



## Rev. Gerard L. Dorgan

October 12, 1933 - December 5, 2019

Rev. Gerard L. Dorgan, age 86, died Thursday evening, December 5, 2019 following a period of declining health.

Born in Peabody on October 12, 1933, he was the son of the late Timothy and Marion (McBride) Dorgan. He and his family were communicants of Saint John the Baptist Church in Peabody where he attended the parish grammar school. He went on to Saint John's Preparatory School in Danvers, where he was a 1950 graduate.

Following a year of studies at the College of the Holy Cross, he enrolled in archdiocesan seminaries and was ordained on Feb. 3, 1958 by Richard Cardinal Cushing in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

He later earned a master's degree in English literature from Boston College and studied art history at Harvard University.

Father Dorgan was assigned briefly as a curate at Saint Margaret Mary in Westwood before being recalled to the seminary college to teach English literature and history. During his more than thirty years teaching at both Cardinal O'Connell Seminary and Saint John's Seminary, Father Dorgan also taught homiletics and developed a course of the history of art. For several years he also co-hosted an ecumenical radio program on WEEI, "Topic Religion."

Earlier in his tenure on the seminary faculty, he assisted on weekends at Saint James Church in Salem until 1976, when he began assisting at Saint Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Danvers. For fifteen years he travelled from Brighton each Sunday morning to bring his thoughtful priestly ministry to the people of Danvers.

In 1991, Fr. Dorgan became the pastor of the parish community. He served the parish and the wider community for the following twenty-one years with unwavering love and dedication. Through his eloquent and heartfelt preaching and celebration of the

sacraments, he shared the message of God's loving mercy.

Recognized for his faithful ministry, in 2008 he was honored with Saint John's Prep's Distinguished Alumni Award. He was twice acknowledged by the wider Danvers community with both "Drum Major for Justice" and "Keeper of the Flame" awards during his time as pastor, and in 2012 he and the parish were recognized by Catholic Charities for their dedication to the less fortunate.

He leaves a niece, Camilla Tierney, and a number of dear friends who cared lovingly for him during his illness including Lou and Jessie Thibault, Christine and Jim Morse, and Ed McMahon. He was predeceased by a brother, Philip Dorgan, two sisters, Camilla Baribo and Mary Collins, and a nephew, Stephen Baribo.

In the final years of his life, Father Dorgan was grateful for the remarkable care he received at Youville Place in Lexington, Hathorne Hill in Danvers, and Care Dimensions in Danvers.

Father Dorgan will lie in repose in Saint Mary of the Annunciation Church, 24 Conant St., Danvers on Thursday, December 12, 2019 from 3PM to 7PM beginning with the Rite of Reception at 2:30PM. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, December 13, 2019 at 11AM. Relatives and friends are invited. Services will conclude with burial in Saint Mary Cemetery, Salem. In lieu of flowers, donations in Fr. Dorgan's memory may be made to the Father Dorgan Scholarship Fund, 24 Conant St., Danvers, MA 01923. Arrangements are under the direction of C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors, 28 Elm St., Danvers. For directions or to leave a message of condolence, please visit [www.LyonsFuneral.com](http://www.LyonsFuneral.com).

# Cemetery

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## **Saint Mary Cemetery**

226 North Street

Salem, MA, 01970

# Events

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**DEC** **Visitation** 03:00PM - 07:00PM

**12**

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Saint Mary of the Annunciation Church

24 Conant Street, Danvers, MA, US, 01923

**DEC** **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

**13**

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Saint Mary of the Annunciation Church

24 Conant Street, Danvers, MA, US, 01923

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Lyons Funeral Home** - December 14, 2019 at 10:46 AM

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“ In 1965 I was a seminarian at Cardinal O'Connell Seminary. Fr Dorgan was my teacher of rhetoric. I was not a good student and did not pass his course and had to go to summer school to get a better grade. I'll never for "Gerard" as was his name among seminarians.(All faculty members had a nick name.He was greatly loved by his students. Bill Kane

**William F. Kane** - December 15, 2019 at 01:07 PM

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“ Father Dorgan was a wonderful man and priest. I thoroughly enjoyed his sermons and his quotes from other theologians. I also remember his beautiful collection of paintings that he shared with us on the altar. I thank God to have been so fortunate to have him in our St. Mary's Parish. Rest in Peace Father Dorgan and God Bless you.

**Mary P. Francis** - December 14, 2019 at 10:16 AM

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“ Father Dorgan was a holy man who helped me greatly when he was my spiritual director. A wonderful priest! I am grateful to have known him and to have had him in my life.

**Leonard Ryer** - December 13, 2019 at 10:10 AM

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“ It was good to see Fr Gerry Dorgan at so many of our family celebrations over the generations, starting with Olivia, Kitty and Sarah O'Donnell. I will remember him well as I read and refer to my Bible.

Joan Crimlisk



Joan Crimlisk - December 12, 2019 at 07:13 PM

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“ There was a good man of religion too,  
A country parson, poor, I warrant you;  
But rich he was in holy thought and work.  
He was a learned man also, a clerk,  
Who Christ's own Gospel truly sought to preach;  
Devoutly his parishioners would he teach.

The Canterbury Tales

Ed Dooley, sometime parishioner

Ed Dooley - December 10, 2019 at 03:27 PM

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“ He was a wonderful person, a wonderful man, a wonderful priest. I thank God for making him a presence in my life.  
Rest in peace Father.  
Joe Toner

Joe toner - December 08, 2019 at 12:07 PM

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“ Fr. Dorgan was so good to both St. John's Prep and the Xaverian Brothers. For many years I always enjoyed his reflections on the Mass readings and his company and conversation. I know the Xaverian Brothers miss him. Proficiat and rest in peace Gerry. Pray for us.

Bro. Tim Paul

Bro. Timothy Paul - December 07, 2019 at 06:35 PM

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“ My mom got to know Fr. Dorgan when she cared for his mother. They became close, dear friends. He was a great comfort to her when we lost my dad, 10 years ago today, and 9 months later he was there for us when we lost my mom. He had such a calm quiet demeanor. RIP Fr. Dorgan and God bless you for your service to the Church and its members.

**Ruth L Citroni Richardson** - December 07, 2019 at 05:04 PM



“ I fondly recall my early memories of Fr. Dorgan. I was a seminarian in 1969 at St. Clement's Hall at St. John's in Brighton. He impressed me as a true gentleman. He reflected not only his true relationship to Jesus but also actively employed his education in in His service. A fond quote of his, referring to purple vestments as the "Church's Work Clothes".

**Joseph P Houley** - December 10, 2019 at 12:29 PM

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“ If anyone on earth ever personified who Jesus is it was this precious man, Fr. Dorgan. I have so many precious memories of this saintly, loving, giving, approachable man, from his inspiring homilies, positive fashion critiquing of my teenagers, baptizing my Grandbabies, to him visiting my Mom as she was making her journey home, to playing the piano and a dancing with my sister as I played for him. My heart is so sad as I have missed him, my heart is so very full and so very thankful and blest that God has shared him with me and my family. Rest in Peace Fr. Dorgan, you have run an amazing race and your God is waiting to award you for all your good works! You will live forever in ALL who were blest and privileged to have known you!!!

**Sheila Bell Rein Vaccaro** - December 07, 2019 at 03:18 PM