



### “WHEN A FARMER LAYS DOWN HIS FIELD”

The morning came a little slow  
as if the sun already knew—  
the hands that greeted every dawn  
had done their final work, were through.  
He rose with seasons, not with clocks,  
read weather like a second skin.  
He knew the language of the soil,  
the quiet where all life begins.  
His boots wore paths through fields of gold,  
his shadow long on rows he sowed.  
He carried hope in burlap sacks,  
and faith in every seed he sowed.  
When storms rolled in, he stood his ground;  
when drought came hard, he did not bend.  
A farmer learns that loss and love  
are harvests shared until the end.  
Now evening settles on his land,  
the fences hum with memories.  
The wind still moves the crops he raised,  
soft as a prayer among the trees.  
He rests now where the earth is kind,  
beneath the sky he worked beneath.  
A life well-lived, a field well-tended—  
and peace grows tall around his feet.

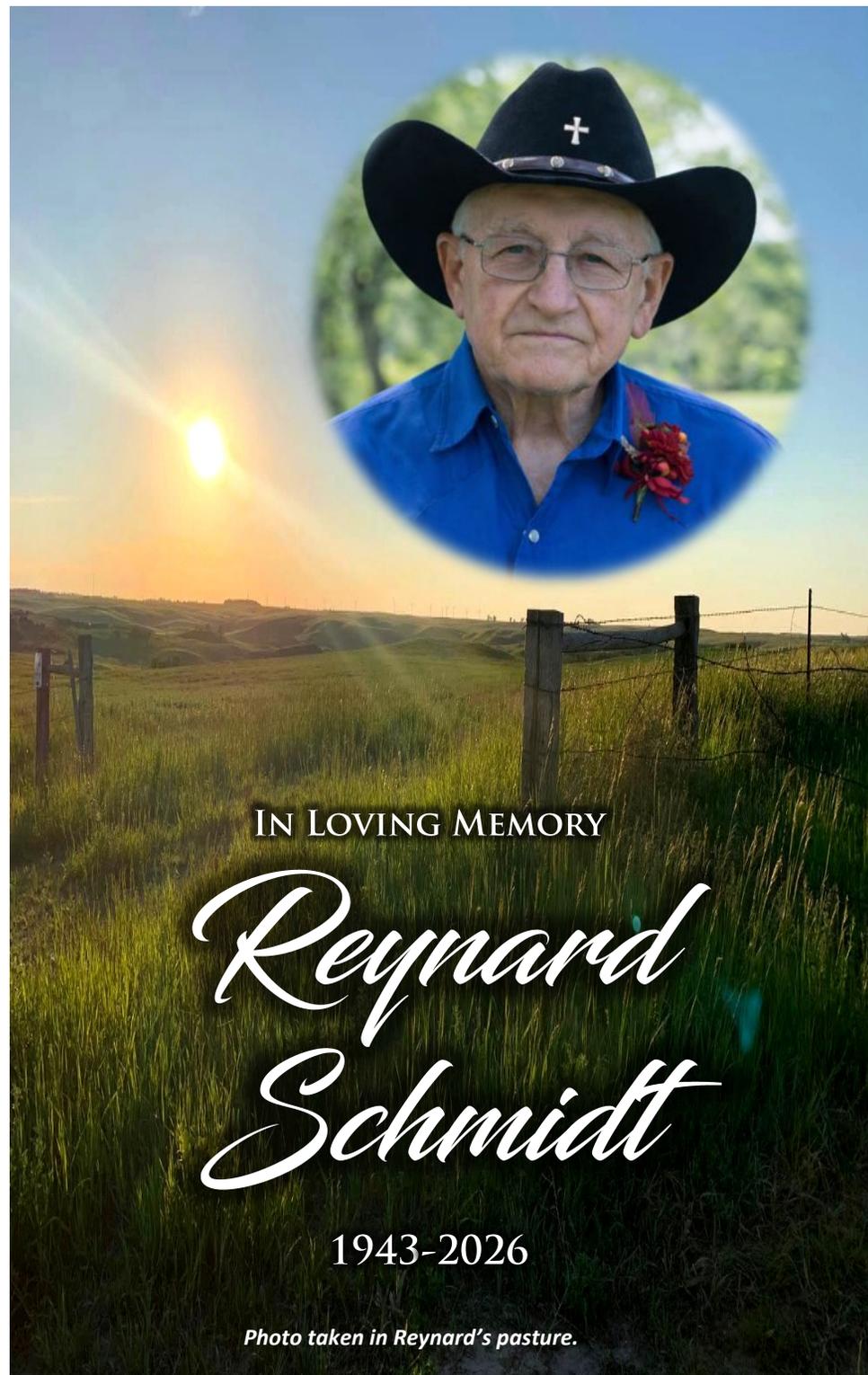


IN LOVING MEMORY

*Reynard  
Schmidt*

1943-2026

*Photo taken in Reynard's pasture.*



**Reynard Schmidt**, 82, Center, passed away January 29, 2026, at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, Bismarck.

Reynard Charles Schmidt was born March 16, 1943, in Mandan to George and Rose (Geiger) Schmidt. He grew up on the family farm 12 miles east of Center. Reynard attended nearby Steffenson Country School and Center High School, graduating in 1960. On June 1, 1968, he married Joletta Rebenitsch at Christ the King Catholic Church in Mandan. They were blessed with 57 years together and six children.

Farming and ranching were Reynard's life. He spent many years milking cows, raising beef cattle, and enjoyed planting and harvesting crops. He was very fond of cows and horses, especially his last team, Duke and Dinah. Reynard served on the Oliver County Farmers Union Board, Farmers Union Oil Board in Washburn, Oliver County Commission, and the St. Martin's Catholic Church council.

In retirement, he was still very involved in the farm and ranch. In the winter months, there were numerous neighborhood card clubs, square dancing events, and grandchildren's activities to keep him busy, as well as the annual trip to somewhere warmer.

