

# Rev. Lawrence G. McTavey

1931 - 2019



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McTavey, Rev. Lawrence G. HALFMOON Reverend Lawrence G. McTavey, 88, passed away on December 22, 2019, at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital. Father McTavey was born on March 4, 1931, in Troy to the late John and Rebecca McTavey. The family were members of St. Joseph's Parish and Father fondly recalled memories of the community and especially the parish center. He attended Catholic Central High School, graduating in 1947 at the age of 16. He then pursued his priestly vocation at St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester, then Our Lady of Angels Seminary at Niagara University. Father McTavey was ordained a priest in 1955 by Bishop William Scully at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. After a brief stay at St. Joseph's in Stillwater, he was assigned as an

assistant pastor at Sacred Heart in Troy, teaching religion at Catholic Central. He then obtained an advanced degree in education from Siena College. In 1957 he was appointed vice principal and guidance counselor at the brand-new Cardinal McCloskey Memorial High School on Elm Street in Albany. At the same time, he also served as an assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Albany. Father had a lifelong passion for New York sports teams and Broadway musicals, traveling to New York City whenever possible to attend a play or a game. Thus, while at McCloskey, he also produced many school plays. In 1962, New York State designated the property of the five-year-old school as part of the South Mall project. So, it became Father McTavey's responsibility, after becoming principal in 1966, to arrange the construction of a new school. Cardinal McCloskey on Slingerlands Street was opened in 1967. Father McTavey left McCloskey in 1972, when he was appointed pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Cohoes. With his education background, while at St. Bernard's he served as president of the Diocesan School board, and he was a fervent supporter of the local Cohoes Catholic School. Because several facilities for senior citizens were located in downtown Cohoes, Father McTavey recruited two Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Marie Jose Hickey and Sister Margaret Totten, to minister especially to these seniors and it became a focus of St. Bernard's ministry. Father McTavey was devoted to his mother, Rebecca, and took her on an extended trip to her native Ireland, from whence she had emigrated as a teenager. Father McTavey also was given a sabbatical in 1973 to study in Rome, at which time he managed to travel extensively throughout Europe. He remained as pastor of St. Bernard's for 35 years, until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 76 in 2007. Father McTavey relocated to St. Mary's, Crescent, where for some years he continued his ministry at both St. Mary's and Holy Trinity in Cohoes. In his later years, Father McTavey was given care and support by his devoted nephew Michael (Nancy Champlin) O'Brien of Glenville, his niece Aileen (David) DIRTADIAN of Clifton Park, Dennis (Amy) O'Brien of Mechanicsville, Va. and Patrick (Kristen) O'Brien of North Greenbush; his

dear friends, Jeanne Gracon and Sharon Sgroi. He is also survived by eight grandnieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother John "Mick" McTavey; and his sister Kay and brother-in-law Jack O'Brien. Calling hours will be from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday in St. Mary's Church in Crescent, 86 Church Hill Rd., Waterford, NY, 12188. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday in St. Mary's Church, Crescent with Reverend Joseph Cebula, Pastor, presiding. Interment will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery in South Troy. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Church in Crescent or to the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital, 310 S. Manning Blvd., Albany, NY, 12208. Arrangements have been entrusted by the family to the Gordon C. Emerick Funeral Home, Clifton Park. For online condolences, please visit [Gordoncemerickfuneralhome.com](http://Gordoncemerickfuneralhome.com)



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To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in Albany Times Union from Dec. 27 to Dec. 28, 2019.

## MEMORIAL EVENTS

**DEC** **Mass of Christian Burial**

**30** 11:00 AM

[St. Mary's Church in Crescent](#)



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## MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

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**15 entries**

December 30, 2019

Fr. Mc Tavey's family and friends so sorry for your loss. I am sure going to miss you Fr. Mc Tavey. Especially our talks in the sacristy at Holy Trinity before the services. We had a lot of good laughs. Now we have a special angel to watch over us. You have touched so many hearts. You will be missed a lot.

Patty Bullock

**Patty Bullock**

December 29, 2019

I was privileged to have Father MacTavey for religion in my senior year. He taught a class called apologetics, defense of your faith by use of reason, and always remembered it and have used it many times. May the soul of Father Mactavey rest in eternal peace.

Bill Liberty Ocala, Fl.

CCHS Class of 1957

December 29, 2019

My deepest sympathy to Fr. MacTavey's family. Although away for 20 years, I have fond memories and laughter from the years of knowing him. Rest in peace father. Millie

**Mildred Coryer-Dhu**

December 28, 2019

I remember Father McTavey from Cardinal McCloskey High back in the late 1960s. He was an outstanding school principal as well as a great human being. My condolences go out to his entire family. Rest in peace Father. Very sincerely, Bob Sbuttoni

December 28, 2019

To all of Father's Family: We are very sorry for your loss.

**Mike and Nancy McNulty & Family**

December 28, 2019

You are with God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Mary, Joseph, all the Angels, Saints, Apostles, Martyrs, Your Mother and Father, and your friends and family! HEAVEN, your reward! Thank you for your time and love as a priest!

**Catherine**

December 28, 2019

Michael O'Brien and family.. Fr McTavey was a lifelong friend to my mom and dad. My parents spoke very highly of him. Please accept my condolences.

**Con Casey**

December 28, 2019

Growing up in Blessed Sacrament parish, and going on to graduate from Cardinal McCloskey MHS, I have wonderful memories of Father McTavey! Later on, I asked him to officiate at my wedding (almost 52 years ago). May God bless you, Father, as you rest in heavenly peace, after a most honorable and faithful life.

**Gail Panucci-Rinaldi**

December 28, 2019

Our Deepest Sympathy to all the family at this most saddened time. Father McTavey was a special priest. He was always there for you any time day or night. He listened no matter what the problem would be. May all the Choirs come to Greet him as he Enters into Paradise. May he Rest in Peace. Father McTavey surely will be missed. John and Pat

**John & Patricia Harrington**

December 27, 2019

Father McTavey married my husband and me...He was a very sweet person when we went through the pre marital sessions...very caring

**jeannie**

December 27, 2019

**Justine Spiak-Wendt**

December 27, 2019

You will always live in our hearts and prayers.

December 27, 2019

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December 27, 2019

Much time on that altar. Memories.

Larry taught me to "altar boy" at St. Joseph's, South Troy in the early 40s. He was a great kid and continued to be that through out his life. Met him only once after we "grew up", at a funeral he performed in Cohoes. He had changed little. Easily recalled our days at St Joe's. --- A life well lived! ----  
Tommy Halpin

**Thomas Halpin**

December 27, 2019

When I was a teenager, I met Fr. McTavey and we worked together to plan events for young kids - a play, music and fund things. He was a fun person and all the young people, including me, loved him.  
I only knew him for a short time but I never forgot him. One of the best!  
Rest in peace, Fr. McTavey.

**Marietta Mitchell**

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