

Father Clair Boes

November 16, 1938 - November 6, 2025

Reverend Father Clair Boes, age 86, of Rockwell City, Iowa passed away on November 6, 2025.

Visitation will take place Thursday, November 13, 2025 from 4-7:00 p.m. with Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake.

Visitation will continue on Friday, November 14, 2025 from 9-10:15 a.m. followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake followed by luncheon. Burial will be in the St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery in Breda, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Retired Priest Collection of the Diocese of Sioux City. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

The fifth of nine children, he was born to William and Laura (Engel) Boes, on November 16, 1938, in Carroll, Iowa.

Raised on a farm, he graduated from St. Bernard High School, Breda, Iowa. He attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa for Minor Seminary, graduating with a BA in Religious Studies in 1961. He was honored to be selected for Major Seminary education at the Canisianum/University of Innsbruck, Austria. He was ordained at St. Paul Church in Innsbruck on April 3, 1965.

He was so pleased that his parents and uncle, Father Norbert Boes, were

able to attend the ordination and then tour the area. Fr. Clair celebrated his first Mass in Ramsdorf, Germany where they met with Boes family relatives, and he was presented with the bell of Ramsdorf. They attended Easter Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square and were delighted when Pope Paul VI was carried in close proximity to them.

His deep faith developed trust and loyalty among his parishioners, who then became lifelong friends. He saw the worth of every person and their value, wherever they were in their life journey. His empathetic communication skills and deep sense of justice were a visible quality to all and the ability to weave relatable stories into his homilies was part of his persona. Priest brothers were also his family, especially the camaraderie of his support group.

Fr. Clair loved Tyrol, and the singing and dancing of the German beer halls, thus his collection of beer steins! His love for skiing started in Innsbruck, and he was thrilled to attend the Winter Olympics in 1964. Attending Innsbruck reunions with fellow Americans was a highlight of most summers. Skiing remained a lifelong passion, which he was able to enjoy with his Colorado brothers and their families and took many skiing vacations with his fellow priest friends.

Family was so important to him, interacting with wit, especially with his nieces and nephews. He provided many delightful stories of his experiences and loved to listen to theirs. There were innumerable family meals and celebrations, often leading to clearing the table for raucous card games. This is where he honed his pokers skills (or luck!). As a result, there were just a few casino visits. A melodious voice was a gift of his, rare among some of the Boes siblings, and was known for lining up the girls for dancing at the Starline in Carroll, Iowa.

Diocesan assignments were as follows:

1. Assistant Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Sioux City, 1965-1969
2. Assistant Pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Carroll, 1969-1973
3. Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Sioux Rapids, Faculty, St. Mary High School, Storm Lake, 1973-1984
4. Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Graettinger, 1984-1988
5. Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Spirit Lake, 1988-1993
6. Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Storm Lake, 1993-2000
7. Pastor, St Andrew Parish, Sibley, Attending, Ashton, 2000-2008

Established residence at St. Francis Parish, Rockwell City, where he celebrated both his 50th and 60th anniversaries of ordination.

Survived by: Eight siblings, Myrna Snyder of Breda, IA; Duane Boes of Fort Collins, CO; Dennis (Jan) Boes of Ballwin, MO; Ardel (Mary) Boes of Golden, CO; Eldon (Joan) Boes of Alexandria, VA; Carol Malone of Omaha, NE; Merlin (Connie) Boes of Austin, MN; and Susan (Dennis) Schreier of Montrose, CO; twenty three nieces and nephews; and twenty two great-nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by: Parents, William and Laura Boes, sister-in-law, Joan Boes, brothers-in-law Barry Malone and Clair Snyder, nephews, Brett Boes, Chad Malone, and John Snyder.

Cemetery Details

St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery

Intersection of 120th & Granite Ave
Breda, IA
<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/96056/saint-bernards-cemetery>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **13**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca St
Storm Lake, IA 50588

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Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **14**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca St
Storm Lake, IA 50588

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Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Father Clair Boes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 13, 2025 at 04:07 PM

SH

“ *Susan H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Father Clair Boes.*

Susan H. - March 16 at 05:15 PM

MB

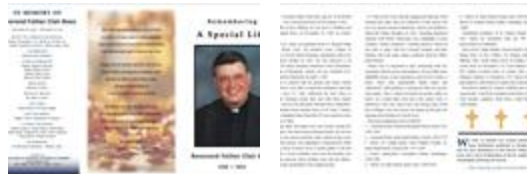
“ *Sending sympathy to all my cousins. It was always a special time when Fr Clair visited our house. He held a special spot in my parents' hearts and maintained a lifelong friendship with my mom.*

Mary Boes

Mary Boes - November 15, 2025 at 11:52 AM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 13, 2025 at 03:00 PM

MN

“ Marie N. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Father Clair Boes.

