



Dr. Michael James Murphy

September 11, 1937 - January 16, 2025

Dr. Michael James Murphy, 87, of Lansing, a man of Faith and generosity, died peacefully in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his family on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Michael was born on September 11, 1937 in Lansing, the youngest son of Charles Thomas and Mary Lucille (Winters) Murphy. Growing up, Michael loved playing baseball and basketball, leading him to developed a lifelong love of sports. He was a gifted athlete, eventually playing guard on the Sacred Heart basketball team. He attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, initially intending to become ordained as a priest. He lived and studied for a year and a half in Rome, where he met Pope John the 23rd.

During his vocational discernment process, the familial calling to dentistry inspired him to return to Lansing to work alongside his brother, following in the footsteps of their father and uncle. During his time in dentistry school, he found himself sitting across from a beautiful woman on a blind date. Her name was Helen Rae Laige, and she would become the love of his life. Michael and Helen Rae married on June 25, 1966 and the two settled immediately into family life, welcoming their first of six children a year later.

Michael's many years in practice as a dentist endeared him to countless in the community, and his giving spirit and gifts of grace led him to freely give of his time and talent to all who entered his office, regardless of their culture, creed

or financial situation. Helping others was the central focus of Michael's career. It is this legacy of grace, kindness and professional care that Michael leaves to his two sons who carry on the practice.

His sense of humor and infectious charisma also brought Michael close to all those who had the pleasure of meeting him. His motto was "Faith, Family, Friends, and Golf." The order of importance of these was often open to interpretation. Michael's beloved Tuesday night prayer group brought together a group of his closest friends to indulge in each other's company and the spirit of happiness. Although the group didn't say many actual prayers, their fellowship and frivolity lifted the spirit and will remain a legendary tradition.

Michael was a member of Delta Township Rotary, the Michigan Dental Association, and was always active at St. Gerard's Catholic Church, where he volunteered countless hours, especially delivering meals for St. Vincent DePaul. He was a longtime member of the Country Club of Lansing, where he enjoyed one of his greatest joys, the game of golf. Michael enjoyed six hole-in-ones, his last being at the age of 86. He enjoyed travelling the world playing many stunning courses alongside his sons and close friends.

Michael is survived by his wife of 58 years, Helen Rae Murphy; their children, Elizabeth (David) Letzer-Tycocki, Dr. John Murphy, Matthew (Amber) Murphy, Timothy (Samara) Murphy, Dr. Kevin (Sarah) Murphy, and Meghan (Michael) Sharpe; 14 grandchildren, Benjamin and Hannah Letzer, Katelyn Kluemper, Erin Murphy, Addison Murphy, Emma and Samuel Murphy, Bryn, Leah, Anna and Miles Jack Murphy, Ryan and Paige Sharpe, and Michael Sharpe III; and several nieces, nephews and extended family. He was predeceased by his three brothers, Judge Charles Murphy, Dr. Joseph Murphy, Thomas Murphy; sister, Mardy O'Hagan; niece, Dr. Anne Janca; and nephew, Dan Murphy.

Friends are encouraged to support Dr. Murphy's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation

will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lansing on Thursday, January 23, 2025. A Funeral Mass of Celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2025 at St. Gerard Catholic Church in Lansing with Rev. Fr. Bob Bacik and Msgr. Bernie Riley officiating. Interment will take place at Evergreen Cemetery in Lansing. The family suggests memorial contributions to St. Gerard Catholic Church, St. Vincent DePaul, or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The family wishes to express their gratitude and thanks to the staff at Sparrow Hospital and the Care Team that made Michael's final days comfortable in his home. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

2600 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 23. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Gerard Catholic Church
4437 W Willow Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Visitation

JAN 23. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

St. Gerard Catholic Church
4437 W Willow Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Rosary

JAN 23. 7:30 PM (ET)

St. Gerard Catholic Church
4437 W Willow Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Funeral Mass

JAN 24. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Gerard Catholic Church
4437 W Willow Highway
Lansing, MI 48917

Burial

JAN 24. 12:00 PM (ET)

Evergreen Cemetery
2600 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Michael James Murphy



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 22, 2025 at 09:03 PM

CD

Beautiful pictures. I am so sorry for your loss, sending prayers.

