



## Deacon Raymond A. Gagnon

August 10, 1933 - August 12, 2022

Shirley – Deacon Raymond A. Gagnon, 89, of Shirley passed away peacefully on Friday, August 12, 2022, in his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Lowell on August 10, 1933, a son of the late Wilfred and Alma (Bolduc) Gagnon and grew up in the City, graduating from the Lowell Trade School in 1952. He has resided in Shirley since 1960.

Deacon Ray was a master electrician and owned and operated R. A. Gagnon Electrical Contractor, Inc. He also worked at Raytheon and Wang. Besides these jobs Ray also did a variety of things to support his family, including wiring inspector, cabbie, and even school bus driver. He was a proud member of the famous “Over the Hill Construction Company.”

He completed his theological studies in the Diocese of Boston and was ordained into the Permanent Diaconate on May 17, 1980. Deacon Ray was assigned St. Anthony’s Parish in Shirley. He presided at many weddings and baptized well over 600 babies, his favorite diaconate privilege.

He served 12 years in the Navy Reserves, spending two weeks each year on a destroyer escort. He volunteered in many capacities including the Shirley Council on Aging, ombudsman program, hospice volunteer, prison ministry, and the Lura A. White School Committee. He took pleasure in the beaches with Pauline and his family followed by a seafood dinner and a Moxie. He

spent many afternoons bird watching and loved the many pets his family had over the years. He enjoyed WWII history, movies, and aviation. He shared many corny jokes and delighted in telling stories. More than anything else, his passions in life were Jesus and the many wonderful blessings He bestowed upon our family.

He leaves his wife of 67 years, Pauline (Branchaud) Gagnon of Shirley; four sons, Michael Gagnon and his wife Kim of Templeton, Richard Gagnon and his wife Jennifer of Westford, Stephen Gagnon of Rindge, NH, and James Gagnon and his wife Dana of Cincinnati, OH; a daughter, Pamela Ewing and her husband Doug of Cameron, NC; nine grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his two sisters, Liliane Gagnon and Beatrice Gregoire.

Calling hours will be held in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 14 Phoenix St., Shirley on Tuesday, August 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A prayer Vigil will be held that evening at 7:00 p.m. His funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, in St. Anthony's Church. Burial will follow in the parish cemetery, and a light reception will be held in the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony's Parish, 14 Phoenix St., Shirley, MA 01464, and Loaves and Fishes, 234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer is assisting the family with the funeral arrangements. For further information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at [www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Anthony's Cemetery

Shaker Road  
Shirley, MA

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

AUG 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Anthony's Church  
14 Phoenix Street  
Shirley, MA 01464

## Funeral Mass

AUG 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Church  
14 Phoenix Street  
Shirley, MA

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ Hello Gagnon Family,  
So sorry to hear of this passing. I'm sure he had a few grey hairs having felt with me when I was younger. Unfortunately, it took me a few years to find this.  
I will remember Mr Gagnon as I called him back then, tried his hardest to get me right with God. Well he be happy to know I finally am, took me awhile but the seed was planted.  
I often think of Teen Encounter and how he and Mrs Gagnon convinced me to go. A step that later help me.  
Thank you  
Rust in peace sir, as I'm sure you are.  
Mike Malcolm

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**Michael Malcolm** - July 29, 2024 at 02:25 PM

CH

“ I previously wrote to the family but only my first name is listed. My name is Cheryl Gregory. I gave more of a description of how I knew Ray in a comment under my original comment. I hope Pauline gets it!

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**Cheryl** - September 02, 2022 at 01:43 PM

CH

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Deacon Ray. I just a saw this notice and wanted Pauline to know how much I respected and liked Deacon Ray. What a kind, gentle man. He always had a smile on his face and had the ability to make everyone feel instantly like a friend. My deepest condolences to you and your family, Pauline.

