John Brinker

September 7, 1940 - September 15, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 19, 2025, at St. James Catholic Church in Jacobs Prairie, MN for John Brinker, age 85, who died Monday at his home. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

A visitation will be from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the Wenner Funeral Home in Cold Spring.

John was born on September 7, 1940, in Roscoe, MN to John and Frances (Mackedanz) Brinker. He married Gloria Bellmont on February 4, 1967, in Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Rockville, MN. John retired from ROCORI as the Head Custodian in 2011 where he thoroughly enjoyed being with the students. He was a dairy farmer prior to working at the school and collected Farmall Tractors. John was known to be in many local parades with his family members. He was a people person and always enjoyed lending a helping hand.

He deeply loved his family, cherishing every moment he could spend with them. His trusty golf cart became his favorite way to visit friends and neighbors, and he was, in many ways, the unofficial welcoming committee of their small community. Known for his quick wit and sassy comebacks, he could turn any conversation into a moment of laughter, always ready with a clever remark and a good laugh. When he wasn’t out making the rounds, you

could often find him relaxing at home—enjoying an episode of Friends, cheering on a football game, or watching what he considered a truly riveting golf match.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria; children, Paula (Rory) Schmidt, Darren (Rachel), Rebecca, Patrick; siblings, Arthur (Arlene), Joan Olmscheid, Doris (Jack) Torborg, Dennis; and 6 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Gilbert, Ronald, Ruth, Richard, MaryJane, and Verdella.

Cemetery Details

St. James Parish Cemetery

Jacobs Prairie, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass

SEP **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
Jacobs Prairie, MN

Tribute Wall

DE

I remember when I applied for a job at the school Barb was the one I talked to and there was this guy leaning on the counter and Barb said to me so you want his job and I said I could handle it. RIP John. Dan

Dan Evans - September 18, 2025 at 01:54 PM

DT

When I was a teenager and we lived on a farm out of town John was one of my older brothers who made sure I made it to dances and back home tater too. I never heard him complaining (at least not to me). He was kind, patient and very caring at all times. I will always remember sitting alongside him at George's Bar (and at times with the other brothers too) having a glass of beer (sometimes). And we (Jack and I) will never forget hearing your little black Corvair coming down that hill and you joining us in the car & visiting with us for a while before going in to bed. I know you are now in a better place and were greeted by the rest of our family. I love you and will miss you terribly Your 'baby' sister Doris

Doris Torborg - September 17, 2025 at 09:12 PM

TC

The New Years Eve Crew purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of John Brinker.

The New Years Eve Crew - September 16, 2025 at 10:25 PM

White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of John Brinker.

September 16, 2025 at 07:41 PM