



## Deacon Bruce M. Watermann

March 20, 1950 - January 31, 2023

Bruce M. Watermann, 72, fondly known to many as Deacon Bruce, peacefully passed on to his heavenly life on Monday, January 31, 2023 at his home. Bruce was born March 20, 1950 in Elgin, IL to Alfred and Laretta (Dreyer) Watermann.

Bruce graduated from Elgin High School and entered the world of broadcasting as a DJ at several Fox Valley radio stations. It was at WKKD (Now 95.9 the River) that Bruce would meet the 'girl next door' - Jody Poss, who quickly became the love of his life. He would go on to marry her and live next door to the radio station for the rest of his life.

This past August they were blessed to celebrate 50 years of marriage. Although radio was his first passion, Bruce also enjoyed the culinary arts which would go on to become his primary career. He started at Pheasant Run in high school and eventually landed at St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin where he became the Director of Food Production. He later managed the food and nutrition program at Asbury Gardens in North Aurora.

Deacon Bruce was a life-long devout Roman Catholic and a longtime parishioner at St Therese Church. His devotion to ministry began over 40 years ago with the training of Altar Servers. Through the years he served as Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and found his true calling as a Catechist. He

would go on to educate and prepare hundreds of students for the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation.

With encouragement from Sr. Pia of the Cross, he began his journey to become a deacon in 1995. He was ordained in 1999 and served at St. Therese until 2019 when he was reassigned to St. Joseph. He also served as the Sunday Mass deacon at St. Nicholas for over 10 years, delivering the homily at almost every Mass. Over the years Deacon Bruce became immensely involved in Spanish ministry in Aurora, often helping out at Sacred Heart, St. Mary and St. Peter as well as St. Nicholas whenever there was a need. A special ministry was teaching Liturgical English to priests coming to the Rockford Diocese from Columbia and Venezuela. It was well-known that Deacon Bruce's vocabulary did not include the word 'No'. Deacon Bruce had a great devotion to St. Francis of Assisi. In 2002 a dream came true when, along with Robert and Holly, they purchased an A-Frame and 14 acres in the quaint town of Necedah, WI, whose Catholic church coincidentally is named St. Francis of Assisi. For over 20 years they would relish the views of nature from their family room picture windows while enjoying the flames emanating from the wood-burning stove. As anyone who knew him was aware, he was a loyal Milwaukee Brewers and a diehard Green Bay Packers fan. He was well-versed in a multitude of topics including Old Time Radio shows, the name and history of every radio station and newspaper in every city in the country and had an encyclopedic knowledge about the churches in the City of Aurora and the Diocese of Rockford.

Deacon Bruce was a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Knights of Columbus, Chaplain for the Aurora Township Fire Department and a proud Associate of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. He was the recipient of the God and Fellow Man award from the Aurora Kiwanis in 2014.

Survivors include his wife Jody (Poss), their only child Robert (Holly)

Watermann, and his cherished grandchildren Abigail and Jackson Watermann. In addition, his sisters Darlene (Terry) Henk and Sally (Steve) Vaughn, along with four nephews and one niece. He was preceded in death by his parents Alfred and Laretta, his in-laws Joseph and Marguerite (Steil) Poss along with several aunts, uncles, cousins and a niece.

Visitation will be Friday, February 3, 2023 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Aurora, IL where Deacon Bruce will lie in state from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a Liturgical Wake Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Funeral mass will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023 beginning at 2:00 PM; Fr. Matthew McMorrow will officiate along with other esteemed clergy. Interment will be at St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Jody Watermann in order to establish a scholarship in Deacon Bruce's name for local Catholic Education.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Corner of Rt. 25 and Indian Trail Road.  
Aurora, IL

# Previous Events

## In State

FEB 3. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Church  
722 High Street  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-844-7380

## Funeral Mass

FEB 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Church  
722 High Street  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-844-7380

## Burial

FEB 4 (CT)

