

*This obituary was originally printed in the September 2011 issue of New Earth, the newspaper for the Diocese of Fargo.*

## **Deacon James Anderson served St. John's in Wahpeton**

Deacon James Anderson, 70, Wahpeton, died Aug. 13 at St. Francis Healthcare Campus, Breckenridge, Minn.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 18 at St. John's Catholic Church, Wahpeton, with interment at Calvary Cemetery, Wahpeton.

James Thomas Anderson was born Sept. 21, 1940, in Breckenridge, the son of Simon and Genevieve (Dietz) Anderson. He attended school at St. John's Elementary School and graduated from Wahpeton High School in 1959. He entered the U.S. Marines, where he served for the next 20 years, receiving the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal and Combat Action Ribbon, among other citations. He served as a drill instructor throughout his tenure.

After his honorable discharge, he settled in Cottonwood, Ariz., where he married Theresa Walker in 1981. He worked at a home center and lumber yard until he retired in 2003. During that time he was ordained a permanent deacon of the Catholic Church. The Andersons moved in 2008 to Wahpeton, where he served as a permanent deacon with St. John's Catholic Church.

His passion was making rosaries, which he gave to military chaplains to share with U.S. troops. Deacon Anderson enjoyed the outdoors, especially fishing and gardening, and was an avid student of the Big Band Era, remembering trivia from that time span.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa Anderson, Wahpeton; three step-children: Daniel Walker, Roy, Wash.; Sabrina (Sam) Alvey, Glasgow, Ky.; Johnny (Monya) Walker, Magnolia, Ky.; six step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Simon and Genevieve Anderson; and his two brothers, Msgr. John Anderson and Charles Anderson.