



Lucy Gatzka

September 27, 2025

Lucy Gatzka was called to eternal life on Saturday, September 27, 2025. A beacon of faith, she was a devoted mother to Cheri (Jason) Dettwiler of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Julie (Rich) Allen of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lawson Dee and Mary Nell Lane DeLauder; her husband, Raymond Gatzka, with whom she shared a lifetime of love; her brothers Lane, John, and Tim; her sister, Cheri (Donn) Eshelman of Spokane, Washington; and her nephews Nick DeLauder and Ian DeLauder, her godson. She was honored to be blessed with many sisters and brothers-in-law: Marie Gatzka, IHM; Father Joseph Gatzka; Catherine (John) Schwarz; Margaret (John) Beaman; Rita (Don) Jahn; James (Carol) Gatzka; Paul Gatzka; Eileen (Larry) Wichlacz; and Michael (Julie).

She is survived by her brother, Dan (Cynde) DeLauder, along with her sisters-in-law Patty, Sue, and Theresa, and her brother-in-law Donn. She is lovingly remembered by members of the Gatzka family—John Gatzka (preceded in death by his wife, Marcia), Bob (Carol Ann) Gatzka, and Julie Gatzka (widow of the late Mike Gatzka)—together with many special nieces, nephews, and extended family with whom she had special relationships.

Lucy loved her grandchildren—Colleen (Tyler) Humphrey, Morgan Allen, Andrew Allen, Kate Allen, Lucy Allen, Daniel Dettwiler, and Anna Dettwiler.

She felt especially blessed to welcome her great-grandchildren, Lucy Humphrey and James Humphrey.

She will also be deeply missed by her many dear and cherished friends from Incarnation Parish, her spiritual home since 1995, as well as by countless others whose lives she touched with her faith, joy, and presence.

Lucy's life was a gift to all of us. She lived her faith with joy and simplicity, and she loved deeply—with a radiant smile, a gift for conversation, and a heart that made everyone feel known and valued. To know her was to know Christ and His Blessed Mother. Each person who spent time with her knew they were cared for, understood, and loved.

Her warm smile, joy, and genuine love for God were inspirational. She was wise, lived virtuously, and taught us to live in the present moment and to surrender fully to God's will. She was a woman of deep faith and one who was fully engaged in the world. She will be remembered for the love she poured into everyone around her and for her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Lucy will be deeply missed in her family and faith community. She loved her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren with a heart of gold, and she treasured her close friends. While we will miss her so very much, she lived as she believed—and now we feel confident she is home in Heaven with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and all the Saints in Heaven for all eternity.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, October 11, at 10:30 am at Incarnation Catholic Church, 2929 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34239. The mass will be livestreamed: www.incarnationchurch.org. Private graveside services for the family will be at Incarnation Memorial Garden.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

Incarnation Catholic Church
2901 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34239

Tribute Wall



“ *The Mike & Julie Gatza Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Lucy Gatza.*



The Mike & Julie Gatza Family - October 08, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ *The Mike & Julie Gatza Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lucy Gatza.*

The Mike & Julie Gatza Family - October 08, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lucy Gatza.*



October 06, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lucy Gatza.*



October 06, 2025 at 01:12 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Lucy Gatza.



October 06, 2025 at 09:50 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lucy Gatza.



October 05, 2025 at 05:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lucy Gatza.

October 05, 2025 at 05:11 PM



“ All our love, Patrick and Beth Griffin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lucy Gatza.



All our love, Patrick and Beth Griffin - October 04, 2025 at 08:44 PM

SW

“ Shivi and The Shah family (of WI) purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Lucy Gatza.



Shivi and The Shah family (of WI) - October 04, 2025 at 12:55 AM

SW

“ Shivi and The Shah family (of WI) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lucy Gatza.

Shivi and The Shah family (of WI) - October 04, 2025 at 12:55 AM

TF

“ The orlando family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Lucy Gatza.



The orlando family - October 03, 2025 at 11:20 PM

TF

“ The orlando family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lucy Gatza.

The orlando family - October 03, 2025 at 11:20 PM