Father Joseph Peter Kozlowski, 90, who served most of his 66 years as a priest at St. Hyacinth’s Church, Glen Head, died June 20th. His wake will be held at the church June 24 from 2 to 7:30 p.m., followed by a Mass of Transferral at 7:30. The Funeral Mass will be held on June 25 at 11 a.m.

A native of Maspeth, Queens, he was ordained a priest of the Brooklyn Diocese June 11, 1949 and was assigned to St. Hyacinth’s as an associate pastor.

“Those were good days,” Father Kozlowski recalled in a 2009 interview with The Long Island Catholic newspaper on the occasion of his 60th anniversary of ordination. He was charged with “preparation for marriage. What was interesting about that is that many of the couples at the time had not had much education or background in their faith,” Father Kozlowski recalled. So he worked with them to help them grow in their understanding of the faith. He also worked with the first Communion and Confirmation classes. “We had a lot of fun, but we were serious about helping these kids get ready for their sacraments.”

In 1960 he was transferred to St. Hedwig’s Church in Floral Park. “It was there I really learned how to be a priest. It was such a large parish with so many things to do. And I had good rapport with the people.”
In 1970, he returned to St. Hyacinth's as pastor. "It's been very good," seeing the parish grow and develop over most of its existence, he said in the 2009 interview.

Father Kozlowski was chaplain for Glen Cove's volunteer fire department for 16 years, as well as chaplain for the Nassau County Police Department's Pulaski Association. In 1972 he was elected grand marshal for the annual Pulaski Day Parade in New York City.

Father Kozlowski retired in 1992, but continued to reside and help out at St. Hyacinth's. In 2001 served as temporary administer of the Church of Our Lady of Ostrabrama, Cutchogue.