



## Reverend Deacon James Bernard Couture

October 24, 1939 - April 28, 2021

Reverend Deacon James Bernard Couture, 81, of Fitchburg, MA, passed into the arms of his heavenly father on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 with his loving family beside him. He was born in Fitchburg to the late William E. and Freida O. (Spitzer) Couture. He attended Notre Dame Preparatory High School and Fitchburg State University.

Deacon Jim was the co-owner and President of the former M.C.M. Furniture and Appliance Company in Leominster, which was started by his father in 1939. He enjoyed a fifty-year career at M.C.M. and helped to grow the business along with his siblings, Janice, John, Bill, and Carolyn. Although Deacon Jim had sought a religious vocation in his earlier years, his father convinced him that he needed his excellent salesmanship at M.C.M.

Many years later, Jim still realized he had a calling to a religious vocation and decided to embark on the path to become a Deacon, a path that would require his wife to endorse his choice as she was also required to attend theological classes. He completed his theological studies in the Diocese of Worcester and was ordained into the Diaconate on December 8th, 2001. Deacon Jim's first assignment was as a Deacon and Administrator to St. Francis of Assisi in Athol, MA and St. Peters in Petersham, MA. He next served as a Deacon at Holy Rosary in Gardner, MA. Deacon Jim then returned to his lifelong parish of St. Joseph's Church in Fitchburg (Cleghorn) where he spent the next

sixteen years until his recent retirement. Deacon Jim helped facilitate the sale of St. Joseph's School and advised on financial matters for the church in addition to his pastoral duties. His most joyous accomplishment as a Deacon was bringing over 300 babies and young adults into the Catholic faith through the sacrament of Baptism.

Deacon Jim was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #99 and served as President of the St. Joseph School Association and the St. Joseph Parish Council.

Deacon Jim and Ruth established a charitable foundation and through that supported many charities including Indian Mission Schools as well as multi denominational organizations.

Deacon Jim also enjoyed watching his beloved New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox and relished their championships in the past twenty years. His hobbies included gardening, golfing and in his earlier years enjoyed extensive international travel.

He leaves his loving wife of sixty-one years, Ruth Ann (Hallock); a son Michael and his wife Barbara of Fitchburg; two daughters, Mary-Catherine Dennehy and her husband Jonathan of Dublin, Ireland (formerly Ashburnham, MA), and Heidi Couture of Fitchburg, MA.

He leaves five grandchildren, Mark Couture (Jackie), Jessica Lawrence (Randy), Zephaniah Callwood (Brianna), Olivia Callwood, and Seamus Dennehy. He also leaves great-grandchildren, Tai and Lola Couture, William and Nicolas Lawrence, Kaia and Korra Callwood and Avery McDougal. He leaves two sisters, Carolyn Normandin and Janice Greenberg (Peter). Deacon Jim also leaves many cousins, nieces, nephews, and good friends.

He is predeceased by a daughter, Lorinn Couture, his parents and three brothers, William, Donald and John Couture.

Calling hours will be held at St. Joseph's Church in Fitchburg on Monday, May 3rd from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A prayer Vigil will be held that evening at 7PM.

Due to COVID protocols, a private funeral Mass will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society in care of St. Joseph's Church in Fitchburg, MA.

The Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon St., Fitchburg 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)

Deacon Jim's Funeral Mass will be recorded, and available to view Tuesday afternoon at the link below:

<https://my.gather.app/remember/reverend-deacon-james-couture>

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Cemetery

Fitchburg, MA

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

MAY 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph's Church  
49 Woodland St.  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ Deacon Jim was a fantastic man who I enjoyed talking to after Mass. He had a smile and hug for everyone! I loved his sermons because they were stories of people’s lives and always made a great impression on me. He was always very supportive of our Youth Group and planned many prayer services with us. His spirit was easy going and very gentle, he blessed both young and old. He was a genuine caring man who walked in Christ footsteps. His partner Ruth was always by his side supporting him in their ministry. They were a fine example of what a truly Christian couple should be. How blessed I am to have known them for over 40 yrs. I’m sure when the Lord welcomed him to heaven, He said to Jim “ Well done my good and faithful servant”. May God give Ruth and their family Peace and Strength for each new day. With Love and prayer’s, Phyllis Maston

Phyllis Maston - May 15, 2021 at 01:09 PM

DG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Deacon Jim was a kind and compassionate deacon. He will be missed. But, I know that God has already welcomed him home.

Dr. Coral May Grout - May 10, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ I was over at your house every two weeks for some time. Oh I will miss you Jim!  
RIP

Lori Peterson - May 04, 2021 at 11:24 PM

NM

“ Ruth I am so sorry for your loss I just found out today Bill and I are in assisted Living in Raleigh NC IF i was not here i would have stopped over Hugs my friend

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**Nancy V McGregor** - May 04, 2021 at 05:20 PM

RB

“ Grew up on Elmwood Ave a few houses from the Coutures... I remember when Jim and his wife were first there.. and their son was born.  
I worked at Leo's Self Service and would deliver groceries by rolling a shopping cart from the store to their home..

I live in upstate NY now.. but when I visited Fitchburg and attended Mass at St. Joseph's... I would always say hi to Jim.

He was a good man and memories of Jim and his family will always bring a smile.

Ray Bedard

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**Raymond Bedard** - May 03, 2021 at 11:02 PM

KB

“ Ken and Cindy Banineau purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Reverend Deacon James Bernard Couture.



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**Ken and Cindy Banineau** - May 03, 2021 at 10:26 AM

CK

“ Deacon Jim was not only my uncle but my godfather too. I have so many memories with him, Aunt Ruth and my cousins growing up at his home and during Christmas time! He was such a kind and loving man and fun too! I will never forget him. God bless him and his family. Praying 🙏

Cheryl Kitterick - May 02, 2021 at 04:24 PM

LB

“ So many wonderful memories growing up with the Couture family. Mr. Couture was always such a strong kind man to all the kids in the neighborhood. His kindness to his community he loved will be remembered always. Rest peacefully with the Lord Mr. Couture.

Lynn Breau - May 02, 2021 at 07:35 AM

CH

“ To the family and friends of Jim, thoughts and prayers are with you. When I worked at MCM he was a wonderful boss to work for.

Christine Van Hillo-Babineau - May 01, 2021 at 10:26 AM

DP

“ The members of HAITIAN Outreach, Fitchburg would like to express their deepest sympathy to Ruth and the family. Deacon Jim and Ruth have been faithful supporters of children in Haiti to attend school for many years. Their generosity and support are appreciated and he will be missed by all. God bless all of you in your loss,  
Deacon John & PAULINE Aliskevicz -HAITIAN Outreach

Deacon John & Pauline - April 30, 2021 at 08:12 PM