St. Joseph Cemetery  
Corner of Rt. 25 and Indian Trail Road.  
Aurora, IL



# Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann



Daleiden Mortuary - February 02, 2023 at 05:29 PM

SV

*What a life of sharing love, great going, Bruce!*

Sr. Clare Van Vooren - February 04, 2023 at 04:44 PM

HB

“ Deacon Bruce, the Godfather of my Son Brody Baer, was always a positive light in my life. "Hi Heather, how's the weather," is what he would say whenever he'd see me. Jody, godmother to my son, my sincerest condolences on your loss. My God be with you during this time. - Heather Baer

Heather Baer - February 10, 2023 at 12:56 PM



FR

“ Dear Jody, Robert and Family,  
I'm unable to be present today, and I was at the wake but had to leave before getting a chance to personally express my sympathy to you. Deacon Bruce, just Bruce then in my time at St. Therese, was like yourself, Jody, very dedicated to the Lord and to the parish, and I'm grateful that our paths crossed then. From all appearances, Bruce certainly touched an enormous number of people and lives through his life and ministry. And the grace of God certainly touched lives through you both and your long and happy 50 years. May the Lord give his good and faithful servant the reward of the faithful. May he rest in Christ's peace and rise in His glory. And may you all know Christ's peace in this hard time of loss. We are remembering him in the liturgies tomorrow.

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**Fr Michael Dominic Rasicci** - February 04, 2023 at 01:03 PM

DI

“ Deacon Waterman was in my life from my St. Therese grade school days. He baptized my first son Nicolas at St. Therese almost 20 years ago. What a wonderful person. My condolences to the family.  
Diane Garcia



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**Diane** - February 04, 2023 at 12:54 AM

LT

“ Jody and family we are so sorry for your lost, we really appreciate very much Deacon Bruce we love him very much, we are with you on this difficult time, we send you a big hug and our condolences to you and your family  
Dr. Tages & Leticia and our son Manuel.

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**Leticia B Tages** - February 03, 2023 at 05:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 03, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 02, 2023 at 11:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 02, 2023 at 11:47 PM



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 02, 2023 at 11:08 PM



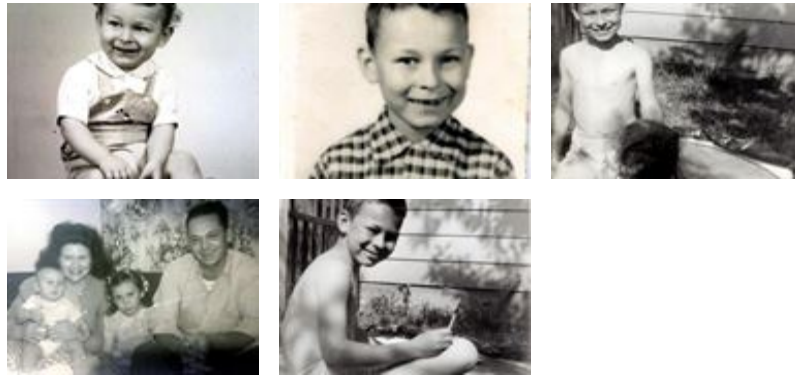
“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



February 02, 2023 at 09:15 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Daleiden Mortuary - February 02, 2023 at 05:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



February 02, 2023 at 01:57 PM

SO

“ We met Deacon Bruce last April when he was very kind to officiate at my mom's wake service. He had a very busy schedule that day but took the time to come and be there for us. He was a true inspiration and wonderful man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sue Olson - February 02, 2023 at 01:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



February 02, 2023 at 01:35 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



February 02, 2023 at 12:31 PM

CN

“ Our most sincere sympathy to the Watermann family. Deacon Bruce was an influential person in our lives since we were children and was integral in our faith formation. We will greatly miss him. He meant so much to us and many others. His example, influence and legacy will never be forgotten. He dedicated his life to our faith and now God has called him home. Vade cum Deo (Go with God).