Christine Dennings - January 23, 2025 at 09:20 AM

GS

Very sorry to learn Dr. Mike passed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

George & Celeste Schraft

George Schraft - January 23, 2025 at 02:21 PM

DP

We are so sorry for your loss, Helen. We send our deepest condolences to you and your family. May God comfort you all. We are having a Mass said at St Francis Retreat Center for your dear loved one.

Dennis and Lucy Platte

dennis and lucy platte - January 23, 2025 at 04:30 PM

BM

We've lost another good Irishman! Going back to the days at Waverly I remember Dr. Mike as down to earth, kind and professional. My sympathy to all the family.

Brian McKenna - January 23, 2025 at 09:25 PM

BO

Murphy Family, we are so sorry for your loss. Dr. Murphy was a great man who always had time for others. We will miss his chats and great stories. We are blessed to have known such a man with so much love and pride for his family. You are in are thoughts and prayers.

Brian O'Connell - January 24, 2025 at 10:21 AM

JS

With sympathy, Jean Shane

Jean Shane - January 24, 2025 at 11:32 AM

KK

“*Dear Helen Rae - It was, ironically, at a funeral earlier this week, that I first heard about your dear Michael's passing. I am so sorry to have missed his 'home-going' Mass at St. Gerard. A wise friend once told me that we attend funerals to support the living - and since I only met Michael once or twice - cannot say I knew him but I knew you and would have come as your friend, had I known. Beautiful couple..family.. life and love. The video was touching. You all have great teeth! My love, as you endeavor to navigate life without him. Kate Kent*

Kathleen Kent - March 07, 2025 at 02:14 PM

KH

“*I am so sorry for your families loss. When I worked in the dental office and he would come in with a huge smile and a joke. Rest in Peace Sir.*

Kathy Hengstebeck - January 31, 2025 at 03:13 PM

JB

“*Jennifer B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*

Jennifer B. - January 24, 2025 at 07:15 AM

FZ

“ From, The DCI East Zone purchased the Divine Light for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



From, The DCI East Zone - January 23, 2025 at 02:38 PM

FZ

“ From, The DCI East Zone planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

From, The DCI East Zone - January 23, 2025 at 02:38 PM

G&

“ George &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

George &. - January 23, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 23, 2025 at 02:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 23, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



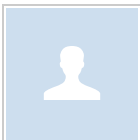
January 23, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ *Alison and David Brownback purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



Alison and David Brownback - January 23, 2025 at 11:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 23, 2025 at 10:34 AM



“ *Jarrett J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*

Jarrett J. - January 22, 2025 at 10:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 22, 2025 at 09:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 22, 2025 at 09:13 PM



“ Peter, Caroline, Ellie and Nora purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



Peter, Caroline, Ellie and Nora - January 22, 2025 at 08:38 PM



“ Peter, Caroline, Ellie and Nora planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

Peter, Caroline, Ellie and Nora - January 22, 2025 at 08:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 22, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ *109 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 22, 2025 at 08:14 PM



“ *Dr Mike was such a wonder, always a smile, a joke, and joy in his heart. Our condolences to his family, especially Helen, John, Kevin. Doug and Judi Drake*

Judith Drake - January 22, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 22, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ *David, Stacey, Ryan, and Jake Rivet purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



David, Stacey, Ryan, and Jake Rivet - January 22, 2025 at 04:11 PM



“ *What a blessed life Dr. Mike had and such a wonderful legacy he has left. As Dr. Kevin told me about his passing, I wondered how my father started with him and only after my appt. did I remember. It was when my father was at the St. Vincent home, Dr. Mike gave his time to the kids for dental work. After my father became an adult he continued to go to Dr. Mike and take his family there (my only dentist) even when I moved away for a few years, I would fly home every six months. He was that great of a dentist and person! And now my children and grandchildren go to Dr. John and Dr. Kevin. I miss Dr. Mike's singing and jokes, and telling about his last golf trip. Such a special soul. My condolences to his wife and family. Jil (Quinn) Hebert*

