

Article clipped from The Bridgeport Post



REV. JOHN J. DRAPER

rites on Monday for Fr. Draper

Bishop Curtis to Officiate at Mass for Priest Found Dead in N. Y.

A funeral Mass for the Rev. John J. Draper, 26, pastor of St. Joseph's parochial school, Shelton, whose body was found June 22 in the Manhattan hotel, New York city, will be celebrated Monday at 10:30 a. m. in St. Joseph's church, Shelton.

A special high Mass of requiem will be offered by the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, bishop of Bridgeport, at 11 o'clock. Friends and parishioners will participate. Father Draper had received an assistant in the Right Rev. Francis J. Casper, pastor of St. Joseph's.

Police said later it appeared the priest had taken a shower and then slipped and fallen as he tried to cross the tub. They said the tub walls and drain had been snapped off.

The identification procedure was complicated by the fact that Father Draper had registered at the hotel under the name of J. William of New Jersey.

An autopsy disclosed Father Draper had suffered a fractured vertebra and that three vertebrae on the left knee and left shoulder. Police said the fractured vertebra was apparently the cause of death.

Bishop Curtis said the death of Father Draper "deprives the diocese of Bridgeport of a priest in the fullness of his active years."

The bishop commended the FBI and local and state police for their work in the case. "Father Draper's life of steady work," he said, "was characterized by zeal and great kindness. He leaves after him many good friends as the parishioners of the various churches he served."

Surviving Father Draper are his wife, Mrs. Frank Taylor of Waterbury and Mrs. Mathias D'Arcangelo of Madison.

His body will be taken from St. Joseph's rectory to the church at 11 o'clock tomorrow. Vespers and a low Mass for the dead will be offered at 7:30 p. m. On Monday at 10:30 a. m., Bishop Curtis will offer the special Mass of requiem in the church. He will be assisted by Rev. John J. Barbery, rector of St. Augustine's cathedral, Waterbury; the Rev. Bernard E. Stanton, pastor of St. Paul's church, Fairfield; and the Rev. Joseph M. Fitzgerald, assistant pastor of Our Lady of Grace church, Stratford. An assist deacon, the Rev. Arthur R. Stone, pastor of St. Joseph's church, New Britain, diocese.

Also, the Rev. William D. Dunne, of St. John's church, Danbury, substitute; the Rev. George P. Miller, rector of St. Paul's church, Stratford; and the Rev. Mary E. Gorman, pastor of St. Alban's church, New Canaan, assist. The Rev. John B. Homan, pastor of St. Joseph's church, Woodfield, and priest of intermediate and school, Danbury, minister, and the Right Rev. John J. Tamm, chancellor of the diocese and the Very Rev. John C. Trenchard, vice-chancellor, masters of ceremonies.

In the Rev. Robert W. Ludlow of New Britain, diocese. Burial will be in St. Joseph's new cemetery at Bristol.

The Bridgeport Post
Bridgeport, Connecticut •
Sat, Jul 16, 1966
Page 27



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