



## Rev. James C. Blessinger

October 1, 1938 - September 30, 2016

Dateline Jasper, IN

Rev. James C. Blessinger, age 77 of Jasper, IN, passed away at 2:05 p.m EDT on Friday (September 30, 2016) at Brookside Village in Jasper, IN.

Father Blessinger was born in Jasper, Indiana on October 1, 1938 to Adam and Clara (Haas) Blessinger.

He attended Bockelman School and Holy Family School in Jasper before entering St. Meinrad Minor Seminary. He graduated from St. Meinrad Minor Seminary in 1956, and earned a bachelor's degree in Classics from St. Meinrad College. He attended seminary at St. Meinrad, and Bishop Henry J. Grimmelman ordained him a priest of the Diocese of Evansville on May 23, 1964.

His priestly assignments included: Assistant Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Washington, and Teacher, Washington Catholic High School, 1964. Assistant Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Vincennes, and Part-time teacher, Central Catholic High School and St. Rose Academy, Vincennes, 1967. Co-Pastor, Holy Redeemer Parish, Evansville, 1971. Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Dale, and Administrator, St. Nicholas Chapel, Santa Claus, 1980. Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Vincennes,

1987. Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, Evansville, 1998. Pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Evansville, while continuing as pastor at Corpus Christi Parish, 2005. Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, Evansville, 2007.

His other service to the Diocese of Evansville included: Chaplain: Washington Knights of Columbus, 1964. CYO Director for Washington Deanery, 1964. CYO Director for Vincennes Deanery, 1967. Vocation Promoter of Vincennes Deanery, 1969. Evansville Area Catholic School Board, 1971. Diocesan Family Life Vice-Chairman, 1973. Re-elected Diocesan Family Life Vice-Chairman, 1975. Diocesan Consultor and Member, Diocesan Senate of Priests, 1977. Diocesan Consultor and Member, Diocesan Senate of Priests, 1982. He also was active in Marriage Encounter and Cursillo ministries.

He enjoyed golfing and fishing.

Surviving,

Three Brothers;

Kenneth Blessinger and wife Rose, St. Anthony, IN

David Blessinger and wife Rita, Jasper, IN

Howard Blessinger and wife Mary Jane, Jasper, IN

Eleven Nieces and Nephews

Seventeen Great Nieces and Nephews

Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother Adam Jr. "Jackie" Blessinger.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Rev. James C. Blessinger will be held at Noon EDT on Friday (October 7, 2016) at Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in St. Joseph Cemetery in Jasper, IN.

A visitation and prayer vigil will be held on Thursday (October 6, 2016) at

Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Evansville, IN, with the visitation from 3:30 p.m until 8:00 p.m. CDT and the prayer vigil at 8:00 p.m. CDT

Visitation will also be held from 9:00 a.m EDT until the Noon Mass time on Friday (October 7, 2016) at Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Holy Family Catholic Church, or to a favorite charity.

Condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Jasper, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **6**. 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
5528 Hogue Road  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 422-2027  
<http://www.corpuschristievansville.org/>

## Prayer Vigil

OCT **6**. 8:00 PM (CT)

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
5528 Hogue Road  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 422-2027  
<http://www.corpuschristievansville.org/>

## Visitation

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OCT 7. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
950 Church Ave  
Jasper, IN

## Mass

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OCT 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
950 Church Ave  
Jasper, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. James C. Blessinger*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Father Jim was a dear friend as well as my parent's parish priest at Sacred Heart. I was living in CA but he always made an effort to visit while I was home. He was a gift of friendship & strength as well as faith to them. Thank you for sharing him with our community. Gayle Martin Bledsoe, daughter of Gaynold & Pat Martin (RIP) Vincennes, Indiana*

**Gayle Bledsoe** - October 07, 2016 at 01:28 PM



“ *Fr Jim was a gift from God to us all. Anita Blessinger*

**Anita Jackson** - October 06, 2016 at 05:37 AM



“ *Fr. Jim had to travel to the east side to guide us through a transitionary period at Holy Spirit. I shall gladly and with a heavy heart travel to the west side to pray for his eternal peace with our Lord. Fr, it was my pleasure to know you and I thank you for all your help and kindness. John E. Reiplinger, Evansville IN*

**John E. Reiplinger** - October 05, 2016 at 11:29 AM



“ Prayers for comfort for the Blessinger family. My dad uncle Ray Haas loved father Jim and his brothers vety much. Missy Haas Hennequant.

