

Just a few weeks ago, I was looking for an old photo of my grandfather in my family's photo album. In the way my mom organized her books, this was the oldest and largest album. My mom tried to represent both sides of the family in this album. Now remember that my parents were born in the 1920's and married late in life (and then had me). They both grew up on the North side of Kalamazoo: North Church and Harrison streets and walked to school and church at St. A. (my mom's family walked over to St. Mary's). As I browsed through this album, I ran into the World War II section. My dad, my uncles, were all in uniform, pictured next to Jeeps and barracks and friends long gone and places in Europe and Africa. Our families were pretty lucky: everyone made it back. But not everyone did. When I was the Rector at St. A in the early 2000's, I ran across a poster in the church basement that listed all the men and women who were in the service during WWII from the parish. It was quite a list. There were marks next to the names of those who were killed in action or missing in action.

To all those who served in country, we thank you for your service as we celebrate this Veteran's Day 2020. All those people who prayed for you brought you back to us. We remember and pray for all those we lost. Our prayers continue to be with all those who serve us and our country today. May they too return home safely and become our next generation of veterans.

Fr Mark

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