



Joseph Nicholas Schmitz

December 16, 1927 - April 29, 2024

Joseph N. Schmitz of Bear Valley/Sauk City, age 96, died on April 29, 2024.

He is survived by his loving wife and partner of 71 plus years, Catherine (Lehner) Schmitz. He is further survived by children John (Jean Tretow-) Schmitz of Madison, Mary (Dan's widow) Schmitz of Marshfield, David (Kathleen) Schmitz of Dodgeville, Mike (Cynthia) Schmitz of Oconomowoc, and Larry (Roseanne Drake-) Schmitz of Madison, 13 grandchildren Peter Schmitz, Maria (David) Gohdes, Nathan (Cassy) Schmitz, Megan (Sean) Fanning, Anica (Josh) Taggatz, Ben (Kari) Schmitz, Andrew Schmitz, Caleb (Monica) Schmitz, Leah (Mihai Gurau) Schmitz, Jenny Schmitz, Josh Schmitz, Erin Schmitz, and Mariya Schmitz; and 17 great grandchildren; 9 godchildren; 32 Schmitz/Lins nieces & nephews; sister-in-law Lindy Schmitz, a flock of Schmitz, Bissen, Dederich & Lehner relatives, many friends, neighbors, and a number of milk cans.

A life-long, faith-filled and committed Catholic Christian, he was born 12/16/1927 to Peter and Anna (Bissen) Schmitz. He is the last of his immediate family, and is now reunited with his parents, 9 siblings Gregory, Eva, Gertrude Bindl, Zita Nachreiner, Leonard, Rita Marklein, Francis, Anna Marie Ring and Erwin, in-laws Alois & Catherine Lehner, and his son Dan.

Dad was a strong, quiet man of deep faith. God, Mom, and his family were the

most important things in his life. He was committed to working and praying hard, giving blood and serving others. He had a high tolerance for pain and the antics of his 5 sons. He treasured time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren, including watching them swing under the 200-year-old oak in the backyard of his Bear Valley home.

Dad attended St. Mary's Grade School in Keyesville and Lone Rock High School. With brothers Francis and Erwin, he owned and operated Schmitz Bear Valley Cheese Factory and Chimney Rock Farm. A powerful young man, he was an excellent boxer, enjoyed playing softball, and was known to be able to carry four full milk cans at a time. We marveled that as a high school student, the principal trusted Dad enough to lend him his own car to drive a load of forensic students to Madison and back.

Thank you everyone for your loving support of Dad over the years. We especially appreciate the care of Maplewood Village, St. Croix Hospice, Fr. Nathan and Fr. Miguel.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, May 3rd at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Catholic Church in Keyesville, WI with visitation beginning at 9:30 am. Visitation will also be held at Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center on Thursday, May 2nd from 4 to 7 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Kilian's Cemetery Association, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Catholic Church in Keyesville or the Bear Valley Fire Dept.

Cemetery Details

St. Kilian's Catholic

Bear Valley, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

MAY 3. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville
32605 Durst Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 585-4846

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville
32605 Durst Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 585-4846

Tribute Wall

DE

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss, Deb and Glen Niemeyer

Deb - May 28, 2024 at 06:31 PM

LW

“ My deepest sympathy to the family.
Love, hope, peace and prayers, Louis Williams

Louis Williams - May 15, 2024 at 06:59 PM

CM

“ Catherine and family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss.
Charlotte Faber Murphy

Charlotte A Murphy - May 05, 2024 at 12:03 PM

SC

“ Thinking of you Catherine and family....Peace.

Shane T Clary - May 02, 2024 at 05:12 PM

RW

“ Larry,
Heard on the radio of your father's passing. My condolences to you
& Roxanne.
Rita Wastlick
(former Am Fam employee)

Rita Wastlick - May 02, 2024 at 02:09 PM

LM

“ Dear Catherine, My sympathy in your loss. Loretta McCarthy

Loretta McCarthy - May 02, 2024 at 07:39 AM

LH

“ Joe was a very good friend of my husband and mine. We and 2 other couples had a birthday club for many years and celebrated each birthday when it came along. Joe was always so friendly and so fun to visit with. Just a great truly Christian man. I will miss seeing him. He and my husband will be visiting in heaven and waiting for Catherine and me to join them..... God be with you, Joe..... Lois Horkan

Lois Horkan - May 01, 2024 at 07:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Nicholas Schmitz.



May 01, 2024 at 02:50 PM



“ 21 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - May 01, 2024 at 02:35 PM

MS

“ 22 files added to the album *Joe*



Mike Schmitz - May 01, 2024 at 12:41 PM

SI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sandy Ingram - May 01, 2024 at 09:00 AM

SI

*1951 my mother asked you to sponsor me in the sacrament of baptism.
Thank you*

Sandy Ingram - May 01, 2024 at 09:04 AM



“ 86 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - April 30, 2024 at 05:37 PM

KH

“ *Sending love and hugs to family. Uncle Joe is resting in Gods
peace.*

karen Heinz - April 30, 2024 at 01:10 PM

TF

“ *The Ewald Family purchased the Crystal Cross B
ouquet for the family of Joseph Nicholas Schmitz.*



The Ewald Family - April 30, 2024 at 12:28 PM

TF

“ The Ewald Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Nicholas Schmitz.

The Ewald Family - April 30, 2024 at 12:28 PM

BH

“ Mike and Family,

My Deepest sympathy to you and your family, during this difficult time.

Becky Helmlinger, Newman Chevrolet

Becky Helmlinger - April 30, 2024 at 12:16 PM

MM

“ Years ago my late husband drove milk truck for the bear Valley factory. I remember meeting Joe there. God bless you all.

Mary jeffries Mccauley - April 30, 2024 at 10:26 AM

MK

“ Condolences to Catherine and his family. He was an inspiration to his faith community. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Mari Jo Kabat - April 30, 2024 at 08:48 AM

CT

“ I remember Joe from his boxing days at Lone Rock Highschool.

Charles J Tustison - April 29, 2024 at 11:39 PM