Blessed to have shared in his life is his wife, Joletta Schmidt; 6 children, Rob (Donna), Rick (Renae), Ron (DeAnn), Ryan, Randy, and Ronda (Chris) Schauer; 16 grandchildren, Kaylene (Dalton), Justin (Jennifer), Rebecca (Jess), Reanna, Rachel, Reagan, Jess, Kaylee, Kyle, Camden, Logan, Kaden (fiancée Brenna), Katy, Kelly, Kayla, and Kortney; 5 great grandchildren, Chloe, Aiden, Blakely, Wyatt, and Lainey; his sisters, Vivian Erhardt and Clem Meyer; sister-in-law, Darlene Rebenitsch; and brothers, Freemont (Pam) Lee and Robin (Lola) Lee.

Reynard was preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law, Joe and Ann Rebenitsch, sister, Eileen Gratz; brothers-in-law, Connie Erhardt, David Gratz, Norman Meyer, and Gerald Rebenitsch.

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THE FAMILY INVITES YOU FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP AT THE CENTER CIVIC CENTER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FUNERAL MASS.

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## **Rosary & Parish Vigil**

Monday, February 2, 2026; 7:00 PM  
Weigel Funeral Home, Mandan, ND

**Presider**

Deacon Kevin Leingang

## **Funeral Liturgy**

Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 10:30 AM  
St. Martin Catholic Church, Center, ND

**Celebrant**

Fr. Patrick Cunningham

**Assistant**

Deacon Kevin Leingang

**Musician**

Matt Erhardt

**Lectors**

Rebecca Schmidt & Kaden Schauer

Prelude

*"Old Rugged Cross"*

Processional Song

*"Be Not Afraid"*

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### *Liturgy of the Word*

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Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Response

Psalm 23

***"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."***

New Testament Reading

Romans 14:7-12

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:25-30

Homily

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### *Liturgy of the Eucharist*

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Preparation of Gifts Song

*"On Eagles Wings"*

Presentation of Gifts

Kaylee Schmidt & Katy Schauer

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Song

*"I Am the Bread of Life"*

Communion Meditation

Final Commendation

*"Song of Farewell"*

Closing Song

*"How Great Thou Art"*

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**Committal Service**

**Yucca Cemetery**  
Center, ND

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