



**REV. NORMAN PHILLIP DROSKI**  
**Sacred Heart's 9<sup>TH</sup> Pastor**  
**1996—2003**

Norman Phillip Droski was born on July 4, 1938 to Felix (Phil) T. Droski (Drzazgowski) and Isabelle Cizauskas at St. Adalbert Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. He was baptized at SS. Peter & Paul in Grand Rapids on July 30, 1938. He made his Confirmation on April 14, 1950 at St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids. From September 2, 1952 to June 4, 1958 he entered St. Joseph Seminary in Grand Rapids. From September 1958 to June 1960 he studied at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, OH where he received his B.A. degree. From September 1960 to June 1964 he received his S.T.B. degree at St. John's Seminary in Plymouth, MI. During the summers he was enrolled at the University of Detroit in Detroit. On June 6, 1964 he was ordained to the priesthood at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids by Bishop Allen J. Babcock. From February to May 1980 he studied at Pontifical North American College, the Institute for Continuing Theological Education (I.C.T.E.) in Rome Italy. This is a Roman Catholic educational

institution that forms seminarians for priestly ministry in the dioceses of the United States and elsewhere.

**PRIESTHOOD ASSIGNMENTS:**

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|------------------|---|
| Summer 1964      | Pastoral associate St. Isidore Parish, Grand Rapids   |
| 1964-1969        | Pastoral associate/administrator St. Joseph Parish, Manistee, & faculty of Manistee Catholic Central High School. |
| 1969 Summer/Fall | Pastoral associate St. Mary's Parish, Gaylord, & Holy Redeemer Parish, Vanderbilt                                 |
| 1969-1970        | Pastoral administrator St. Mary Parish, Manistee  |
| 1970-1973        | Pastoral Associate/administrator Sacred Heart Parish, Grand Rapids  |
| 1973-1974        | Pastoral associate St. Paul Parish Campus & St. Mary Parish, Big Rapids   |
| 1974-1975        | Pastor St. Stanislaus Parish, Ludington   |
| 1975-1984        | Founding pastor Holy Redeemer Parish, Jenison   |
| 1984-1996        | Pastor St. Patrick Parish/St. Anthony Parish, Grand Haven   |
| <b>1996-2003</b> | <b>Pastor Sacred Heart Parish, Muskegon Heights</b>   |
| July 2, 2003     | <i>Retired to senior status</i>   |

**ASSIGNMENTS AFTER SENIOR STATUS:**

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|--------------|--|
| 2003-2013    | Sacramental service St. Mary of the Woods, Lakewood Club, Twin Lake, & St. James Parish, Montague  |
| 2004-2008    | Pastoral administrator St. Edward Parish, Lake Odessa, & St. Anthony Parish, Saranac   |
| 2009-2012    | Pastoral administrator St. Michael Parish, Coopersville  |
| Winter 2010  | Pastoral administrator St. Joseph Parish, Wright   |
| Winter 2012  | Pastoral Administrator Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Grand Rapids  |
| 2013-Present | <i>Sacramental assistance at parishes: (spiritual care and ministry): Coopersville. Eastern Ottawa County Parishes, Grand Haven. Marne. Montague. Muskegon. Muskegon Heights. Spring Lake. Funeral Homes &amp; Nursing Homes</i> |

**OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:**

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|-----------|--|
| 1982-2014 | Continuing volunteer at Diocesan Marriage Office |
| 1989-1995 | Dean of the Grand Haven Deanery                  |
| 1990-2000 | Diocesan Building Committee                      |
| 1999-2009 | Board of Catholic Charities West Michigan        |

**FOLLOWING ARE ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES THAT TOOK PLACE WHILE FATHER NORM SERVED AT SACRED HEART PARISH:**

- 1997** When the student count dropped below 50 the school closed.  
 The rectory and offices were renovated including a new phone system. The work was performed by parishioners: Jack Aerts, Larry Furman, Claude Lynn, Bert Miller, Mike Miller, Frank Stuhan, and Jacque Crevier.
- 1998** The parish administrative office began scheduling the use of all facilities. i.e, various ministries, meetings, gatherings, as a result of security issues directed by the insurance company. The school buildings were leased to Muskegon Public Schools for Adult Education classes.  
 All buildings were rekeyed.  
 The Finance Council developed two standing committees: Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) and Buildings and Grounds.
- 1999** A need for a kitchen in the new school building was approved by the Pastoral Council.  
 The Lenten program was changed due to the lack of visiting priests.

*Fr. Norm—activities and changes that took place during his tenure at Sacred Heart continued:*

**June 29, 1999:** Madonna House celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year in Muskegon Heights. Fr. Norm celebrated 9:00 AM Mass at Madonna House that Tuesday morning.

**2000** Sacred Heart welcomed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a Jubilee Celebration. Mary Jane Rogers, a Sacred Heart parishioner, made the banners in the church, except for the 2000 Jubilee banner which was purchased from Barbara Kleaveland, a local resident of Muskegon.

An updated parish directory was published.

Sacred Heart hosted a parish MISSION from October 21-October 25, 2000. Father Jim Marchionda, a Dominican priest from the Chicago Province of St. Albert the Great, was the preacher for the theme, "Embracing a God of Surprises."

**2001** Parish bulletins began being published on the internet.

Sacred Heart Parish began having a children's and a youth choir in the Fall.

**2003** A Retirement Party for Father Norm was held on his last weekend as pastor before retirement. After the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, June 28, 2003, a dinner in the gym was provided with a "shower" for necessary items for Father Norm's new home. Cake was served on Sunday, June 29, after the 10:30 AM Mass.

Bless you, Fr. Norm, for your dedicated, priestly, service to Sacred Heart. We are so very grateful to you for celebrating our liturgies with us as our substitute priest.