



Rev. William J. Dietsch

October 9, 1943 - November 10, 2025

Reverend William J. Dietsch, 82, passed away on Monday, November 10, 2025, at North River Nursing Home. Fr. Bill was born on October 9, 1943, to the late Edward and Marie (Hasenour) Dietsch in Gibson County, Indiana. Surviving are sisters, Bernadette Dietsch and Judith Gorman; niece, Elizabeth (Kevin) Besing; nephews, Michael (Jennifer) Dietsch, Paul (Karen) Gorman, and Thomas Gorman; and great niece and great nephew, Julian and Mirabelle Dietsch.

Fr. Bill studied at St. Mary's College, St. Mary, Kentucky and at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained a priest on December 18, 1971, at St. Wendel Parish by Bishop Francis R. Shea.

He loved serving the People of God and he was a proud veteran of the United States Navy. Fr. Bill's roots were important to him: he loved the land he lived on and he faithfully worked in the vineyard of the Lord for 54 years. He loved serving on retreats, sharing God's message of love, and shared freely from several joke books for which he was known and loved.

His first appointment was at St. Theresa Parish in Evansville in August of 1972. Subsequently, he served as Associate Pastor, St. Agnes Parish, Evansville, including a teaching assignment at Mater Dei High School, and Director of Christian Young Adults. In July 1978 he served as the Associate

Pastor at Holy Cross Parish, Fort Branch. In June of 1979 he became Pastor of Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Mariah Hill. He served on the Senate of Priests and was appointed a Diocesan consultor in January of 1983. He served at Nativity Parish in Evansville as Pastor for three years from 1987-1990. For 6 year he served as Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Petersburg followed by a term as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Poseyville. He added Holy Angels Parish in 2003. In 2004, he returned as Pastor to Mary Help of Christians Parish in Mariah Hill, and St. John Chrysostom in New Boston. Fr. Bill retired from active ministry in 2008, but continued to serve at St. Vincent Hospital until he could no longer do so.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at St. Wendel Catholic Church, Bishop Joseph Siegel and priests of the Diocese of Evansville officiating. Burial will follow in St. Wendel Church Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 2:00 until 7:00 PM on Monday, November 17, 2025, at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street, where there will be a vigil service held at 7:00 PM. Friends may also visit from 9:30 AM until service time on Tuesday at St. Wendel Catholic Church, 10542 W. Boonville New Harmony Road.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Diocese of Evansville, 4200 N. Kentucky Ave, Evansville, IN 47711.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Wendel Church Cemetery

10542 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Vigil Service

NOV 17. 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
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Visitation

NOV 18. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Wendel Catholic Church
10542 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road
Evansville, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Wendel Catholic Church
10542 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall

KO

“ *Fr. Bill said Mass for Hasenour Family Reunions sponsored by cousin Vince Schu and his wife Sandy. I will always remember Fr. Bill and this ministry to his family of cousins, spouses and their children. I am one of many of Fr. Bills cousins. I reside in Renton, Washington. My mother Eleanor (Hasenour) McGuire was a sister to Marie (Hasenour) Dietsch--Fr. Bill's mother. Eleanor and her husband Mac drove 5 days from Oregon to St. Wendel to visit two sisters Marie Dietsch and Frances Tieken. As a child I remember how fun it was to finally arrive in St. Wendel after a long drive EAST and play with cousins which included Fr. Bill. How I wish I could be with Fr. Bill's family as you celebrated his life.*

Like Fr. Bill, Eleanor served in the US military as an Army Nurse. Eleanor married Mac, a mahogany logger, in the Philippine Islands in 1939. Family photos show Eleanor shipped her wedding veil to sister Marie when Marie married Ed Dietsch.

I am just one year and a few months older than Fr. Bill. I recall him as a gentle playmate, rolling in the grass together.

You may wonder why I live so far away from Indiana. Mac and Eleanor returned to the States Aug. 1941 knowing the Japanese were preparing provisions for war in the jungles of the Philippines. Mac continued employment in the West Coast logging industry with his brother.

Kathie (McGuire) Ossenkop - November 19, 2025 at 03:03 AM

LA

“ *Fr. Bill was a year behind us at Mater Dei. Virgil was a classmate of ours and Jerry was a couple years older. His sister Margie was a fellow parishioner at All Saints. Fr. Bill had Mass several times at All Saints(St. Anthony's Campus). Easy to talk with Bill and reminisce about old times. He was a really nice guy. PAX TECUM, Bill! Vaya con Dios, mi Amigo! Leonard"Larry" & Carolyn Adams'60*

Leonard R. Adams - November 17, 2025 at 01:08 PM

AV

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



April VanPolen - November 16, 2025 at 08:17 PM

AV

Fr. Bill celebrating his 82nd birthday at the home of Chad and Stephanie Wagner.

April VanPolen - November 16, 2025 at 08:19 PM

PT

“ Bernice and Judy, We were so sorry to learn of Father Dietsch's passing. We remember the wonderful homily he gave at Father Kenny's funeral. Our prayers are with all of you

Paul and Gloria Tieman - November 15, 2025 at 11:45 AM

LS

“ I wish to offer my sympathy and prayers to Father Bill's family. He was one of my Schmitt family relatives. Sister Laura Marie Schmitt from St Wendel

Laura Marie Schmitt - November 14, 2025 at 02:05 PM

CF

“ My condolences to Fr. Dietsch's many family and friends. A gentle and compassionate servant of God.



Cathy (Weiss) Funkhouser - November 12, 2025 at 01:30 PM

PS

“ *Father Dietsch was such a gentle kind soul. He was such a caring and loving priest. Enjoyed my time working beside him at St Francis Parish in Poseyville.*

*God bless,
Patricia Singleton*

Patricia Singleton - November 11, 2025 at 08:55 PM

JM

Bill was such a kind man. He had such a gentle heart for such a big guy

Judy Mills - November 12, 2025 at 12:26 PM

RH

My most sincere condolences to Fr. Bill's family, fellow priests, and friends from the many parishes and ministries in which he served. It was always a joy and inspiration to see him again at reunions, a few of which he himself organized for our class, despite his medical complications. Requiescat in pace.

*Rev. Gregory P. Holicky
Classmate at the Pontifical North American College, Rome.
Senior Priest of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana.*

Rev. Gregory P. Holicky - November 15, 2025 at 02:37 PM