



Reverend Robert B. Wachter

JUN 4, 1950 - AUG 2, 2025



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Bath-Naylor
Funeral Home
& Crematory

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 8



Reverend Robert B. Wachter

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The Reverend Robert B. Wachter, beloved priest of the Diocese of Wichita, entered into eternal rest on August 2, 2025, at the age of 75. Known for his humble spirit, deep devotion to the Church, and unwavering love for his family, Father Wachter served the people of Kansas with grace, wisdom, and compassion for nearly 40 years.

Born on June 4, 1950, Father Bob answered God's call early in life and was ordained to the priesthood on May 8, 1976. His priestly ministry began in Wichita, where he served in a variety of roles including assistant pastor at All Saints Parish(1976), Assistant Chancellor at the diocesan Chancery (1977), hospital chaplain at St. Francis (1978), and full-time teacher at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School (1980-1983), Holy Savior (1983), St. Mary, Newton(1988), Ed. Sabbatical Holy Land (1992), St. Joseph, Conway Springs and St. Martin of Tours, Caldwell (1992-1996), Christ the King, Wichita (1997) St. Patrick's, Parsons (2001), St. John, Iola, St. Joseph, Yates Center and St. Martin Oratory, Piqua (2005), Mary Queen of Angels, Ft. Scott (2012) and St. Dismas Ministry to the Incarcerated (2019). His leadership was marked by spiritual depth, administrative care, and personal kindness. He also cherished a formative sabbatical in the Holy Land in 1992 and concluded his ministry serving as chaplain to the St. Dismas Ministry to the Incarcerated, where he offered Christ's mercy to those most in need.

Beyond his official duties, Father Bob played a cherished and active role in his large and loving family. He officiated at countless weddings and baptisms for his siblings, nieces, and nephews, bringing a joyful and personal touch to each sacred moment. Holidays with Father Bob were filled with tradition, as he often dropped by family homes bearing Russell Stover chocolates, a blessing, and a good story. He was known to linger for a game of cards, a glass of Pepsi, or to watch a St. Mary's Colgan game, always bringing a warm presence that will be deeply missed.

Father Wachter was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Rosemary Wachter, his sister, Jo Wachter; his brothers, Pete and Jeff Wachter; his sisters-in-law, Melanie and Becky Wachter, and his brother-in-law, Greg Evans. He is survived by his brothers, Mike, Tom, and Paul (and wife



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Teri); his sisters, Meg Evans, Beth Smith (and husband Chuck), and Jean Adams (and husband Frank); as well as countless nieces, nephews, and parishioners whose lives he touched with his compassion and pastoral care.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday, August 9th at 10:00 a.m., with interment to follow at Highland Park Cemetery. The Rosary will be at Our Lady of Lourdes Friday, August 8, at 6:00 p.m. Condolences may be left at www.bathnaylor.com. In lieu of flowers the family expressions of sympathy in the form of memorials to Our Lady of Lourdes and/or the Retired Priest Fund. Friends may drop off or mail memorials to Bath-Naylor Funeral Home 522 S. Broadway Pittsburg, KS 66762.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:21



Events

Reverend Robert B. Wachter

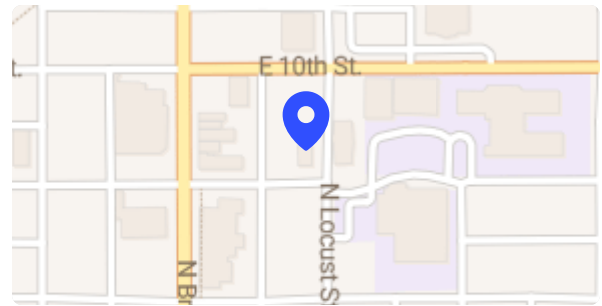
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Rosary

Friday, August 8, 2025

6:00 PM cst

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
109 E 9th St, Pittsburg KS 66762-4043

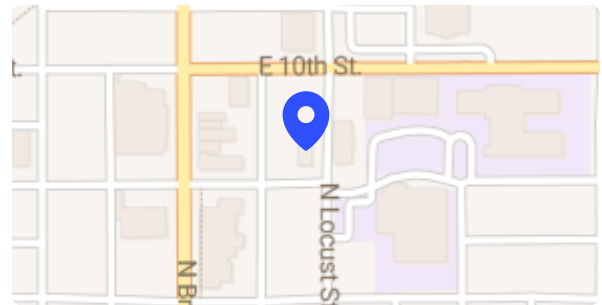


Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday, August 9, 2025

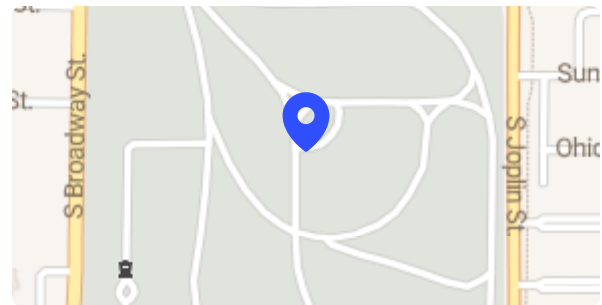
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM cst

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
109 E 9th St, Pittsburg KS 66762-4043



Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery
2025 S. Broadway, Pittsburg KS 66762





Tribute Wall

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ED

Edward & planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Robert.



