



## Donna Marie Swanson

July 1, 1951 - December 21, 2022

Donna (Pasche) Swanson, age 71, passed away peacefully in her early morning sleep on December 21, 2022. She was a kind and loving sister, wife, mother, and grandmother - to the end expressing her love with elaborate crochet projects for holidays, graduations, and special occasions; and proudly applauding every performance and sporting event she could attend, stream, or read about for her five children and 13 grandsons.

The youngest of six, Donna grew up raising geese and serving as "mom" to the cats on their Donnelly, Minnesota, farm - and throughout her life, she was never without her kitty companions. She met Joel Swanson during high school in Morris, Minnesota, and in 1969, at age 17, graduated and began a 53-year marriage with the love of her life. She and Joel contributed to a variety of communities, beginning with Marine Corps bases on the East Coast and later throughout Minnesota and the Dakotas as Joel led successful business turnarounds for a number of radio stations. Most notably, they spent more than a decade each in Thief River Falls and Detroit Lakes. At every stop, Donna said it was her goal to leave the house, neighborhood, church, and community better than she found them. She even learned computer and office skills to support Joel's radio stations as they transitioned to the digital age.

She had the gift of hospitality and was known for her kind heart - so much so that many of her children's friends called her "mom," as they nibbled away at

her home-baked cookies or enjoyed being "adopted" for holiday meals. Many of them still call her "mom" today. Her home was always a gathering place, center of neighborhood activity, and safe place for anyone to find acceptance and support. And she'd want to make sure we mentioned she was a devoted fan of the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Gophers, and NDSU Bison.

Unfortunately, she battled a number of health problems as she grew older, culminating in a series of more serious degenerative issues over the past few years.

Donna is survived by her husband Joel, children Joel II (Heidi), Wendy (Brett Herman), Michael (Shelly), Teresa (Tyler Bitker), and Amanda (John Meuwissen); and 13 grandsons: Ryker, Joel III (Ulysses), Daniel, Deklin, Gunner, Benjamin, Gannon, Zander, Owen, Micah, Grady, Korbin, and McKoy. In addition, she is survived by her three brothers, Dean Pasche (Mary), Stanley Pasche (Marge), and Verlan Pasche (Donna); and two sisters, Joyce (Gary Raymond) and Marlis Harstad. She was preceded in death by her parents, Reuben and Esther Pasche; sister-in-law Barb Pasche, and brother-in-law Gene Harstad. Memorials preferred to Special Olympics Minnesota. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m., Jan. 5, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Brighton, with an open-casket viewing beforehand from 9-11 a.m. Reception to follow in the church hall. Live stream of the funeral will be available at the church's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnthebaptistcatholicc3602>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
835 2nd Avenue NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
835 2nd Avenue NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

# Tribute Wall

KO

“ Nice service and a wonderful tribute to your mother, Joel. She was a true beacon of light for your family and friends. Wishing you the best during this difficult time.

Karl Oestreich - January 05, 2023 at 01:06 PM

IH

“ iHeartMedia-MPLS purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Donna Marie Swanson.



iHeartMedia-MPLS - January 04, 2023 at 11:54 AM

RL

“ My dear friend, I will miss you. My sympathy to Joel, Joey, Wendy, Mike, Teresa, Amanda, spouses and grandsons.



Robin Langevin - January 04, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Swanson.



January 04, 2023 at 09:03 AM

SS

“ Solheim Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spat  
hiphyllum for the family of Donna Marie  
Swanson.



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**Solheim Staff** - January 03, 2023 at 02:43 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family  
of Donna Marie Swanson.



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January 03, 2023 at 09:55 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Donna Marie Swanson.



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January 01, 2023 at 06:05 PM

JM

“ Jim McGovern purchased the Pink Tribute Spray  
for the family of Donna Marie Swanson.



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**Jim McGovern** - December 31, 2022 at 02:55 PM

DH

“ Joel and Family: Condolences on Donnas' passing . I saw the notice in the DL paper. I will let Anita in TRF know and send her a copy of the notice.

*Bless Donna's memories*

*"Big Red's" Brother/ Dr. Paul Hendrickson*

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**Dr. Paul Hendrickson** - December 31, 2022 at 02:40 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Swanson.



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December 28, 2022 at 08:42 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Swanson.



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December 27, 2022 at 04:41 PM

JR

“ My younger sister was a good friend as well as a loving sister. We were both feisty and occasionally locked horns but always forgave each other and shared our faith in knowing Jesus died on the cross for us all and forgave us. I miss her already.

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**Joyce Raymond** - December 26, 2022 at 04:34 PM



*MY GREATEST SYMPATHY FOR YOU, FROM BONNIE ONNEN,  
FRIEND, FORMER SCHOOL CLASSMATE AND ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MORRIS, MN.*

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**Bonnie Onnen** - January 04, 2023 at 04:24 PM