

Mass of Christian Burial for Leo J. Kockleman of Dawson, Minnesota was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 1 at St. James Catholic Church in Dawson. Casketbearers were Jeff Abraham, Terry Eischens, Myron Kockelman, Larry Abraham, Lawrence Fox, Jr., and Duane Wenker. Burial was in the St. James Catholic Cemetery.

Leo, 91, died Wednesday, November 26, 2008, at the Johnson Memorial Hospital.

Leo Joseph Kockelman was born on January 21, 1917, to Phillip and Mary (Betzen) Kockelman in Omro Township, rural St. Leo. He was baptized, confirmed, and received his First Communion at the St. Leo Catholic Church.

On January 10, 1939, he was united in marriage to Anita Abraham at the St. Leo Catholic Church. To this union, three children were born: Phyllis, Dennis and Randy.

They lived and farmed in the St. Leo area until moving to Dawson in 1953, when he began his employment with Dawson Mills as a shift operator. Four years later he became maintenance foreman and was plant superintendent for 10 years prior to his retirement in 1984.

Leo was an active member of St. James Catholic Church in Dawson, where he had been a usher, church trustee, cemetery maintenance and sextant, and a member of Catholic Aid.

His hobbies included fishing, golfing, bowling, doing wrought iron work. He also enjoyed playing cards.

Leo is survived by his wife, Anita of Dawson; children: Phyllis (Norm) Peterson of St. George, Utah, Dennis (Cheryl) Kockelman of Glenwood and Randy Kockelman of Dawson; one grandson, Chad Kockelman of Plymouth; one brother, Wilfred "Slick" (Janice) Kockelman of Cottonwood; three sisters: Josephine Differding of Minneota, Mathilda (Bill) Ruhr of Morgan and Regina (Larry) Fox of Minneota; sisters-in-law: Phyllis Kockelman of Clarkfield and Regina Kockelman of Canby; numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents; five sisters: Lucy Wenker, Susan Hartmann, Lidwina Scheffler, Leona McMahon and Thrasilla Kockelman; four brothers: Herman, Bernard, Sylvester and Virgil Kockelman; five brothers-in-law: Steve Wenker, Joe Hartmann, Lawrence Scheffler, Jim McMahon and Joe Differding; and three sisters-in-law: Dolores, Theresa and Mildred Kockelman.