



## Donna Marie Heins

December 20, 1934 - June 16, 2024

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Donna Heins, (nee Kircher) a devoted mother and cherished member of her community, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2024. Throughout her life, Donna dedicated herself to serving others, particularly through her extensive volunteer work.

Much of Donna's life revolved around St. Odilia Parish, where she served in various roles as both a volunteer and an employee. She was a staunch advocate for the vulnerable, often championing their causes. Her compassion extended to her work in a nursing home, and she formed deep bonds with the residents and staff at Lake Owasso Residence through her volunteer work there. Donna also contributed significantly to children's programs at her church and took on leadership roles within the parish and the archdiocese, particularly advocating for religious education for people with developmental disabilities. She was especially proud of her efforts to create the SPRED program.

Donna grew up in St. Paul and graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in 1952. She fondly recalled traveling to prom on the streetcar. Her early career included working in an office and as a dental assistant. During her single years, she was

actively involved in Catholic social groups like the Dominic club. She had great adventures and formed friendships that lasted a lifetime.

In 1963, Donna married Ed Heins, and together they had three children: Ric, Karla, and Greg. Their home was always filled with activity, centered around church, family, and various part-time jobs. After Ed's passing in 1991, Donna found great joy in her role as a grandmother, cherishing time spent babysitting and going on outings with her six grandchildren.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband, Ed; her son, Ric; her brother, Jim Kircher; and her beloved companion, Arnie. She is survived by her children, Karla (Bill) Booth and Greg (Brandy Russell); daughter-in-law, Angie Heins; grandchildren; great-grandbaby; brothers, Gordy and David Kircher; special niece and caregiver, Cheryl; other nieces and nephews; and numerous friends.

Donna's legacy of kindness, dedication, and community service will be remembered by all who knew her.

Mass of Christian Burial 11:00AM Monday, July 1 (with visitation beginning at 10:00AM) at St. Odilia Catholic Church, 3495 N. Victoria, Shoreview.  
Inurnment in the St. Odilia Prayer Garden with a luncheon to follow.

Memorials preferred to Joseph's Coat in St. Paul. <https://www.josephscoatmn.org>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church  
3495 Victoria Street N.  
Shoreview, MN 55126

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church  
3495 Victoria Street N.  
Shoreview, MN 55126

## Graveside Service

JUL 1. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

St. Odilia Prayer Garden  
3495 Victoria Street North  
Shoreview, MN 55126

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Lisa Kircher - July 06, 2024 at 08:25 PM

LK

“ I'm really sorry I wasn't able to attend the funeral. My Aunt Donna was very special to me, I really enjoyed our get togethers when I came home for visits. Chatting with her and Arnie was especially nice. I really loved the time we toured the train museum where Arnie volunteered. Sending Karla, Greg and the rest of her immediate family a big hug as you go through this very difficult time.



Lisa Kircher - July 06, 2024 at 08:22 PM

CA

“ Christine A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Marie Heins.

Christine A. - June 30, 2024 at 06:27 PM

JW

“ I was one of the aides that took care of Donna at EAGLCREST. We use to have fun . Good talks . And she was always offering us chocolate or other goodies. She got to be a friend. She I'll be missed. Now she's back with her husband. Rest in peace Donna ❤️❤️😊 . Joan Wilson

Joan Wilson - June 23, 2024 at 10:25 AM

KG

“ Donna was a gifted, generous woman of faith. I worked with her for 10 years at St. Odilia's and she was always willing to help in any way. She was especially devoted to the SPRED program. Her smile lightens a room. Prayers for the family. Katie Gebhard

Katie Gebhard - June 23, 2024 at 08:59 AM

KB

“ Donna did so much to make St Odilia a wonderful place to raise my family, and always treated me like part of her family. She will be missed. I'm grateful that she's reunited with her deceased loved ones, especially Ric. Condolences & love to her remaining family, especially Angie, Sen, Chris & Izzy, who loved her so much, and to Greg and Carla and their families. This is a hard time. My prayers are with you.

Kimberly Bouzguenda - June 21, 2024 at 11:14 PM

KB

“ Kimberly B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Marie Heins.

Kimberly B. - June 21, 2024 at 11:07 PM

JL

“ I am very sorry for Donna’sfamily. I know they will miss her. But knowing she is now with the angels and saints, most importantly with God.brings me comfort. That was her life long wish. Thank You. Jesus. Joyce Leko

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**Joyce Leko** - June 20, 2024 at 09:59 PM

SL

“ Greg and Karla, so sorry for your loss. I can still feel the warmth of her smile when I think of her. Great lady with brilliant kids. I can still picture all of you as I knew you in high school! You had the greatest parents. Ms Susan Lomanno

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**susan Lomanno** - June 20, 2024 at 04:08 PM

AG

Dear family of Donna,  
Tricia participated for years with Donna leading the wonderful SpRed group at St. O's.  
She was so positive, cheerful, dedicated to 'our special people.' We are also very grateful that Donna tutored Tricia for her Confirmation. She has been and always will be missed, and thought of with great love and admiration. Soar in the glory of heaven with our Lord, dear, Donna .  
(Anne and Tricia Geoghegan )

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**Anne Geoghegan** - June 27, 2024 at 10:18 AM

GH

“ 5 files added to the album donna



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**Greg Heins** - June 20, 2024 at 10:11 AM