



Benedict Ignatius Ray

July 21, 2022 - September 9, 2022

The Mass of Christian Burial for Benedict Ignatius Ray will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Wadena with Fr. Gabriel Walz as celebrant. Visitation will be at the church one hour prior to the Mass. A luncheon will follow in St. Ann's Parish Hall.

Benedict Ignatius Ray, born July 21, died September 9th, 2022 at his home in Wadena, MN, in the arms of his parents. Born with a rare metabolic deficiency (Pyruvate Carboxylase Deficiency), Benedict's time on this earth was short, but he blessed those he met with hope and lived up to his namesake--"that in all things, God may be glorified." Because we knew that his time with us would be limited, twelve hours after his birth, he was able to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. He was blessed to have godparents who were committed to praying him to Heaven (Fr. Gabriel Walz and Sr. Mara Lester, RSM). We were blessed to have more time with Benedict than we thought and at 3 weeks, Benedict was able to travel to Michigan to meet his godmother and the Sisters of Mercy in Alma, MI. In between times of prayer and visiting, he met many new "spiritual mothers" and I believe spent time in the arms of every one of the Sisters :-). At 5 weeks, Benedict spent a week at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis fighting RSV. He charmed the nurses and loved the mobile they acquired for him to use on his bed. The music soothed him and he would cry when it would turn off.

The medical staff that made up Benedict's "team" was amazing. They listened to our wishes for him and helped to make sure that we were advocating for Benedict always. We cannot express our gratitude enough for the countless hours explaining, listening, reviewing, communicating with us and each other, fitting us in for appointments, advocating, and loving us and Benedict. They went above and beyond and treated us like family. THANK YOU.

When choosing a name for our son, we had a few that were at the top of the list. His godfather is known for saying "... that in all things, God may be glorified". When we found out that Benedict was affected by the rare genetic deficiency, we heard these words at Mass as if for the first time. We knew that he needed to be named for the saint that was famous for them. His life would be to glorify God, no matter how things would turn out. Ignatius was a top contender for names and we thought it fit with Benedict. Reading a book about St. Ignatius, we came to realize that his motto was "all for the greater Glory of God". Who knew?? Turns out, God did. He had a plan for Benedict's life--to give glory to God and to bring hope to all that he met. And he did. He gave us HOPE as he defied what we expected and lived longer than we thought possible. We continue to live with the HOPE that this separation will end and we will join with him in eternity. To God be the glory for the gift of Benedict, a little boy with a big heart and strong will.

Benedict was preceded in death by his brothers, Renaldo, Gabriel and Eli. He is survived by his parents, Isaac & Martha Ray (Shively), siblings Joseph, Dominic, Margaret, Louis, Maria and Mara; grandparents Scott & Ruthann Ray, Pillager, Steve & Iris Shively, Brainerd, great-grandmother Frances Ray, Brainerd, and aunts, uncles, & cousins.

Interment will be at St. Mathias Cemetery, Fort Ripley.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

Hospice was provided by Lakewood Health System.

Cemetery Details

St. Mathias Catholic Cemetery

4529 County Rd 121
Fort Ripley, MN 56449

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Service

SEP 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Tribute Wall

CO

“ Carol A Osborn lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Carol A Osborn - September 18, 2022 at 09:45 AM

JM

“ Jim & Jackie McManigle sent a virtual gift in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Jim & Jackie McManigle - September 17, 2022 at 04:58 PM

JV

“ Jim And Marilyn Vorderbruggen lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Jim and Marilyn Vorderbruggen - September 16, 2022 at 10:26 AM

GI

“ We are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayeres are with you and your family.



Gerry & Linda Imdieke - September 15, 2022 at 11:21 PM

ME

“ Margaret & Peter Van Erp lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Margaret & Peter Van Erp - September 13, 2022 at 10:01 AM

DW

“ I met Benedict Ignatius at my Aunt Genevieve's funeral a couple of weeks ago. He was beautiful and smiley. So sad you had to see another baby go so soon. I know he is with God now. May God be with your entire family.



Diane Weber - September 12, 2022 at 08:19 PM

AM

“ Alan & Shirley Malone sent a virtual gift in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Alan & Shirley Malone - September 12, 2022 at 06:51 PM

KH

“ Karen & LeRoy Haman lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Karen & LeRoy Haman - September 12, 2022 at 05:28 PM

MK

“ Mike An Sally Koolmo sent a virtual gift in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Mike an Sally Koolmo - September 12, 2022 at 04:04 PM

LH

“ Lorraine Endres & Rick Holtti lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Lorraine Endres & Rick Holtti - September 12, 2022 at 03:42 PM

DS

“ Dan And Deb Sweere lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Dan and Deb Sweere - September 12, 2022 at 03:03 PM

BS

“ Bruce & Trish Steinkopf lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Bruce & Trish Steinkopf - September 12, 2022 at 02:11 PM

JR

“ Jenny Roeder lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Jenny Roeder - September 12, 2022 at 01:36 PM

LB

“ Lucille Belch & Jack Belch lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Lucille Belch & Jack Belch - September 12, 2022 at 09:45 AM

ST

“ Sympathy and prayers to all the family. May you all feel God's love.



Sue Theisen - September 12, 2022 at 09:13 AM

DR

“ David & Barb Rousslang lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



david & barb rousslang - September 12, 2022 at 08:34 AM

SW

“ To the Ray family. With our profound sympathy on the death of your beautiful son Benedict. May Jesus and his precious mother Mary hold you all in love and peace. Ellen and Steve Wallgren



Steve & Ellen Wallgren - September 11, 2022 at 09:42 PM

DO

“ Doug & Joan Ostlund lit a candle in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



Doug & Joan Ostlund - September 11, 2022 at 08:52 PM

MF

“ Isaac, Martha and Family— I am so sorry for your loss. You have a special Angel in heaven watching over your family now. ~~~Marie



Marie Fraune - September 11, 2022 at 08:18 PM

JB

“ John And Audrey Blashack sent a virtual gift in memory of Benedict Ignatius Ray



John and Audrey Blashack - September 11, 2022 at 07:51 PM

RJ

“ *Martha, Isaac, and family. I am so sorry to hear of your loss of Benedict. You carried him for nine months and that brought the two of you so close, even though he did not live long after he was born. But i'm sure his brothers and sisters learned to love him in that short time. You have a saint in heaven now to pray to. Blessed be St. Benedict!*

Rose Johnson - September 11, 2022 at 05:39 PM