



Mary Martha Lunkes (nee "Bosshart")

June 26, 2022

Mary Martha Lunkes (nee "Bosshart"), 92, of Siesta Key, Sarasota, Florida and formerly of Niles, Illinois, passed peacefully at home June 26th while praying the rosary. Mary was born in Chicago, Illinois and was married 62 years to Jerome "Jerry" Lunkes. She was one of eight children, grew up during the depression and came of age during WWII. Mary graduated from Providence High School for Girls in 1947 and maintained life-long friendships with a group of classmates who called themselves the Gay Femmes, and more recently, reflecting current mores and their ages, the Gray Femmes. She was known for her humor, wisdom, kindness, and faith.

Mary was the mother of five sons and one daughter, twelve grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She raised her family in Niles, Illinois and was a parishioner of St. John Brebeuf for 23 years. She was extremely active in parish life, serving as Co-Chair of a "Festival" fundraising event, was President of the Mother's Club and served on the parish school board. Mary was also active in and a President of the Mother's Club at Notre Dame High School, where her five sons attended. Until death, she maintained life-long friendships with Geri, Holy, Betty and many other ladies from St. John Brebeuf.

In 1980 Mary moved to Siesta Key with her husband, Jerry, and her two youngest children. She was a 42-year member of St Michael the Archangel

parish where she was active in the Women's Guild, served as a Eucharistic and bereavement minister, a lector, and friend to many. This past spring, she made two successful weekend appeals at Sunday Masses soliciting capital campaign contributions for the church remodel and new church hall. Her fellow parishioners began referring to her as St Michael's "Betty White".

Throughout her life, Mary gave to others. She delivered Meals on Wheels, brought the Holy Eucharist to the home bound, frequently donated blood and over ten gallons of platelets. Mary was an avid Bridge player and member of numerous clubs. A sportswoman, Mary played tennis and was an avid golfer up until her passing. She carded two (2) holes in one shot during her playing days.

Jerry and Mary loved to travel. They took trips to many places in the world. Later she helped her children and grandchildren enjoy world travel. First, taking her children on a cruise down the Rhine River, and later a cruise to Alaska with her children and grandchildren.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Jerry and is survived by her children, Gregory (Lijun Liu) of Albany, California, Joseph (Kathleen) of Wilmette, Illinois, Martin (Linda) of Chicago, Illinois, Richard, David (Elaine) and Mary Anne Mies of Sarasota and her sisters Jean (Robert) Schordje, and Ann (Paul) Schultz; twelve cherished grandchildren, Matthew (Anne), Edward (resident of Misericordia Heart of Mercy), William (Amanda), Hilary (Peter), Anna Marie, Elizabeth, Victoria, Alexander, George, Robert, Joseph and Benjamin; and seven darling great grandchildren, Audrey, Dorothy, Peter, Millicent, Louis, James and Caroline. She was also preceded in death by her brothers Leo and Thomas, and sisters Lois, Elizabeth, and Madelyn.

A wake celebrating Mary's life will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, July 18, 2022 at St. Michael the Archangel on Siesta Key followed by an 11:00 AM

Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers, please remember St. Michael's capital campaigns or Misericordia Heart of Mercy.

Previous Events

Wake

JUL 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
5394 Midnight Pass Road
Sarasota, FL 34242

Funeral Mass

JUL 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
5394 Midnight Pass Road
Sarasota, FL 34242

Tribute Wall

DO

“ Hello my name is Dottie and I was Mary’s great granddaughter. I have too many memories with her, at her house, having fun in the sun. We would watch the sunset, have Sunkist pop during happy hour, go in the hot tub at night, eating cheese balls with our wet cold fingers, playing with the turtles, and so much more. I remember how she would sit with us, in her big chair, and we would play cards with our cousins till 12am. We had so much fun and great memories there, that I will never forget. She really was the one who brought me even closer to god by going to church every single morning, praying every night , and I still have the rosary I got form her and I pray with it every night. God bless you my GG.

dottie - December 08, 2024 at 09:43 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joseph C Lunkes - September 06, 2022 at 07:20 PM

NJ

“ Jim and I were fortunate to spend time with Mary over several snow bird seasons at St Michaels. We will miss her beautiful smile, spirit and wonderful sense of humor.



Nancy and Jim - July 21, 2022 at 07:55 AM

RH

“ My favorite partner in bridge. A really good player and friend.will be greatly missed. Enjoyed our 4 some on Tuesdays.

Rose Marie Hochendoner - July 13, 2022 at 10:24 AM

CB

“ Mary was one of my role models. She was always smiling. She told me her siblings called her smiley from the 7 dwarfs. Her new nick name of the Betty White of St. Michael's was very appropriate as she brought humor to everything she did. She also exuded hospitality everywhere she went and especially at mass. That is where I met her, at St. Michael's. She encouraged me to get involved and to pray the rosary after mass which we did daily for the last few years. She is greatly missed already. I am so thankful I got to call her my friend.

Carlyn Berghoff - July 11, 2022 at 06:34 PM

JK

“ My mom, Dorothy Kaefer Tessendorf, was your mom's cousin. I remember a number of times, when my parents were alive, going to visit your mom and dad when I was visiting my parents in Bradenton. She made all feel welcomed. My prayers go out to all of you in the family,

Janice Tessendorf Kante - July 11, 2022 at 07:08 AM

R{

“ I will miss you and say hi to Mike for me Enjoyed golfing with you.You were a special loving person and I am glad I new you

Robert Galasinski {bob} - July 10, 2022 at 06:04 AM