

Fr. Demetrios Kavadas

Fr. Demetrios Kavadas, a priest of the Greek Orthodox Church, husband and father, died Feb. 26 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. He was 74.

Born in Chios, Greece, Fr. Kavadas came to the United States in 1950. He graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary in Brookline, Mass. He was ordained a priest in 1957. He also was married in 1957 to Rodothea Palaiologou. He later received a master's degree in theology from Boston University. He was a Fullbright Scholar, and also a scholar of the Taylor Foundation in Atlanta and the Panchian Society of America.

In 1962, he became pastor of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Detroit, and led the parish for nearly 40 years, including its move in 1977 to St. Clair Shores. Throughout his ministry, Fr. Kavadas was involved civically and in various ecumenical efforts.

He often partnered on projects with the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"We join Metropolitan Nicholas and the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Greek Orthodox Church in giving thanks to God for his 39 years of service at Assumption Parish in St. Clair Shores, and his generous community leadership in the Metro area," said Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, in a statement.

Fr. Kavadas was the official chaplain for the St. Clair Shores Police Department, and received civic awards from St. Clair Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods and the Michigan House of Representatives. He also was recognized as Man of the Year by the March of Dimes.

After his retirement in 2001, Fr. Kavadas served the Greek Orthodox community at various other parishes, including Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Windsor from 2003 to 2006.

Fr. Kavadas is survived by his wife; their children, Iphigenia Kavadas Pappas and John Kavadas; and grandchildren George, Thea, Demetri and Vasilia. He was predeceased by two sons, Stephen and Basil.

Fr. Kavada's funeral liturgy was March 2 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.

Memorial offerings to the Fr. Demetrios Kavadas Memorial Fund at the Holy Cross School of Theology, 50 Goddard, Brookline, MA 02445; or the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter Road, St. Clair Shores 48080.