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**Melissa Hennequant** - October 05, 2016 at 05:18 AM

DW

“ Rest in Peace Fr. Jim. At least you are no longer in pain and in God's hands. You will be missed.  
Dottie Woodall.

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**Dottie Woodall** - October 04, 2016 at 12:20 PM

JS

“ Rest in God's peace dear friend.

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**Janice Stemle Schenk** - October 04, 2016 at 12:08 PM

JS

“ Grew up with Father Jim. As children we tormented each other until one day I was mad and threw a tin can at him and cut his neck. His mother told me he deserved it she just wished I had thrown somethin else. Also remember being a girl pall bearer with him at his brother Jacks funeral. Remained good friends for life.

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**Janice Stemle Schenk** - October 04, 2016 at 12:00 PM



“ Father, you got to spend your birthday in Heaven! Godspeed.

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**Joan Knies** - October 04, 2016 at 11:22 AM

PB

“ Our sympathy goes out to the entire family with the loss of Father Blessinger. He had a wonderful life of service. Phil and Gloria Buecher

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**Phil and Glo Buecher** - October 03, 2016 at 09:26 PM

BB

“ I was an altar boy for Father Blessinger many times in the early 1970's at Vincennes Sacred Heart. I have a great memory of him jumping on a motorcycle after mass one day in his full vestments and riding around the parking lot. He worked hard on his Homilies and was a great priest and leader of the Sacred Heart Parish. Thank you for your lifetime of service and my sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

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**Bud Bierhaus** - October 03, 2016 at 08:01 AM

MR

“ We were fortunate at Sacred Heart to have Father Blessinger in one of his first assignments. A great man. Always played football and baseball with us at recess. Taught me a world view that stays with me to this day. My visual of him will always be on the playground, either walking and praying or towering over me at recess in his black priest pants and a sweaty white undershirt. God's speed Father Jim.....

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**mark roche** - October 03, 2016 at 07:19 AM

MW

“ Father Jim brought me, my husband and daughter, Robin, into the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil Service in 1990. He was a very Godly man. I worked with him on the church newsletter, which was such a joy to me. I was a new Catholic, and this man was always so kind and so faithful to his calling as a priest. I will never forget him for his faithfulness to the duties and responsibilities of his calling. He treated everyone as if they were special to him and special to God. This man was a saint, who won't be canonized, but a saint just the same. He introduced me to a loving God, to service to the church and the joy of the Lord. May God bless him richly, as he enters into His Kingdom, saying to Fr. Jim: "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter in."

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**Marlene Walters** - October 03, 2016 at 12:24 AM

JS

“ May God bless you all during this difficult time. I know there is joy in heaven as Jim is being welcomed with little loving arms.

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**Joyce Stenftenagel** - October 02, 2016 at 08:04 PM

RB

“ I remember Father Jim from when i was an altar boy at Holy Redeemer. He was always kind and patient, which was sometimes necessary when dealing with altar boys. My condolences to your family.

*Rick Brenner*

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**Rick Brenner** - October 02, 2016 at 07:10 PM

JL

“ Fr. Jim was a very special person. He always made everyone feel welcome around him. He was the first person to welcome our family to Corpus Christi Parish. He will be greatly missed.

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**Juanita & Jessica Little** - October 02, 2016 at 03:05 PM

TP

Father Blessinger performed our wedding ceremony at St Mary's Church in Washington, IN in 1966. We just celebrated our 50th Anniversary on July 9, 2016. God bless him.

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**Tom & Rita Palmer** - October 03, 2016 at 12:08 PM

LA

Wasn't familiar with Fr. Jim on a regular basis, but heard only nice things about him. I made his retirement card box( the last one I'll ever make). I can only assume he was "righteous dude"! Pax Tecum, Fr. Jim! Leonard "Larry" R. Adams

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**Leonard "Larry" Adams** - October 04, 2016 at 04:26 PM

CH

Fr. Jim I know you and Graels are playing golf in Heaven. Didn't think in February you would be joining him so soon. Love you and cherish our times together. Rest in Peace good man.

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**Carol Graehler Hufnagel** - October 04, 2016 at 07:08 PM

TS

Father Blessinger was loved at Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish in Evansville. While there, my husband & I were blessed to have Fr. Jim marry us in 1974. Thank you, Father, for your kindness and sharing your life with us. We have been married now for 42 1/2 years.

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**Tony & Mary Schneider** - October 09, 2016 at 06:45 PM