Jil (Quinn) Hebert - January 22, 2025 at 02:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 22, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 22, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ Delores, Mike, Kathy, Chris and Emily purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



Delores, Mike, Kathy, Chris and Emily - January 22, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ Delores, Mike, Kathy, Chris and Emily planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

Delores, Mike, Kathy, Chris and Emily - January 22, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 22, 2025 at 10:56 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 22, 2025 at 10:56 AM



“ *We are so sadden to learn of Dr. Mike's passing. Our Mom (Sharon) worked alongside Dr Mike as his assistant for many many years before becoming their receptionist. She loved Dr. Mike as if he were family. I have a picture of both of them in the office (on Waverly Rd) with cigarettes in their hands. A sign of the times for sure. They both were so young looking.
I fondly remember always telling Dr Mike not to rub my face...ladies like their faces patted dry. He was a wonderful dentist and respectful, caring man.
Lifting the entire Murphy family up in light and love. Having just lost our Mom 3 weeks before, we know what you are going through.
Hugs~*

Francine/Romy and the rest of Sharon Pennell's family.

Francine Bushrey - January 22, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ *My condolences and prayers to the Murphy family. I would like to share a memory of Dr. Mike that maybe others will be familiar with too.*

After each cleaning in the office, Dr. Mike would come and take a look at my teeth and his closing comment would be “I’d trade with you”. That would always bring a smile to my face as it showed his human approach to his patients.

Thanks and God Bless.

Vince Schimizzi (patient) - January 22, 2025 at 10:40 AM



“ *Your father and mother were dear dear friends of my parents, Gib and Ginny Simon.*

John was my dentist until we moved up to northern Michigan a few years ago. Our sincere condolences in Mike’s passing. He is most certainly in the loving arms of Jesus in Heaven.

I’m sure Mike will be joining a foursome with the Gibber very soon and will be having a reunion with many other dear friends in Heaven.

We are praying for Jesus to give you comfort and peace during this time.

Jim and Helen Simon

Jim Simon - January 22, 2025 at 09:10 AM

RE

“ My condolences to the Murphy family. I had many enjoyable conversations with him as he watched his family play in the CCL golf Invitational.

Ron English - January 22, 2025 at 09:03 AM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 21, 2025 at 10:29 PM

TS

“ Mike, good man, sense of humor, excellent dentist. Love to his terrific family!

Tom Spiegel - January 21, 2025 at 09:13 PM

TF

“ The Joe Janca Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

The Joe Janca Family - January 21, 2025 at 07:21 PM

TF

“ The Joe Janca Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



The Joe Janca Family - January 21, 2025 at 07:21 PM

TS

“ *The Schlissbergs purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



The Schlissbergs - January 21, 2025 at 02:56 PM

TS

“ *The Schlissbergs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*

The Schlissbergs - January 21, 2025 at 02:56 PM

JP

“ *Joseph Pratt lit a candle in memory of Dr. Michael James Murphy*



Joseph Pratt - January 21, 2025 at 02:38 PM

YE

“ *Yours - Tara, Lisa, Nicole and Erin purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



Yours - Tara, Lisa, Nicole and Erin - January 21, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 21, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 21, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ *Elaine Fowler & Tim Tycocki purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



Elaine Fowler & Tim Tycocki - January 21, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ *Elaine Fowler & Tim Tycocki planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*

Elaine Fowler & Tim Tycocki - January 21, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 21, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *The Bilancia Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



The Bilancia Family - January 21, 2025 at 09:03 AM



“ *The Bilancia Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*

The Bilancia Family - January 21, 2025 at 09:03 AM

PB

“ I have known Mike my friend, dentist and roommate for a very long time. I was in medical school at the same time Mike was in dental school in Ann Arbor. He was the only dental student roommate in a house of med students all from MSU. While we studied gross anatomy, Mike studied the very detailed head and neck anatomy. I remember him carving test dentures in bars of soap or blocks of wood. Neither he nor I understood why it was required. Mike was an easy roommate but he was only with us for a year or so when he met Helen. It was a beautiful wedding. I started seeing Dr Joe when I was seventeen, started seeing Dr. Mike as his brother retired and after Mike decided golf was more important than denistry I saw Dr. John until I moved away from the area. Currently, my son and his two young boys see the brothers Murphy. The Badra's have received excellent dental care from the Murphy's for over sixty years! It is always difficult to cope with the loss of loved ones yet they never really leave us, they live on in our memories and treasured moments. God bless all of you at this sad time.
Phil Badra

