



## Andrea Ann Fitzgerald

May 8, 2017

Andrea Ann Fitzgerald of Burnsville, died Monday, May 8, 2017, following a long and courageous Alzheimer's journey.

Andrea was born to Emil and Margaret (Dulek) Paape on January 23, 1933 in Winona, Minnesota. She graduated from Cathedral High School in Winona in 1951, and attended St. Teresa's College in Winona.

Andrea married Donald Fitzgerald at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Winona, on January 8, 1955. They made their home in Winona, where their six children were born. Don's work took the family to Rockford, IL, Albert Lea, MN, Fairmont, MN, Ankeny, IA and Burnsville, MN. Throughout the moves and changes, Andrea kept the home running efficiently and her family growing in faith and love. Andrea believed that we "make a life by what we give" and though she enjoyed owning and running her shoe store in Fairmont, MN, in the 1980's, she tended to give away some of her profit.

Andrea was a woman of faith, and loved to attend mass with her family and grandchildren. Grannie Annie was proud of being the first visitor to see each grandchild when they entered the world. She enjoyed bridge, crossword

puzzles, fishing, and sports, especially baseball and college basketball. Grannie Annie organized elaborate holiday games, loved to sing silly songs with her grandchildren, welcomed everyone with home-cooked meals, and made everything fun. She very much appreciated the simple joys in life.

Andrea believed in praying, working hard, enjoying family and friends and facing adversity head on. Andrea conquered Alzheimer's with dignity and grace and was loved by all who served her. We are eternally grateful to our dad (Grandpa Don) who fed and cared for mom each day for 12 years. We thank the staff of Emerald Crest in Burnsville and most recently Grace Hospice for their constant and kind support.

Andrea is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Don, children; Katie (Rod) Nakagaki of Owatonna, Toni Fitzgerald of Burnsville, Bridget Mikkelson of Lakeville, Veronica Hindt of Charlotte, NC, Edward (Diane) Fitzgerald of Orlando, FL, Daniel (Patty) Fitzgerald of Fairmont, 16 grandchildren; Ben (Kara) Nakagaki, Andrea (Adam) Solseth, Cassie Nakagaki, Harry (Abby) Fitzgerald, Adam (Jasna) Mikkelson, Erin (Marc) Heinmiller, Brian Hindt, Matt (Abby) Hindt, Dani Hindt, Amber Hindt, Shawn Fitzgerald, Nikki Fitzgerald, Carly Fitzgerald, Josh (Ami) Fitzgerald, Joe Fitzgerald, and Abby Fitzgerald, 8 great-grandchildren, brother, Bud Paape, and sister, Marte (Perry) Knopick, and nieces and nephews.

Andrea will be greeted in heaven with a big bear hug from her son-in-law, Michael Hindt. She is also preceded in death by her parents and sister, Bonnie Merchlewitz.

Mass celebrating Andrea's life will be held at the Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 2, 2017, with visitation one hour prior to the service. A private interment will be at a later date in Fort Snelling Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Memorials preferred to Emerald Crest of Burnsville, Grace Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Risen Savior  
1501 County Road 42 E  
Burnsville, MN 55306  
(952) 431-5222

## Service

JUN 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Risen Savior  
1501 County Road 42 E  
Burnsville, MN 55306  
(952) 431-5222

# Tribute Wall



“ Thoughts to you all. If anyone remembers me. Your mother always included me with the family events. Great memories. †

Michael Vulcano - February 12, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrea Ann Fitzgerald.



May 31, 2017 at 07:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrea Ann Fitzgerald.



May 27, 2017 at 04:49 PM

MJ

“ Dear Fitzgerald Family -- How we all are endeared to Andrea -- her laugh and her wise advice for all of us new mothers on Meredith Road in Albert Lea. She told me:" crying expands the lungs -- let 'em cry and don't worry!"

*I learned the '5 second rule' from Andrea, how to ice sore baby gums, and knew her phone number by heart. Who needs a pediatrician if Andrea's around???*

*So many stories -- she was loved by everyone who ever met her. Heaven just got better now and hopefully, we'll all be together again.*  
Love, Mary Ellen

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**Maryellen Johnson** - May 23, 2017 at 12:46 AM

KN

*Thanks so much Mary Ellen! She always had the best advice for new moms and reminded moms how important they are!*

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**Katie Nakagaki** - May 24, 2017 at 12:55 PM

WK

“ My sympathy Don. As a shy freshman at Cotter in 1948 attending my fist Fri. night dance at the "Rec" and Andrea as a wise and worldly sophomore along with other sophomore girls from the "Girl's School", got me out on the dance floor for my first ever dance with a girl. I later had the privilege of meeting you Don, when we both worked for a time at Brigg's Transportation. I am sure you and Andrea had many happy years together and you will have many happy memories. Rest in Peace Andrea.

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**Wayne Kulas** - May 17, 2017 at 08:40 PM

DF

*Thanks Wayne..Andrea was great at including everyone.*

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**DONALD FITZGERALD** - May 20, 2017 at 10:46 AM



“ My memory of Andrea is a mom who loved to celebrate life, dance without shoes on and kept her family close to her heart. She accepted everyone that crossed her path and made them feel like part of her family. Still remember Winona days fondly with all the Fitzgerald clan. May your heavy hearts lighten with all the happy memories. Sincerely, Michele Mathis Hill.

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**Michele Hill** - May 13, 2017 at 10:22 AM

KN

*Thanks so much, Michele!*

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**Katie Nakagaki** - May 14, 2017 at 03:47 PM

MH

“ Although I never actually knew Andrea, I know she was an amazing woman. How do I know? I was fortunate enough to work together for nine years with her daughter Katie at OJHS. Rhonda's and my thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve her death and celebrate her life.

*Mark Haddorff*

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**Mark Haddorff** - May 12, 2017 at 04:50 PM

KN

*Thanks so much, Mark and Rhonda.*

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**Katie Nakagaki** - May 14, 2017 at 03:46 PM

JT

“ *John & Donna Tietema purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Andrea Ann Fitzgerald.*



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**John & Donna Tietema** - May 10, 2017 at 06:07 PM