



## John E. Borgert

March 28, 1940 - October 17, 2023

John Emery Borgert, 83, died Tuesday, October 17, 2023, from complications associated with dementia at Orchards of Minnetonka Memory Care Facility in Minnetonka, MN. A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Swanville, MN, with Father Ron Dockendorf officiating. Visitation will be from 4:00-6:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 29, 2023, and 1 hour prior to the service on Monday, October 30 at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church in Swanville. Lunch will be served after the Mass. Burial will take place in the Parish Cemetery.

John was born March 28, 1940, in St. Cloud, MN to Marie (McDonald) and Joseph Borgert. John grew up with his five siblings in St. Cloud and graduated from Cathedral High School in 1958. He continued his studies at St. Cloud State University, graduating with a degree in education. He took his first teaching job in Swanville, MN shortly after graduation and continued to teach

there until his retirement 36 years later in June 1999. It was there in Swanville that he met his wife, fellow teacher, Diane McNamara. They married on June 12, 1971, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Diane's hometown of New Town, ND. In addition to teaching and coaching in the Swanville school, John gave back to his community by serving on both the Swanville City Council and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Parish Council for many years. He spent many hours volunteering with the Swanville Lions Club, church youth group, and Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County. John enjoyed living and raising his family in the small town of Swanville. He was an active member of the community and could be seen at all of the school's athletic, music, and theater events; riding his bike around town and along the county line; working in his gardens where he was always eager to share his bounty; mowing lawns and shoveling snow at the church and for anyone in need of help; and visiting neighbors. He loved watching sports of all varieties, reading the daily newspaper, driving the combine during harvest on Diane's family farm, watching the snow fall from his living room window and spending time with his immediate and extended family. The addition of grandchildren to his family brought him profound joy.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Marie Borgert; father-in-law, Donald McNamara; sister, Rosemary Borgert; brothers, Robert and Thomas Borgert; and sisters-in-law, Patricia Borgert and Colleen Borgert.

In addition to Diane, his wife of 52 years; John is survived by his children, Jeffrey Borgert (Mackenzie Lindahl), Jennifer Borgert (Brian Bergson), Nicole Borgert (Tony Valkevich), and Jessica (John) Rhodes; grandchildren, Zinnia Borgert, Owen and Fintan

Bergson, Nora Valkevich,  
and Jackson and Joseph Rhodes; sister, Barbara (Donald) Snyder; brother,  
Jerome Borgert;  
brother-in-law, David (Edith) McNamara; sister-in-law, Sally Borgert; and many  
nieces and  
nephews.

John's family would like to thank the staff at Orchards Memory Care and  
Brighton Hospice for  
their compassionate care during these last few months of his life.

# Cemetery Details

## St. John the Baptist Cemetery - Swanville, MN

Swanville, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **29**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Visitation

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Memorial Mass

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ I will always remember John's smile and fun spirit. My thoughts go out to Diane and family. Big hugs to all of you. John will be missed. Wish I could have made it today.



Renee Walker - October 30, 2023 at 11:10 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John E. Borgert.



October 30, 2023 at 09:45 AM

CP

“ On behalf of the Class of 1988, we send our deepest condolences to a great teacher, community member, and man. In school we rushed to Mr. Borgert's classroom to be the first to get to the electric typewriters so we didn't get stuck with a manual that would really give our fingers, especially the pinkies, a workout. On a personal note, I babysat the Borgert kids, all four of them at once, and John and Diane often picked me up to go to away ball games. They were a great family in our small town and taught us about simplicity and humility. Rest in peace, Mr. B! You done good.

\*Cindy (Sobania) Palm

Class of 1988

Cindy Palm - October 28, 2023 at 07:48 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album Mr. Borgert



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**Connie Horsch** - October 24, 2023 at 01:06 PM

CH

*Thank you Mr. Borgert for your kindness and knowledge to the kids at Swanville High School!*

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**Connie Horsch** - October 24, 2023 at 05:08 PM

JJ

*He was one in a million. My deepest sympathies.*

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**Jennifer Jude** - October 29, 2023 at 06:13 PM

GC

“ *So sorry to learn of John's passing. He was always a ray of sunshine. I enjoyed chatting with him. Touts and prayers to all.*



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**Gina Christopherson** - October 23, 2023 at 09:37 PM

MF

“ *Mackenzie's family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of John E. Borgert.*



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**Mackenzie's family** - October 23, 2023 at 03:23 PM

MF

“ From: Mackenzie's family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E. Borgert.