Phillip L Badra - January 21, 2025 at 08:53 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 21, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



January 21, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 21, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ *Jerry and Jessica Sommer purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



Jerry and Jessica Sommer - January 21, 2025 at 07:20 AM



“ *Krista Isaacs purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



Krista Isaacs - January 20, 2025 at 07:31 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 20, 2025 at 05:09 PM



“ I met Dr. Murphy through his wonderful wife Helen Rae. Helen was my high school theater director. I also babysat 9 of their grandchildren. I have known the Murphys since 2005. Such a wonderful family. Dr. Murphy was always so much fun. He was a character and one of a kind. He always made me laugh. He was a very giving and loving man. Always enjoyed my time with the Murphys. Dr. Murphy will missed. ❤️

Brittany Martinez - January 20, 2025 at 04:02 PM



“ Your Friends and Family at Encore Salon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

Your Friends and Family at Encore Salon - January 20, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ Your Friends and Family at Encore Salon purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



Your Friends and Family at Encore Salon - January 20, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 20, 2025 at 01:35 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 20, 2025 at 01:35 PM



“ I began going to the Murphy dental practice over 30 years ago at the recommendation of my supervisor after I moved to the Lansing area. Dr. Mike was the first dentist assigned to me and what a character he was! He always had a joke for you and would occasionally burst into song as he drilled away. Always an entertaining experience!! My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time.



Sandy Armbrustmacher - January 20, 2025 at 12:47 PM

CK

“ We feel so blessed to have shared so many treasured memories with Papa Murph over so many years. He was an amazing person, friend and mentor and left us with his legacy and a wonderful family that he was very proud of. Prayers to everyone as you go through this difficult time. Find peace knowing you have an angel who will watch over all of you.

All our love,
Chris, Sandra, Derek and Adam

Christopher E Kazor - January 20, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 20, 2025 at 09:54 AM

DH

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Dr. Mike. His laughter echoed thru the rooms. I started with Dr, Joe and then Dr. Mike, and then ended up many years ago when John joined the practice. He will always be around in spirit.

Diane Hudson - January 20, 2025 at 08:36 AM

KM

“ Dr. Murphy was my very first dentist, and my only dentist, until Keven and John started practicing. I cried when I had to leave their practice briefly, due to a short term job/insurance change. Dr. Mike always made me feel comfortable in the chair, with his gentle and kind spirit. My condolences to the family. He was a wonderful man, who will be dearly missed by many. May he rest in peace.

Kimberly Mull - January 20, 2025 at 07:48 AM

TB

“ Tom and Laurie Bergman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

Tom and Laurie Bergman - January 20, 2025 at 12:12 AM

TB

“ Tom and Laurie Bergman purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



Tom and Laurie Bergman - January 20, 2025 at 12:12 AM

LL

“ Love Tim, Kelly, Brooke and Audrey Lebel purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



Love Tim, Kelly, Brooke and Audrey Lebel - January 19, 2025 at 09:52 PM

F(

“ From the Weston family (Greenville, SC) purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



From the Weston family (Greenville, SC) - January 19, 2025 at 09:37 PM

TA

“ Our prayers go out to the entire family. Mike was our dentist for many years and a neighbor on Rockdale. We enjoyed many joy filled new years Eve parties in their home. He was indeed a charming Irishman and loved by so many
Rest in Peace

Tara - January 19, 2025 at 08:20 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 19, 2025 at 07:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 19, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 19, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 19, 2025 at 07:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Michael James Murphy.

January 19, 2025 at 06:03 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.



January 19, 2025 at 06:03 PM



“ Thank you Tyler Pray for all your help. This wonderful man will be missed but never forgotten. A lucky and thankful son. Kevin Murphy

Kevin Murphy - January 19, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ *The Linderts purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Dr. Michael James Murphy.*



The Linderts - January 19, 2025 at 05:10 PM