

Reverend Jerald L. C. Finnestad

was born September 5, 1946, to Harlan “Jack” and Clevia (Hursey) Finnestad in DeKalb, Illinois. Fr. Jerry was raised in DeKalb, following his high school graduation, he attended Northern Illinois University. In 1966, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving overseas until 1968. Following his military service, he attended the University of North Dakota, graduating with a degree in primary and secondary education. He then entered St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Denver, Colorado.

Fr. Finnestad was ordained a transitional deacon on April 5, 1979, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 15, 1980. He served as associate pastor at St. Mary’s Cathedral and the Church of Nativity, Fargo, ND. He then served as pastor at Newman Center and St. John’s Church in Wahpeton, St. Mary’s Church in Grand Forks, ND and St. Aloysius Church in Lisbon, ND.

He retired from active ministry in June of 2020, and resided in Wahpeton. Fr. Finnestad suffered a stroke on New Year’s Day of 2021, and resided in St. Catherine’s Living Center until his death.

Fr. Jerry is survived by two nephews, Dale Kidd and John Balon; two nieces, Karen Kidd and Beth Shaw; and many great nieces, nephews and cousins.

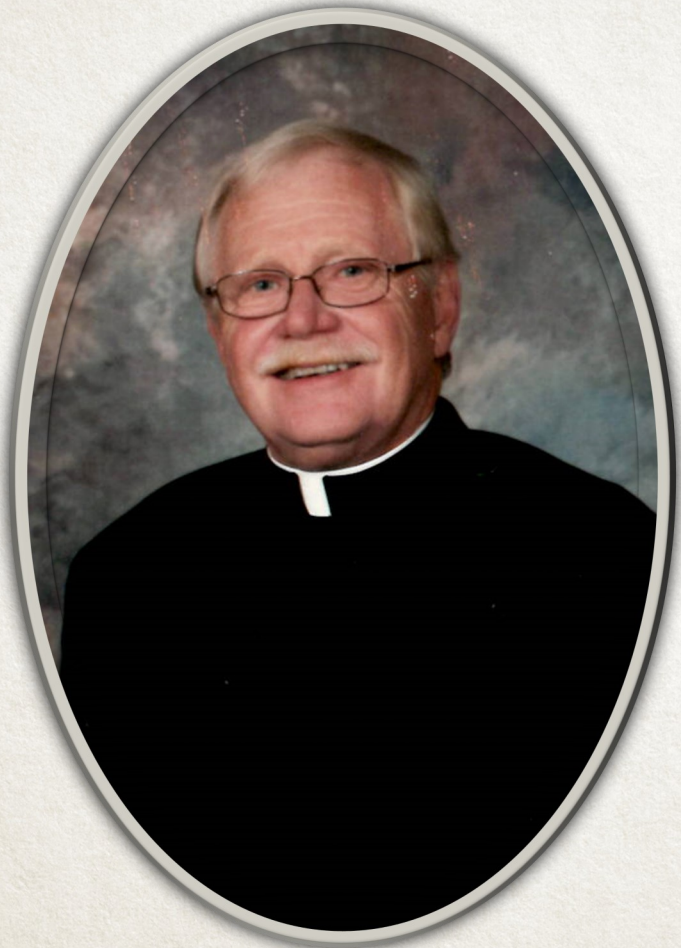
He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Clevia; sister, Darlene Balon; brother, James Finnestad; niece, Lynne Balon; brothers-in-law, Robert Kidd and Leonard Balon; and his stepfather, Tommy Rader.

Fr. Jerry was a wonderful man with a quick wit and fantastic sense of humor. He could find joy in all things. He was an amazing chef. Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday, and every year, he hosted friends for a delicious late-night meal. He loved to read, travel, golf, and spend time with family and his many friends. He was loved by so many and will be greatly missed.

RIP – old friend.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. John’s Church, 115 2nd St. N., Wahpeton, ND 58075 or St. Catherine’s Living Center, 1307 7th St. N., Wahpeton, ND 58075.

In Loving
M E M O R Y



Fr. Jerald L. C. Finnestad
1946 - 2024

Fr. Jerald Finnestad

Born

September 5, 1946 | DeKalb, Illinois

Entered Into Eternal Rest

October 9, 2024 | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Age

78 Years | 1 Month | 4 Days

Mass of Christian Burial

2:00 pm | Tuesday, October 15, 2024
St. John's Catholic Church | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Celebrant: Bishop John Folda

Concelebrants: Fr. Greg Haman | Fr. Paul Kuhn | Fr. Dale Lagodinski

Organist

Pat Keaveny

Special Music

St. John's Choir

Congregational Hymns

“O Word of God Incarnate” | “Abide with Me” | “Jesus, Son of Mary”
“All is Well with My Soul” | “Nearer My God to Thee”
“Song of Farewell” | “I am the Bread of Life”

Honorary Pallbearers

Fr. Jerald's Brother Priests

Pallbearers

Mike Matejcek | Mark Matejcek | John Matejcek
Rollie Ehlert | Seth Ehlert | Blake Matejcek

Military Honors

North Dakota Funeral Honors Team
Wahpeton American Legion Post 20 | Sgt. 1st Class Larry deGraffenried

Interment

Calvary Cemetery | Wahpeton, North Dakota

God gives us each a gift of life

to cherish from our birth.

He gives us friends and those we love

to share our days on Earth.

He watches us with loving care

and takes us by the hand,

he blesses us with countless joys

and guides the lives we've planned.

Then, when our work on Earth is done,

he calls us to His side,

To live with Him in happiness

Where peace and love abide.

