at 01:59 PM

CM

“ God bless you all. You are in my prayers. The picture o\is of Jack Price, Gerry and Charlie Massey of the International Police Chaaplains from 40 plus years ago.

With Love
Father Charlie Massey



CHARLIE MASSEY - August 15, 2019 at 05:30 PM

DC

“ When I was a new Chaplain, Gerald came up to me at a regional International Conference of Police Chaplains meeting and gave me words of advice and a blessing. I had no idea at the time of his role as priest or in the history of or organization. And he did not care that I was a young Baptist. He made it clear that we would lay it all on the altar for or troops. In the world of ICPC he was a mover and shaker, a man to be respected. We honor him add unto the Lord.

Dr. Rickey Hargrave, Chaplain - August 04, 2019 at 02:35 PM

TB

“ I am a retired firefighter from Marshall. That's where and how I got to know Father Priest. One night I got called in to work overtime during a fire. While I was away, and my wife was home alone, two intoxicated men came to our house and attempted to get in. My panicked wife called the police. Father Priest heard the call and responded. I was able to leave from work and got home about the same time the police got there. And there was Father Priest. Telling me everything was ok! Turns out the men were lost, and drunk, and at the wrong house. No harm done. But it was such a relief for Father Priest to be there. He was so kind. He prayed with us and had us laughing before he left. Even took time to check on us in the following days. We aren't even Catholic! Msgr Priest was a wonderful man and he will be missed. He touched many lives! God Bless.

Ted and Sandy Bartley - August 02, 2019 at 01:21 PM

TC

“ A kind-hearted gentle man who loved to joke around, play pranks, took very seriously his police and fire chaplain duties AND his pastoral duties. Several times he came to my job thru the drive-thru to remind me of my confession duties. A big ole teddy bear...He will be missed, terribly.. Sorry for your loss, Bunny and family.

Terry McNamara Collins - August 01, 2019 at 01:52 PM