



Mary Ellen Schmidt

November 17, 1945 - February 27, 2026

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Mary Ellen Schmidt, who departed this life peacefully and swiftly on February 27, 2026, in the loving presence of her devoted husband, Henry.

Mary Ellen was a cherished mother, grandmother, wife, best friend, and confidante to all who knew her. Her deep and unwavering faith in Christ defined her life; she lived with an unshakeable devotion to Him and now rests in His eternal embrace, watching over us from above.

Though small in stature, Mary Ellen possessed a heart of gigantic proportions—a Goliath of love, loyalty, and kindness. She was goofy yet stern when needed, a masterful storyteller who delighted in sharing tales of her past experiences and present adventures. An avid card player, she carried the joy of the game wherever she went; if a deck of cards was within arm's reach, she would eagerly invite anyone—stranger on a train, fellow traveler in an airport, or friend nearby—with her signature question: “Hey, wanna play a game of cards?” Her enthusiasm was infectious and brought smiles to countless faces.

Mary Ellen dedicated 28 years of her life as a beloved Kindergarten teacher at Saint Juliana Catholic School in Orange County, California. Through her gentle guidance and warm spirit, she touched the hearts and shaped the early lives of generations of children in the community. She was adored by

students, parents, and colleagues alike—even teaching one of her own daughters-in-law during those years. Her legacy of compassion and education will endure in the lives she influenced.

She is survived by her loving husband of many years, Henry; her sons, Peter and Jeffrey; her daughter, Sara; her last surviving sibling of seven, Tina; and her four heartbroken grandsons, all boys who were the light of her life.

The family is devastated by this sudden loss but finds comfort in knowing Mary Ellen passed quickly and without prolonged suffering, surrounded by the one she loved most. Words cannot fully capture the depth of her impact or the void left in our hearts. We ask for your prayers during this time of profound grief, that we may find strength and peace in the memories we shared and in the promise of reunion in heaven.

Mary Ellen will be sorely missed by her family, friends, former students, and all whose lives she brightened. May she rest in the eternal joy she so faithfully shared with others.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. A funeral mass will be held at St. Peter Catholic Church on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 am with Fr. Varghese officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter Catholic Church, 711 S. 6th St, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting Mary Ellen's family with arrangements. Please visit hurleyfh.com for Mary Ellen's online obituary.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Petersburg, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 4. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral Mass

MAR 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter Catholic Church
711 S. 6th
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7118

Burial

MAR 5 (CT)

Calvary Cemetery
Petersburg, IL

Tribute Wall

PV

“ *Condolences to all Mary Ellen's family.*

Pat Vig - March 03 at 08:54 PM

WB

“ *With Love, Your FM Team at Heartland Bank purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Ellen Schmidt.*



With Love, Your FM Team at Heartland Bank - March 03 at 12:48 PM

LH

“ *Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Ellen Schmidt*



Larry and Mary Hundt - March 03 at 08:36 AM

NS

“ *I knew Mary Ellen through the Cachet Club of Springfield. She was a such a delightful lady and will most certainly be missed by all of us!*

Nan Siders - March 02 at 10:22 PM