Christian & Verena Nunez - February 02, 2023 at 11:42 AM

CM

“ I had the privilege of meeting Deacon Bruce a little over a decade at Sacred Heart Church. I enjoyed his conversations, and listening to his speeches to the young confirmation candidates. I did not expect that this past Saturday was going to be his last retreat. I'm glad I was part of it and got to listen to his preaching one last time. I even joke with the next speaker waiting for his turn. I said Deacon ain't stoping he has so much to share. He will be deeply missed. I will always remember him for his kind warm heart. His passion to work with the youth. He was a great mentor, a man of God .my sincere condolences to his family.  
God bless

Carmen Muniz-Arredondo

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Carmen Muniz-Arredondo - February 02, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 02, 2023 at 11:32 AM

CF

“ Christian & Verena Nunez and family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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Christian & Verena Nunez and family - February 02, 2023 at 11:19 AM

PW

“ *My deepest sympathy for Jody and family. Deacon Bruce was always, always such a light of faith and great advocate for his parish loving his Anglo and Hispanic brothers and sisters as one community of faith. He was a wonderful supporter of Catholic newspapers, The Observer and El Observador and we so appreciated his kind words and collaboration over the years. There was never a meeting or gathering where Deacon Bruce failed to bring and share his fantastic smile, great joy and thoughtful wisdom. He truly was a great gift to our diocese and to his faith.*

*Penny Wiegert*  
*Editor, The Observer*

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**Penny L Wiegert** - February 02, 2023 at 10:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.*



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February 02, 2023 at 10:40 AM

AN

“ It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to Deacon Bruce. I met him in 2014 when he agreed to do bible study with my brother who is terminally ill. He taught my brother love and love in Christ and he helped us and my brother come to terms of end of life and guided him to pass in peace and I am forever indebted to him for that. He counseled me and my family for years after my brother passed and he was there for my sister and I when we laid our parents to rest in 2019. I was so blessed to know him and spend time with him. I feel honored that he was there to marry my husband and I and baptize my daughter. Deacon you will be dearly missed but I know your at peace.



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**Anissa** - February 02, 2023 at 09:32 AM

BP

“ Blessings, Pat Voorhes, NCCW President purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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**Blessings, Pat Voorhes, NCCW President** - February 02, 2023 at 08:58 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 02, 2023 at 07:16 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.*



February 02, 2023 at 06:50 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.*



February 02, 2023 at 02:16 AM



“ *I'm truly saddened at the loss of such a sincere and caring person. Bruce and I met at my fathers 2nd wedding and it was like we had known each other beyond our years. This came on the heels of my losing a favorite great uncle Lyman McKeever. Too many beautiful souls have been taken home lately. My hearts breaks greatly.*

**carolyn Maple** - February 02, 2023 at 01:47 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.*



February 01, 2023 at 11:08 PM

DS

“ Jody, like so many, Pat & I are so very sorry for your loss. Since my ordination, Bruce has been there with kind and encouraging words. Throughout his own tough times with his battles with cancer, he has always been an upbeat beacon of faith. May he now find peace and comfort in Jesus eternal embrace.  
Deacon Bill & Pat Stankevitz

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Deacon Bill Stankevitz - February 01, 2023 at 10:40 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 01, 2023 at 10:40 PM

DV

“ Jody, we are so sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and your family. Deacon Bruce will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace Deacon Bruce  
Love Dalia and family

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dv - February 01, 2023 at 10:21 PM

VA

“ My deepest condolences go out to you Jody and Family 😭 my heart is in a million pieces right now, I still can't believe that you are gone Deacon Bruce 💔 you were such a beautiful soul inside and out. I have known you since I was 9 years old, you even got the chance to know my kids and see them grow up. You were always there for my family and I, when we needed you the most without any hesitation you were there. I will be forever grateful for that. Thank you for the wonderful memories that I will forever cherish in my heart. God has, indeed gained such a beautiful soul. May you rest in peace. I love you, Deacon Bruce. ❤️

Sincerely, Vanessa Astorga, Eric Sanchez, Destiny Sanchez, Omar Sanchez, and Alejandro Garcia.