Marie N. - November 12, 2025 at 06:58 PM

GJ

“ St. Francis in Rockwell City was blessed to have Fr. Boes in residence for so many years. I enjoyed his sermons, hearing his singing voice, especially on Christmas Eve when he would sometimes sing a solo after his sermon, and our chats on many occasions. Rest in peace Fr. Claire.

Gayle Johnson - November 10, 2025 at 06:04 PM

CD

“ Father Boes was a wonderful Priest and friend. He married us in 1979 when a priest at Sioux Rapids and he instructed me when I became a Catholic in 1980. He had a lot of compassion and empathy and always knew what to say to comfort us when we were facing a difficult time. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him as he was a gift to all. RIP dear father Boes your work here is done good and faithful servant. Cindy and Frank Demers

Cynthia Demers - November 10, 2025 at 05:16 PM

BM

“ We were so saddened to receive the news of Father Claire’s passing. He was a dear friend to our family, from his early years as an assistant priest at our hometown parish in Carroll, Iowa. Separated by many miles over the years, he was kind to stay in touch with our family. He held a special place in the heart of our family. We were/are blessed to have had him as a friend and advocate in our lives.. May he rest in holy peace. His legacy of love and friendship remains with us. Mac/Bev Morrissey and family

Beverly Morrissey - November 10, 2025 at 12:17 PM

JM

“ Father Clair was such a kind and caring man. Whenever we would see him after he left St. Mary's, he was always ready to fill us in on whatever he was up to at the time. Truly a great person and priest. So very happy we were lucky enough to know him. Our sympathies to his family. Kevin & Julie McKinney

Julie McKinney - November 10, 2025 at 11:14 AM

SB

“ We were blessed to have Father Clair assigned to Holy Spirit parish in Carroll while I was growing up. I was also fortunate to have Fr. Clair as my religion teacher at Holy Spirit (though sometimes embarrassed by all the times he called on me in class.) I always admired his kindness, wit, incredibly good nature, and nurturing way. Rest in peace Father Clair

Steve Boes - November 10, 2025 at 10:56 AM

VB

“ *Father Claire was the Priest at St. Mary's in Storm Lake, Iowa, when I became Catholic in 1996. He was a wonderful kind and caring Priest. I have very fond memories of him.....May he now R.I.P with God and the Angels !!!!*

Vicki Baxter - November 10, 2025 at 09:31 AM

DS

“ *Fr. Bose was always such a warm & compassionate priest. I have fond memories from years he spent teaching at St. Mary's in high school; getting to share a dance at prom (& moment captured in yrbook); his wonderful smile & willingness to reach out to help us grow our faith. Thankful for his counsel as received in marriage prep & blessed to have him perform wedding ceremony. Grateful for conversations shared after Masses at Marian Home in Ft. Dodge in his retirement. Rest in peace Fr. Bose.*

Dawn "Hinnners" Simpson - November 09, 2025 at 02:04 PM

BM

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Father Claire Boes. He was very special. i got to know him when when he served the Sioux Rapids Community. He was admired by so many---parishioners, as well as community members.
R I P, FATHER BOES. YOURS WAS A JOB WELL DONE It was a pleasure to have known you.
May God Bless Your Family.*

*Sincerely,
Bonnie Mester*

BONNIE MESTER - November 08, 2025 at 11:19 PM

GP

“ *Father Boes was great priest he took time for people came out of his way to talk to you will not be forgotten rest in peace Father*

Gary Pickhinke - November 08, 2025 at 04:28 PM

JW

“ *Jennifer Whelan lit a candle in memory of Father Claire Boes*



Jennifer Whelan - November 08, 2025 at 04:16 PM

PB

“ *Pat Barnett lit a candle in memory of Father Claire Boes*



Pat Barnett - November 08, 2025 at 02:44 PM

LZ

“ *Such a wonderful and caring man....God bless him.*



Larry and Sue Zwemke - November 08, 2025 at 12:38 PM

MS

“ *Father Boes gave the most wonderful sermons! He knew what was going on! Wonderful person-i will miss him dearly!*

