James "Jim" Walworth

May 15, 1954 - February 12, 2026

James “Jim” Walworth entered eternal life on February 12, 2026, surrounded by his family and sustained by the faith that guided him throughout his life. To many, he was Deacon Jim. To those who knew him best, he was simply Jim or Dad - a devoted husband of nearly 52 years, father of four, beloved brother and brother-in-law, and joyful, hands-on grandfather of ten.

Born on May 15, 1954, in Erie, Pennsylvania, Jim grew up with a passion for an active life, embrac
ing ice hockey and golf from a young age, shaping lifelong values of discipline and camaraderie. After
attending Brown University and Ohio State University, where he graduated in 1976, Jim enjoyed a distinguished business career spanning more than 40 years.

Later in life, answering a deeper call to serve, he pursued a Master’s degree in Theology. In 2009, he was ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church by the archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, a ministry he embraced with humility and wholehearted devotion. Since moving to Southwest Florida, his ministry expanded to supporting couples and families through marriage and baptism preparation. His faith was not separate from who he was; it was woven into every part of his life.

Jim’s greatest joy was his family. Throughout his adult life, and alongside his wife Kathleen, he built a family rooted in strength, love, kindness, and a sense of humor. Jim was endlessly proud of his four children and was deeply

engaged with his many grandchildren, who treasured his big bear hugs and adored their fun-loving “Grandpa Jim”.

He is preceded in death by his father, Walter F Walworth; his mother, Dorothy Griffen Walworth; and his brother, Michael Walworth. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Kathleen; his children, James (Amy) Walworth, Dan (Kelly) Walworth, Mary Walworth, and Anne-Marie (Adam) Potter; his ten cherished grandchildren; his sisters Patti Hayden and Abby Johnson; many extended family members; and dear friends who will miss him deeply.

Jim’s legacy is one of joy, service, faith, and family - a life fully lived and generously given.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Saint John the Evangelist on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at noon, with a reception to follow.

For those unable to attend the Mass in person it will be livestreamed at https://sjecc.org/funeral-mass/

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” — Matthew 25:23

Donations in his memory may be made to Saint Vincent de Paul Society at https://www.svdpnaples.org/donations

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany’s Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **19**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church
625 111th Ave N
Naples, FL 34108-1825
(239) 566-8740

Tribute Wall

JK

I'm so sad to learn of Deacon Jim's passing. He and I would set up Mass during Fr. Greg's time at Holy Angels, and Jim would always be in such a good mood! When I had to quit as a sacristan due to health problems (myself and my husband), I really missed Deacon Jim. Rest in Christ's Peace, my friend.🙏🏻✝️

Joan Korber - March 28 at 01:23 PM

SO

Sophia purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Sophia - February 19 at 02:10 AM

SO

Sophia planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

Sophia - February 19 at 02:10 AM

Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 18 at 04:39 PM

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 18 at 02:34 PM

A Memorial Tree was planted in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 18 at 02:34 PM

FK

Fr. Greg Konerman purchased the Loving Lilies a nd Roses Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Fr. Greg Konerman - February 18 at 10:27 AM

FK

Fr. Greg Konerman planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

Fr. Greg Konerman - February 18 at 10:27 AM

FK

Dear Kathleen & family,
I am so terribly saddened by the death of my good friend Jim. I have so many fond memories of our 9 years ministering together at Holy Angels Parish. Such a virtuous and devout man he was. A true Catholic gentleman! I am so grateful for his support of me amd my priesthood, and so thankful for all the wonderful ways in which he served the people of our parish. As our prayers escort his soul to the fullness of Life, my fervent prayers are also with you as you suffer this terrible loss. Christ is our hope!
Sincerely,
Fr. Greg Konerman

Fr. Greg Konerman - February 18 at 10:17 AM

DH

2 files added to the tribute wall

Dr. Mark Hogue - February 18 at 08:25 AM

DH

67 years ago, a red-headed 4 y.o. boy knocked on our front door on the day we moved into Lowry Rd., Harborcreek, Erie, Pa. I was a pretty scared 4 y.o. boy who wasn't sure what was going on. Jim asked my mother "if the boy my age could come out and play." I don't recall what Jim and I did that day, but we bonded and we were personally embedded from that day on, and forever more. We became "clones" of each other, and tho' we eventually separated over the years, that bond never left.

In our early teens, we laid on the 13th green of Lawrence Park Golf course, looked at the stars and listened to the waves of Lake Erie hit the shore as we talked about girls, life, hockey, and more importantly, the mysteries and reality of God, and all things existential. Jim, raised Catholic, and me, raised Presbyterian, and we couldn't quite understand the distinctions, or if that mattered to God. Regardless, we were both unified in the inevitability of God and the idea of a Creational origin, vs. evolution. We eventually equally strayed from our faith at the same time in adolescence, but later in life we both "arrived at" and knew that God's hands were upon each of us. Too much to say here, but eventually he became infatuated with this young lady at Brown University, (Mary Kathleen Topper eventually Walworth) and I chased a girl (Becky Anne Martin eventually Hogue) to Edinboro University. While we drifted apart in pursuing our adult life's callings, God's calling on each of our lives became so evident, that we could not ignore it. God's faithfulness toward us far exceeded our faithfulness toward Him.

