

Philip Neri Bestgen, 98, Whitewood, SD, died Monday, February 28, 2022, at Monument Health in Sturgis.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, with rosary services beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Kinkade Funeral Chapel in Sturgis.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday, March 4, at St. Martin's Chapel in Sturgis with Fr. Timothy Castor officiating. Burial will follow at the St. Aloysius Cemetery. A memorial has been established.

Philip was born October 28, 1923, north of Sturgis, SD, to John and Jesse (Dryer) Bestgen. He attended country schools and graduated from St. Martin's Academy in Sturgis, SD.

On July 6, 1950, Philip married Darlene (Enright) at Sturgis. They moved to the Bestgen farm and ranch where they farmed for the next 60 years. After Darlene's death, Philip continued living on the farm until his death.

Philip had great wit throughout his life. In his later years he wrote wonderful poems to share with his family. His wife and their family were the joy of his life. He repeatedly stressed that the greatest treasure in life is family, and he considered himself the richest man alive.

Survivors include his sons, Leo (Sinnert) Bestgen, Sturgis, Greg (Judy) Bestgen, Rapid City, Roch (Rita) Bestgen, Whitewood, Dan (Deb) Bestgen, Rapid City, Tim (Karen) Bestgen, Piedmont, Rob (Susan) Bestgen, Rochester, MN; daughters, Nerine (John) Gross, Sturgis, Mary (Jerry) Werdel, Yankton, SD, Sharon (Jeff) Beardt, Rapid City; seventy-one grandchildren, eighty great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene; his parents; seven siblings; and five grandsons.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

## *In Loving Memory Of*



*Philip Neri Bestgen*  
*October 28, 1923 ~ February 28, 2022*

*In Loving Memory Of  
Philip Neri Bestgen*

*As Years Go By*

*A poem  
by Phil Bestgen*

*As the years go by and memories fade  
How we handled our life, the choices we made  
Did we use the talents that we had been given  
To enjoy life while trying just to make a livin'  
Did we treat all others as we would be treated  
To help them whenever we felt we were needed  
Can we now say yes, that we gave it a try  
And now be contented as the years go by  
If we have done all that is stated above  
We will then be rewarded with undying love  
From our kids and our in-laws we know are the best  
And our grandkids great grandkids and all the rest  
That makes up the branches of the sacred tree  
That is sturdy and straight, yea that's our family*

**Born**

October 28, 1923  
South Dakota

**Died**

February 28, 2022  
Sturgis, South Dakota

**Funeral Services**

Friday, March 4, 2022, 11:00 a.m.  
St. Martin's Chapel  
Sturgis, South Dakota

**Officiant**

Father Timothy Castor

**Musicians**

Dr. Barry Furze ~ Myron Volk

**Music**

"Ave Maria"

**Pallbearers**

Leo Bestgen ~ Greg Bestgen ~ Roch Bestgen  
Dan Bestgen ~ Tim Bestgen ~ Rob Bestgen

**Honorary Pallbearers**

All of his Godchildren

**Final Resting Place**

St. Aloysius Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota