



## William "Bill" Watts Sr.

June 12, 1935 - August 25, 2016

William "Bill" Stevens Watts, Sr, 81, of St. Joseph died at his home on Thursday, August 25, 2016 surrounded by his loving family.

A Mass celebrating his life will be held at 11 AM on Monday, Aug 29, at St. John's Catholic Church in Benton Harbor. The burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery. The visitation with his family will be from 2 PM to 5 PM on Sunday, Aug 28, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor where a Prayer Service will be held at 4:30 PM on Sunday. Memorials may be made to the SS John and Bernard Parish and the Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. Please share memories, messages or photos at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Bill was born on June 12, 1935 in Benton Harbor to Robert and Katherine (Stevens) Watts. He married Winifred Ward in 1960 and together they have celebrated 56 years of marriage. Bill proudly served his country in the US Army as a paratrooper. He was a master electrician and worked at Cook Nuclear Plant for many years. Bill was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, the IBEW Local 153 for 55 years, and the Knights of Columbus. He established in 1996 the Eucharistic Adoration at the SS John and Bernard Parish and continued it for the last 20 years. Bill also distributed the Medjugorje messages that were in the newspaper every month for the last 25 years. He had a very strong spiritual side and was a daily communicant for over 30 years. He was an avid fly fisherman and enjoyed hunting, bowling, wrestling, football and other sports. He enjoyed supporting his children and grandchildren in all their sporting activities. But most of all, he loved his wife and his family and enjoyed spending time with them.

His family includes his wife, Winn; his children, Theresa Stutz of Benton Harbor, Kathleen (Ron) Bush of Cassopolis, William S. (Sherrie) Watts, Jr. of Huntville, Alabama, Cynthia (Phil) Sirk of Stevensville, David Watts of Grand Rapids, Shaun (Trista) Watts of St. Joseph, Jennifer (Jason) Krumroy of Galien, Patrick (Denise) Watts of Stevensville, and Angela (Joel) Tavolacci of Virginia; 32 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Veronica Richards of South Bend. He was preceded in death by his parents, 21

“saint ity-bitys” who are in heaven; his brothers, Timothy, Robert, John and Raymond; his sisters, Mary and Hannah and a son-in-law, Douglas Stutz.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Calvary Cemetery

1646-1666 E Napier Ave  
Benton Harbor, MI,  
49022

**AUG** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 05:00PM

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**28**

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI, US,  
49022

**AUG** **Prayer Service** 04:30PM

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**28**

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI, US,  
49022

**AUG** **Service** 11:00AM

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**29**

SS John & Bernard Parish, St. John Catholic Church  
600 Columbus, Benton Harbor, MI, US, 49022

# Comments

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“ I've known and met Mr. Watts in the 90's. He frequently visited my former boss, Mr. Robert "Bob" Schmid, the Guidance Counselor then at Lake Michigan Catholic Middle and High School on Monday mornings. I won't forget his "smiley face", his "good morning" greetings and his "stories on spirituality and family" when he passed by my office prior to seeing Mr. Schmid. Later on along the way, I met Mrs. Watts in Church, some of his children: Teresa (as an LMC parent), Jennifer (as an LMC student then), Angela (as a fellow LMC classmate of my daughter, Anne), Katherine (as an LMC parent) and Cindy (as a parent of my CCD student).

In our chats together, I gathered that he is and was a man of great faith, a man with passion at Eucharistic Adoration, a man filled with joy when talking about his family, a man with a devotion to our Lady, and a man of wisdom. There is no doubt in my mind and heart that he left behind the legacy of his great faith in God, his love and devotion to the Eucharistic Adoration and to our Lady and the joy he brought in as a family.

I've learned about his passing to eternal life from a note beside the sign-in book at the Adoration Chapel this past Friday. My deepest sympathy to you, Mrs. Watts, and to your children. The sadness that brought upon us by his death has also brought upon us the joy that he is now in peace with our loving Father along with the angels and the communion of saints in the glory of God's heavenly kingdom.

My prayer and thoughts are with you all in this time of sorrow and loss. May you find comfort and strength in God's infinite love and mercy and goodness on this your difficult time.

Peace and Prayers in SHJ and IHM,  
Lee SBR Pangilinan

Lee SBR Pangilinan - August 28, 2016 at 11:53 PM

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“ to Bill Watts family goes my deepest sympathy.

You will never know the many people that Bill helped when he established the Eucharistic adoration, there are probably hundreds of stories like this and here is mine:

My husband was dying and I went into the church to pray and have some quiet time. Bill knew what was going on and as I left he handed me a little prayer book and told me about some prayers in it to read to the person that was dying. It was a little gesture that made a big difference to me. I read the prayers to my husband as he lay dying and I will never forget the man who had the kindness and foresight to give them to me. As we are all mourning Bill there is rejoicing in Heaven with all the people he helped. As the other lady said I too can hear the Lord saying "Well done, good and faithful servant."

God Bless  
Janet Nahikian Schultz

Janet Nahikian - August 28, 2016 at 12:20 PM

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“ My connection with Bill Watts concerns the Eucharistic Adoration he established at St. John's parish in the 1990's, I used to attend on Friday afternoons with my friend, Cheryl HOrton and her severely handicapped son, Randy. We would attend Adoration and then often times we would go to the basement of the church for a cup of coffee. Bill was often found downstairs. We would have a cup of coffee and chat with him. Once a bird found its way to the basement. Randy was running and screaming as the bird flew around his head. Bill came swinging a broom, trying to get the bird outside. That was a memory I will always remember.

At weekday Mass this past week, the Gospel reading was about the men who had received talents from their Master. In the Master's absence they were to use those talents to gain more. When the Master returned, to those who had yielded an increase of talents he said, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I can just hear Our Lord saying those same words to Bill as he entered into his eternal home! He was an inspiring Catholic Christian man who lived his faith for all to see. May Our Lord comfort all his family at this time as they reflect on Our Lord's promises of eternal life where all pain and sorrow and tears will be gone.

God bless, Karen Hyman

Karen Hyman - August 28, 2016 at 09:40 AM

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“ My Dear Friends In Christ!

So very sorry to hear of your loss. Bill was a wonderful gift to our Parish, to his family & to me, personally. His Dedication to our Adoration Program at both Churches was most commendable and helpful,.. . His love for his Faith, his Church, wife and family was wonderful. How often he would speak of this Grandchild or that Great Grandchild & how proud he was of them.

A very good Soul has been called home - There's no doubt in mind that Heaven is a better place today - now that William "Bill" Watts resides there...

God bless all of you & may God reward your "loved one" for his goodness & so many, many years of Service..

In Christ's Love & Peace!

Father Bill Jacobs  
Former Pastor  
SS John & Bernard Parish

**Fr. Bill Jacobs** - August 27, 2016 at 07:08 AM