



Benedict "Jim" Mergen

March 3, 1933 - July 27, 2023

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. on Monday, July 31, 2023, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Cold Spring, MN for Benedict "Jim" Mergen, age 90, who died Thursday at Quiet Oaks Hospice House. The service will be live streamed at www.christcatholic.com.

The visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Sunday at the Wenner Funeral home in Cold Spring.

Jim was born March 3, 1933, in Farming, MN to John and Gertrude (Holthaus) Mergen, the last of eight children. He was raised in Farming and graduated from Albany class of 1950 and then from St. Cloud State with a teaching certificate in physical education. He married Darlene Machtmes in 1960 and they had three children, Randy, Dean, and Debbie.

Jim taught at Ortley, SD and then went on to work with the Veterans Administration as a recreational therapist in St. Cloud. He would move to New Jersey and then to Austin, TX, retiring as an analyst for the VA. Jim was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

As a lifelong baseball fan he played with the Farming Flames in his younger years (later inducted into the hall of fame), then played softball in NJ, TX, MN, and AZ where he pitched his last game at age 85. When too old to play

baseball, he helped organize the Farming Flames golf tournament for over 12 years as well as the local Dupas golf tournament and Mergen family golf tournament. Jim was a lifetime member of Optimist International, sheriff of the town of San LeAnna, TX and served a two-year term as mayor. Upon retirement he returned to MN and would spend time between Cold Spring, MN and Sun City, AZ.

He is remembered lovingly by his wife of 62 years, Darlene; children, Randy, Dean (Betty), Debbie (Bobby) Powell; 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents and seven siblings.

Cemetery Details

St. Catherine's Church Cemetery

26950 County Road 23
Farming, MN 56368

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wenner Funeral Home - Cold Spring
600 Red River Ave. So.
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Mass

JUL 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church
501 Main Street
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Tribute Wall

GL

“ I remember going to softball games in Austin, TX with "Ben", as he was known to us, and the time he took Randy, Dean, Jason and I fishing at Pedernales Falls State park. We basically ended up fishing like bears and catching and throwing the fish out of the shallow part of the river at the foot of the falls. Also, many games of basketball in the driveway or backyard, and a lot of card games. Ben was like a second dad to Jason and I after our father passed away when we were both in Junior High. I actually took Mary home to meet "Ben" and Darlene while were dating for his blessing.

God Bless Ben, and God Bless all of his family in this time.
Gordon & Mary Lewis

Gordon Lewis - July 28, 2023 at 01:43 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Benedict "Jim" Mergen.



July 28, 2023 at 01:37 PM