



Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz

January 23, 1929 - November 9, 2017

Gerald was born January 23, 1929 in Bay City, Michigan to Steven and Louise (Kosnik) Mazurkiewicz. In 1930, his family moved to Detroit, where he later attended Corpus Christi Elementary School and St. Stanislaus High School before graduating from Pershing High School in December, 1947. He was a lifelong member of Mensa, the high-IQ society. During his life, Gerald developed and maintained a legacy of musicianship that will be long remembered by those fortunate enough to have heard him play. He was the consummate liturgical organist who played the organ and piano with a passion and talent that could only be a gift from God. He led people in music believing "He who sings, prays twice." His choirs reflected his dedication to giving glory to God and his belief that you should always give the best your God-given talent could give.

From an early age, his parents impressed upon him the importance of faith, family, education, hard work, independence and music. In his music formation, upon showing an aptitude for the piano, and later for the organ and liturgical music, Gerald attended the prestigious Palestrina Institute for the Instruction of Sacred Music through Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. After graduation, Gerald was the organist and choir director at Resurrection Catholic Church until 1951 when he served in the U.S. Army until 1953 during the Korean War. During his time in the Army, he often entertained his fellow enlisted men and officers on the piano at the local PX, where he was fond of playing all the old favorites of the time and, in particular, boogie-woogie. From

1953 to 1954, he attended Wayne State University while working at Ford Motor Company. He was the organist and choir director at Corpus Christi Catholic Church from 1953 to 1963 and it was during this time that he met his devoted wife, Dorothy Yanasak, an alto on his choir, whom he married on June 9, 1956. During the time he was the organist at Corpus Christi, he also worked at Manufacturer's National Bank (1955-65). From 1963 to 1994, his musical career as liturgical organist/choir director continued at three Catholic Churches: St. Anne in Warren, MI (1963-68); St. Louise (de Marillac) in Warren, MI (1969-78); and St. Kieran in Shelby Twp, MI (1978-94).

Simultaneously, he was the Manager/Treasurer of A&B / Multi-Parish Credit Union (1965-94) in Warren, MI. Throughout his time in music ministry it was inevitable that Gerald would bring and instill his love for liturgical music and music in general, to his home and family. Dorothy played the piano and accordion as well, and between the two of them they instilled that love of music in their children and later their grandchildren. Each member of the family played an instrument and, as they grew older, with Gerald leading on the piano or organ, and his children and grandchildren playing an instrument or singing as well as they could, each major holiday was a joyful affair during which their home was filled with music and song, a tradition which continues to this day.

In 1994, Gerald retired and devoted the rest of his life to caring for his family and home. He lived his life for his family and there can be no stronger or greater legacy for a husband and father to leave. He will be missed.

Gerald is survived by Dorothy, his wife of more than 61 years; children Michael (Connie), Steven (Donna), Laura (Shamil) Halabu, Matthew (Anne Marie) Michaels, and Martin (Lisa Pennefather); and 19 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Barbara Schmid, John and James (Roberta) Mazurkiewicz and many nephews and nieces.

Predeceased by sister Rita.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Scripture Service

NOV 13. 7:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz.*



November 13, 2017 at 03:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz.*



November 13, 2017 at 03:09 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz.*



November 13, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ *From your sister Barb & Famiy purchased the Fal
I Fantasia for the family of Gerald Leonard
Mazurkiewicz.*



From your sister Barb & Famiy - November 12, 2017 at 05:03 PM



“ *Love: Fred, Cindy, Jeff, and Jennifer purchased
the Heart's Companion Bouquet for the family of
Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz.*



Love: Fred, Cindy, Jeff, and Jennifer - November 12, 2017 at 12:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz.*



November 12, 2017 at 10:07 AM

KL

“ Wanted to express my deepest condolences to the entire Mazurkiewicz family. I have many fond memories of living across the street from the family. Halloween was particularly memorable. Mr. "M" would dress up in dark clothes and wear a wig and hide in the bushes. When we would go up to the porch and yell "Trick or Treat" he would make his presence known and scare the %\$!*@ out of us. Every year we would fall for it even though we "knew" he would do it again. Another memory was I had helped him while he cut the lawn (I was 10 or 11) and he gave me 1 dollar for helping. I think all the kids were away on vacation somewhere. I know he will be missed by all who knew him! - Kevin Lysik

Kevin Lysik - November 12, 2017 at 10:02 AM

VP

*Dear Halabu and Mazurkiewicz families,
We are saddened for your family's loss. The love and respect you have for one another comes from your Father and mother's great love for each other.
May God give you peace in knowing he is in a better place smiling down on you.
With love,
Tom and Valerie Prince family*

Valerie and Tom Prince - November 12, 2017 at 04:10 PM

JB

*Dorothy and Family --
My deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved Gerry. I pray that God will wrap his loving arms around each of you during the difficult days ahead and comfort you.
Blessings to each of you,
Judy Blackwell*

Judy Blackwell - November 13, 2017 at 04:59 PM

ST

I miss you dad. Now more than ever. Funny how the smallest things can be reminders of you....

Steve - July 29, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Gerald Leonard Mazurkiewicz.



November 12, 2017 at 08:11 AM