Martin J Shellenberger - November 08, 2025 at 12:23 PM

BB

“ *The Lord gained an outstanding priest, Rest in Peace Fr Claire. You will be missed by all. God Bless*



Bob Baschke - November 08, 2025 at 10:59 AM

KM

“ *father boes was just the greatest friend ever got to know him really well when his sister went to college with my sister and she would come home with sandy and he would pick sue up and they would go home for the weekend and then the same when they would head back on sunday he was like and older brother to me and i will remember him always with just the greatest memories heaven just gained a great angel deepest sympathy to the family*

karla madsen - November 08, 2025 at 09:46 AM

CS

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to the Boes Family members. He prayed the Funeral Mass for my Dad, Richard A. Nieland. Father Claire is a distant cousin we share Nieland Family Bloodline. Carleen (Niealnd) Schwieso*



Carleen Schwieso - November 07, 2025 at 05:51 PM

JN

“ When Marilyn and I were married at St Joseph’s in Sioux Rapids 52 years ago we were told the new priest who was coming two weeks before our wedding would marry us. His name was Claire Boes. We wanted our current priest to do the ceremony but this new priest would have to do the job. When we first met with Fr Boes it was love at first sight so to speak. We ended up being good friends as many multitudes of others have too. Twenty years later he married our daughter off and sadly seven years later he presided at our daughter’s funeral. Rest in peace father. I will always think fondly of you. Jim Nelsen

Jim Nelsen - November 07, 2025 at 03:08 PM

GN

“ Grace Neuroth-Casson lit a candle in memory of Father Claire Boes



Grace Neuroth-Casson - November 07, 2025 at 02:32 PM

DP

“ Fr. Boes was my favorite teacher! I believe he was liked, by all of his students. He was fun, kind, just a gentle soul. We were bless to have such a great priest, teaching us our Catholic religion. We lost a great man, and Jesus gained an angel. RIP Father Boes † I will remember you forever.

Donna Pittman - November 07, 2025 at 02:13 PM

SG

“ *Sandy Gillis-Robinson lit a candle in memory of Father Claire Boes*



Sandy Gillis-Robinson - November 07, 2025 at 01:50 PM

CH

God gained a heavenly priest today!! my family sure enjoyed him as a priest at Saint Mary's

Connie Heissel - November 07, 2025 at 05:43 PM

RK

It was my pleasure to know Father Boes as one of the finest individuals associated with St. Mary's school and parish. I have often reflected on his positive influence, as he served as a role model for me during his time at St. Mary's.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and to the numerous individuals whose lives he touched.

Randy Konradi

Randy Konradi - November 08, 2025 at 12:03 PM

GK

“ *Working with Father Boes was a pleasure. What a wonderful man who inspired so many*

Gayle L Klinker - November 07, 2025 at 01:20 PM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund sent a virtual gift in memory of Father Claire Boes



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - November 07, 2025 at 12:27 PM

NM

“ Father Boes was the best priest I have ever met. He was a great teacher as well. He had a good sense of humor. His kindness & friendliness will be remembered forever.

Nancy (Neuroth) Miller - November 07, 2025 at 11:23 AM

MB

“ Fr. Boes was one of the best priest and teacher I have ever known. May he Rest in Peace. Michelle Burmeister-Schaefer St, Mary's class of 1979

Michelle Burmeister-Schaefer - November 07, 2025 at 10:45 AM

MB

“ Michelle Burmeister-Schaefer sent a virtual gift in memory of Father Claire Boes



Michelle Burmeister-Schaefer - November 07, 2025 at 10:42 AM

PF

“ *Peg Harrington Flynn lit a candle in memory of Father Claire Boes*



Peg Harrington Flynn - November 07, 2025 at 07:38 AM

PF

“ *Fr. Boes was the best teacher I ever had. He was a kind and gentle soul. I am blessed to have called him my friend. Rest in peace Fr. Boes.*



Peg Harrington Flynn - November 07, 2025 at 07:37 AM