August 20 at 8:15 AM

MG

Mary Valadez Gordon posted:

My sympathy and prayers to the family for this loss. Fr. Bob's first assignment to All Saints touched my family in many, many ways. He was a frequent visitor to my Mom whom he adopted as his 'Grandmother:. When Mom passed, he concelebrated her funeral mass and it was then that our family learned how he frequently visited Mom. She always thought he was very special. Fr. Bob was also a frequent dinner guest, and helped in the kitchen saying he wanted to learn to cook like my Mom. He was not only one of our parish priests, he was a very special friend. May he rest in Peace.

August 14 at 12:26 PM

RR

Richard L Rajewski posted:

To Fr. Bob's family: My name is Rick Rajewski and I am from Hays, KS. I was at the funeral yesterday but hope my tribute here will be more lasting for you. I first met Fr. Bob at All Saints Parish in Wichita during his deacon year. I was a resident family physician at St. Joseph Hospital and my fiancée, Vicki, had no prior church life. He became her RCIA instructor. His ordination to the priesthood happened shortly thereafter. In the two months before he married us in February, 1977, he also baptized, confirmed, and heard her first reconciliation. We just lived a few blocks from the church so we also became good friends and he would just stop by spontaneously. We were one of his first marriages and he told me just a few months ago, he still had our picture on the wall in his bedroom. He baptized our first son at All Saint's but we moved to start my practice in Hays in 1979. He made special trips to baptize our other two sons in Hays. We looked forward to visiting him regularly on our return trips to Wichita. While he was in Newton, he gifted a framed "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane" to us and toys for the boys. He came to Hays to marry our first son and as a family physician I chided him being our "family" priest. He baptized both of my son's children. In the early 2000s, Colgan played Smith Center for the state football championship here in Hays for several years. Each year, he would call the week before, secure a bed at our house and come for a visit. I would go with him to the game but had trouble cheering for Colgan as I had played against them three times in the 1960s for the state baseball championship. His last visit here was May, 2022, for a sad celebration: Vicki's funeral. She had survived breast cancer almost 20 years but the long range effects of treatment finally overtook her. Her spiritual life had come full circle with him. I wish to extend my condolences to all family and friends. I know his soul will rest in the Peace of Christ. Obviously, our family will never forget him. Peace and Blessings, Rick Rajewski

August 6 at 6:37 PM



Tribute Wall

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Shirley Catron lit a candle in honor of Robert.

Our memory of Father Bob was a caring priest for he helped me with starting a Cancer support group meetings and anything he could help with our sympathies to his family which he adored his compassion for other will be remembered by many Shirley & George Catron



August 9 at 4:36 PM



Shaun Jewell shared a photo to the **1** album.



August 8 at 6:03 AM



Mike Knaup posted:

To the family of Rev. Wachter: I am so sorry for your loss. He was the rock of the family and a dedicated man of God. You are all in my prayers. Mike Knaup

August 6 at 6:37 PM



Media

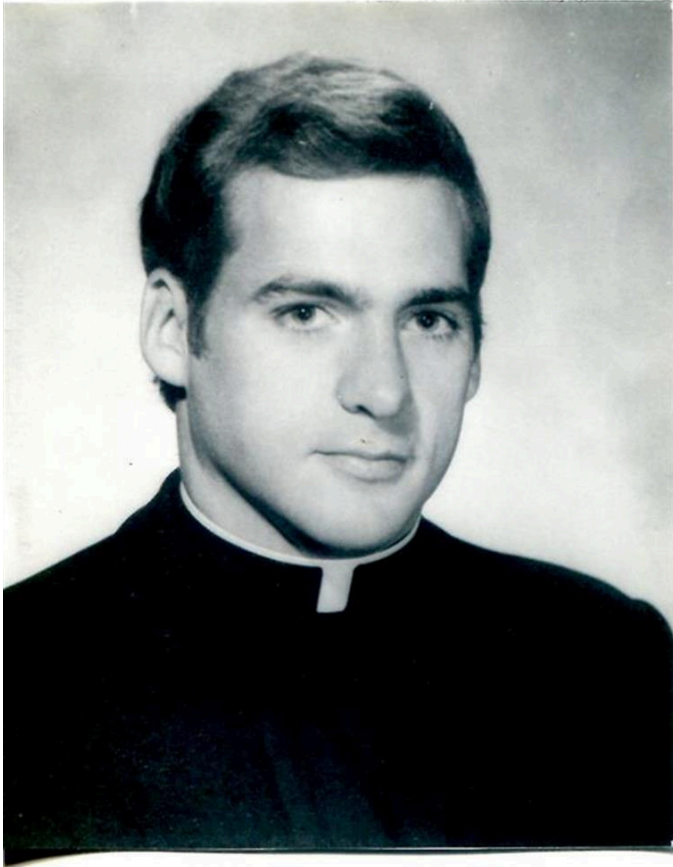
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August 8 at 6:03 AM



Fr. Robert Wachter



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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