Mackenzie's family - October 23, 2023 at 03:23 PM

NO

“ Nona sent a virtual gift in memory of John E. Borgert



Nona - October 23, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John E. Borgert.



October 22, 2023 at 12:51 PM

G(

“ Mr. Borgert was my typing teacher, he was a Great teacher. My first job was typing at Fingerhut in St Cloud.

Gladys Keopp (Oswald) - October 21, 2023 at 10:01 PM

BB

“ RIP John such a nice man he always took the time to stop to chat you will be missed by many. Sending prayers to the family 🙏



Brenda Baum - October 21, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John E. Borgert.



October 21, 2023 at 01:57 PM

DP

“ Darlene Palm lit a candle in memory of John E. Borgert



Darlene Palm - October 21, 2023 at 11:29 AM

MW

“ Dear Diane and family, My deepest condolences to you on the death of your spouse and father. I am thinking of you all. Take care and treasure your many loving memories.

Marleen Weflen - October 20, 2023 at 07:15 PM

RD

“ *Diane & Family - Sending sympathy and prayers to all. John was a man that touched so many lives. He was so special & helpful to my mom and dad. RIP John!* 🙏

Ruth (Welinski) Dolan - October 20, 2023 at 03:15 PM

JH

“ *Jerry & Julie Hollermann sent a virtual gift in memory of John E. Borgert*



Jerry & Julie Hollermann - October 20, 2023 at 02:47 PM

JH

*Such a kind and gentle person. So community minded! We are so fortunate to have known John and the whole family. Rest in peace*

Jerry & Julie Hollermann - October 20, 2023 at 02:58 PM

BS

*Our deepest sympathy to Diane and Family, Mr. Borgert was a great teacher and friend! Always willing to help everyone! Dennis and Brenda Schmidt*

Brenda Schmidt - October 20, 2023 at 07:36 PM

SG

*Sending sympathy and prayers to Diane and the kids. John has been missed already; he was such a special person, always out and about town. He will be remembered as a teacher, coach, family man, but most of all for the goodness he shared with everyone. God Bless.*

Shirley Gessell - October 21, 2023 at 12:17 PM



*May John RIP. Sorry to hear of his passing. Diane and Family Members I too, have very fond memories of John as my accounting teacher. John cared passionately for his family, community and volunteer work. Swanville had a blessing when John and Diane came to teach at Swanville School. Raised a fine Family there too. 🙏😊🙏*

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**Mary Pfeffer Friese** - October 21, 2023 at 06:00 PM

PD

*Diane and kids were so sorry for John's passing. He was such a good neighbor. So involved at church and school. He did the scouting for varsity football. Missing Diane and John in Swanville. God bless*

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**Peggy Dragseth** - October 21, 2023 at 06:11 PM

JV

*Diane, Nicole, Jenn, Jeff and Jesse,  
These sad times will eventually pass. There is no timeframe, but at some point sadness will be replaced by fond memories, smiles and remembrances. My memories of John bring thoughts of kindness, quiet family dedication and service to all. He leaves a great legacy!!!  
Jim Valkevich*

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**jim valkevich** - October 24, 2023 at 08:19 AM

JH

*Mr. Borgert was always one of my favorite teachers. If it wasn't for him, I would have never learned how to type! One of my most favorite assignments was when Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire" came out. He had us not only memorize the song but every event that was IN the song. What a great assignment. I think of him every time I hear the song to this day.*

*I remember him laughing at one of the guy's in my class wearing a pair of shorts with French Club on the side. I loved his Geography class, I learned so much from him. My class had a reputation but he was always such a good sport, we had so many laughs with him.*

*Jenny and Nikki played trumpet with me when I was in band for those few years, we always had such good laughs. Diane was one of the nicest people ever. I'm so very sorry for your loss. Mr. Borgert will live on in so many people's lives. He was a blessing, teaching was his calling. Thinking of all of you.*

*Jill Van Heel  
Class of '94*

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**Jill Van Heel** - November 06, 2023 at 10:35 AM