Jim has been an exceptional man of God. He was devoted to his wife, family, grandchildren, and to God's children. Jim lived a life of service, much more in line with his name's sake- the apostle James. James boldly declared that faith without works, is dead. Jim's faith was not dead, but abundantly alive and will live on in those that he poured his life into. I am shocked by Jim's passing. But I am not shocked that God saw His servant and called him home. We don't know why, but we now that God knows. We will miss him and I will mourn his passing. However, I am convinced that we do no need to

mourn as those who have no faith, or as those who have no hope. For our hope is in the risen Christ. I rejoice in the life he lived, and that I knew him and was known by him: Jim Walworth: this incredible man. May you rest in Christ's arms. -------Dr. Mark A. Hogue

Dr. Mark Hogue - February 17 at 10:52 PM

DF

David Dulabon and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

David Dulabon and Family - February 17 at 07:34 PM

LF

Love, Beth and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Love, Beth and family - February 17 at 01:40 PM

LF

Love, Beth and family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

Love, Beth and family - February 17 at 01:40 PM

Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 16 at 01:31 PM

A Memorial Tree was planted in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 16 at 11:42 AM

JT

Sharing a few memories of Deacon, Jim Walworth. Rest in peace, brother.

Jay Topper - February 16 at 08:27 AM

JT

Peace deacon Jim. We all miss you terribly.

Joseph Topper - February 16 at 05:34 AM

JP

My favorite memory of Jim is when I was a lector on a Sunday when Villanova (my alma mater) played Ohio State in the NCAA tournament. I was wearing a Villanova hoodie; Jim pointed me out and said that everyone was to pray for my “conversion!”

James Pearn - February 15 at 09:46 PM

CF

Clark & Abby Johnson Family purchased the Sim ply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Clark & Abby Johnson Family - February 15 at 08:38 PM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 15 at 06:52 PM

JA

Deacon Jim was a blessing to our family of Vincentians at Holy Angels Church in Dayton, OH. He happily made home visits with us, supported efforts to raise funds & donations, and kept us upbeat & focused on our mission of love. Jim & Kathleen helped to start & maintain our parish Eucharistic Adoration Day on Wednesdays from 12:30 PM-5Pm, himself being an Adorer for an hour or longer. May Deacon Jim pave the way to Jesus for us all! Prayers for him, Kathleen and the Walworth family. Joan & Paul Andersen

Joan Andersen - February 15 at 04:00 PM

Our deepest condolences and prayers! Sherrie & Louis LaFemina

Sherrie LaFemina - February 14 at 05:33 AM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 13 at 09:15 PM

ML

Megan Hartman and Matt LaRiccia purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Megan Hartman and Matt LaRiccia - February 13 at 06:14 PM

MP

Jim was an inspiration to me and so many by the way he lived his life rooted in the Father's love, in the example of Jesus and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Rosie and I send our deepest condolences to Kathleen and the whole family. What a painful loss this must be and yet at the same time, we can rejoice that he goes ahead of us to be there and meet us when we come into God's kingdom. Jim will be sorely missed. I truly loved that man!
May you rest in peace Jim.
Your Brother in Christ,
Deacon Mike Prier

Mike Prier - February 13 at 05:41 PM

TH

I am a parishioner of the Church of the Holy Angels, in Dayton, Ohio, where Jim first served as a Deacon after being ordained. I received the heartbreaking news today of his passing. We enjoyed having Jim and his wife, Kathleen, at Holy Angels, and both of them were actively involved in the spiritual life of the parish in their ministry roles, he as Deacon, she by playing guitar and singing with our contemporary music group as well as being involved with our parish prayer request line. Jim's sermons were always so good but beyond his role as Deacon, he was always such a kind man who was always happy to greet you with a smile on his face, and willing to listen and give you advice in spiritual matters when asked, which he did once for me. We were sad to see him go when he retired to Florida while being happy for him and Kathleen at the same time. Now we are saddened at his passing while knowing he has passed into eternal joy, hopefully soon looking into the face of his Savior he so faithfully served. Peace be with Kathleen and all of Jim's family.

Tamera Hemmerle - February 13 at 05:17 PM

RF

Richard and Jeanne Wilson& Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Richard and Jeanne Wilson& Family - February 13 at 03:51 PM

KM

To Deacon Jim's family - my sincere condolences. I am a part of Jim's CJ family and was touched that he always stayed in touch with us through our prayer email chain. Without fail, when I would post an update on my Dad's cancer journey or ask for a new prayer, Jim would almost immediately respond. He would sincerely ask about my family and talk about his own family and how grateful he was to have moved to Florida with the love of his life, Kathleen. He obviously was a great family man and will be missed. Much love and peace to all who loved him.
Kelly Muhl

Kelly Muhl - February 13 at 02:59 PM

Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 13 at 02:21 PM

A Memorial Tree was planted in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

February 13 at 02:21 PM

SD

Sam Rinehart and Rinehart Dayhoff purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of James "Jim" Walworth.

Sam Rinehart and Rinehart Dayhoff - February 13 at 12:28 PM

SD

Sam Rinehart and Rinehart Dayhoff planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jim" Walworth.

Sam Rinehart and Rinehart Dayhoff - February 13 at 12:28 PM