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**Cheryl** - September 02, 2022 at 01:28 PM

CH

*I wrote a comment previously but it only listed my first name - I can't figure out how to change that so just letting Pauline know it's Cheryl Gregory. My family lived in Shirley 13 years (1998-2011) and attended St Anthony's church.*

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**Cheryl** - September 02, 2022 at 01:41 PM

SH

*“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Pauline, I'm sending hugs to you!  
Sandi Hyde*

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**Sandi Hyde** - September 01, 2022 at 09:02 AM

DE

*“ I will never forget what amazing and powerful support Ray provided to the Cahalane family and all of us after the tragic auto death of Bob and Sheila Cahalane on their innocent Sunday afternoon visit to the hospital. Ray was terrific and irreplaceable in support, calm, and eternal perspective on such an unexpected and valuable loss. He was there all through the night and following days. That was Ray. Gentle, understanding, merciful, forgiving, and generous. He was strong and he definitely had standards, but he possessed the wisdom of when to add and when to subtract. He had unwavering courage to blaze new pathways in assisting at St. Anthony's Parish and providing mercy and ecumenism with everyone in town. He was a lightning flash of activity to offer mercy, a wonderful gift! His kindness, patience, holiness, and genuine humility will remain a beacon of Light to all of us and and a badge of service to Our Creator! How else could I thank him for all that he gave?*

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**Dr. Arthur Eddy** - August 17, 2022 at 02:22 PM

LJ

“ *Lisa And John Joyce lit a candle in memory of Deacon Raymond A. Gagnon*



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**Lisa and John Joyce** - August 16, 2022 at 03:38 PM

NP

“ *Nancy Pierce lit a candle in memory of Deacon Raymond A. Gagnon*



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**Nancy Pierce** - August 16, 2022 at 12:45 PM

PP

“ *My deepest condolences to Pauline and her family. Ray was a blessing to the faith communities in Shirley. He will be truly missed. Paul Przybyla*

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**Paul Przybyla** - August 16, 2022 at 10:33 AM

MA

“ *Dearest Pam, Pauline and family. We are so very sorry of the loss of your precious father and husband. Please find consolation in knowing he is now in the arms of his beloved Savior. With so much love, Marilyn and Ray Arsenault*

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**Marilyn Arsenault** - August 15, 2022 at 09:01 PM

RS

“ *Pauline----So sorry for your loss Ray was a really good guy and he will be missed*

Rachel Sizer - August 15, 2022 at 05:46 PM

MD

“ *Pauline, so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Ray was an inspiration to me and and the many conversations we had about "do it yourself repairs." May you rest in peace Ray. Mike Detillion*

Mike Detillion - August 15, 2022 at 04:58 PM

BB

“ *Jeff, I'm holding you and your family close in my heart and prayers during this time. Ray lives on in you—in your unwavering hope, your gift for storytelling, how much you love to joke and laugh, and how good of a friend you are, to all.*

*Thank you, Ray, for your service to this country in the USN. Fair winds and following seas, Sailor.*

*With love to all of the Gagnon family,  
Brittany Brouker (Lee, MA)*

Brittany Brouker - August 15, 2022 at 03:57 PM



NT

“ *Nancy Tarbell lit a candle in memory of Deacon Raymond A. Gagnon*

Nancy Tarbell - August 15, 2022 at 11:41 AM



JE

“ *I am so very sorry to hear of Ray's passing. He will be sorely missed. My heart and prayers go out to you, Pauline, and his family.*

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**Jackie Esielionis** - August 15, 2022 at 07:31 AM

CW

“ *We shared many wonderful "short" visits over dinner and/or tea with lots of good conversations, tales and jokes. Ray, you will be greatly missed by your family, church family and friends.*

*With much Affection, Carolyn & Charlie*

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**carolyn waite** - August 15, 2022 at 07:22 AM



“ *Sending condolences to Pauline and Pam and the rest of the family. He was a wonderful man.*

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**Meredith Marcinkewicz** - August 14, 2022 at 09:20 PM