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Vanessa Astorga - February 01, 2023 at 10:18 PM

RR

“ Jody and family: Our deepest condolences. Cuco and I have so many memories between your family and ours through all the years at St. Therese Church. We know Deacon Bruce was a servant of the Lord and appreciated the numerous ways he was there for us. Keep ever before you the hope of the resurrection. In Sympathy, Cuco and Connie Rizo

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Refugio and Connie Rizo - February 01, 2023 at 09:12 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 01, 2023 at 09:10 PM

Chris  
Vargas

“*Bruce was a great man, and will be missed by all those who's lives he touched. My brother and I spent alot of time growing up around Bruce, Jody, and Robert. As an alterboy leader, Bruce was patient and kind with us and all the others whom served the church in that way in our youth. Many summer days were spent at his home nearby. He was always welcoming and friendly. He will be remembered as a man of exception, devotion, and faith. God bless.*

Chris Vargas - February 01, 2023 at 08:24 PM

LR

“*My heart is broken. What a wonderful man. We will miss you so much. Thank you for everything you did for the community, myself my family and my daughters who you guided throughout the years. Rest in peace Deacon Bruce. You will forever be in my memory and my heart. Many prayers and love to his wife Jodi and his family.*

lucia rizo - February 01, 2023 at 08:15 PM

KF

“*I am so deeply sorry for your loss Jody and family. Deacon gave my son Andrew and I hope and light, peace and joy. He will forever hold a special place in our hearts. He was an inspiration of divine grace. God's love and peace be with you always. Krista Feil and family*

krista Feil - February 01, 2023 at 08:05 PM



“*Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.*



February 01, 2023 at 07:49 PM

GJ

“ Jody, I'm so sorry for your loss my condolences to you and your family. Deacon Bruce will be missed.

georgina jorge - February 01, 2023 at 07:04 PM

SM

“ God love you Deacon Bruce, there's no memory of our religious education to confirmation that he isn't in. His booming voice was hard to miss. Thank you for loving everyone the way you did. You will be greatly missed Deacon Bruce.

❤️ The Mata Family: Juan, Veronica & Selena Mata

Selena Mata - February 01, 2023 at 06:58 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



February 01, 2023 at 06:45 PM

MR

“ Jody, we are so sorry to hear about Bruce. It was a great joy to spend time with the 2 of you at the Deacon couples retreat in October. We will miss him and his always uplifting spirit.  
God Bless You  
Ray and Mamie Martin

Martin Deacon Ray - February 01, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.



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February 01, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ Deacon Bruce will forever hold a place in my heart. All my memories of him are full of faith, inspiration, support, love, and blessings from him to me and my family. I still remember going to CCD classes and hearing his booming voice before I even got a glimpse of him. He was there through my religious education. Taught me through my confirmation. Baptized both my daughters and and saw them through their first communions as well as most of the children in my family. So many good memories I will cherish forever. God always put him in my path when I needed to get some inspiration or a shoulder to cry on a few times or even get my faith back on track or even just that strong warm hug and handshake I'm sure you all have experienced. This world has really lost very caring, faith filled individual. My condolences to you Mrs. Waterman and you family. I'll be sending lots of prayers your way. God Bless and THANK YOU JESUS for our time with Deacon Bruce!  
❤️ Belinda Garcia and family

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**Belinda Garcia** - February 01, 2023 at 05:16 PM

TO

He always be remembered, his kindness his great smile, he was the most welcoming person, he will be remembered forever, Rest In Peace

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**Tony ortega** - February 01, 2023 at 06:20 PM

RF

*Jody and family, there are no words. Deacon will truly be missed by many. May he rest in Glory with the Lord!*

**Rosalinda and Family** - February 01, 2023 at 10:21 PM

SK

*Always ready with a smile, words of encouragement and a witty quip, Deacon Bruce was joy and hope personified. He never met a stranger, every person to him, was a friend he hadn't met yet. And we were the better having known him. Jody and family, I am so sorry for your loss, but the lives he touched and changed stand forever as a testament to this great man of faith. May you find comfort in knowing that his labor in the work of the Lord will continue to yield much fruit.*

**Sandy Korbel** - February 03, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Bruce M. Watermann.*



February 01, 2023 at 04:31 PM

TB

“ *We are absolutely heart broken at the loss of such an amazing and caring human. We cannot imagine this world with Deacon Bruce but know he is resting peacefully in God's embrace.*

*Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to you Jody and your entire family. Please know we are here to support you in any way possible.*

*Love,  
Baer/Garcia Family*

**Theresa Baer** - February 01, 2023 at 03:56 PM