



Joann Mary Smith

September 28, 1934 - June 14, 2022

Joann Mary Smith, of Rochester, passed away on June 14, 2022, due to Alzheimer's Disease. She was 87.

Joann was born in Faulkton, SD, to Arnold and Matilda Martinmaas.

She graduated from The College of St. Catherine with a Bachelor of Science degree, entered the convent for 8 years, and earned a Master of Arts degree from North Dakota State University.

Joann embraced the great blessings in life with her husband George raising three daughters in North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Joann's great calling in life was caregiving whether it was as a mother/grandmother, teacher, parishioner, or tireless volunteer. She was an earth angel to her family and the many organizations with whom she worked.

Joann had a rich inner life as a poet. She gifted her family with over 100 beautiful poems. She also loved gardening, baking bread, and sewing.

Joann is survived by her daughters, Laura of Minneapolis, Brigid (Vic Russiff) of Westlake Village, California, and Margaret (Tom French) of Minnetonka.

She was a loving grandmother to Noah and Sophie Russiff, and Owen and Jonah French. She is preceded in death by her husband George, brother James Martinmaas and her parents.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations be directed to the Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota, alz.org.

The funeral for Joann will be at 10:00 am, Monday at:

Washburn-McReavy

Eden Prairie Chapel 952-975-0400
7625 Mitchell Rd, Eden Prairie

Previous Events

Funeral

JUN 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
(952) 975-0400
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall

VG

“ One of my fondest memories is of a visit from Joann when I was about five years old. I'm 70 years old today. She visited my mother, Marcella, her aunt, when she was still in the convent. She offered to take one of my dolls to make an outfit that looked like her nun's habit. I think my mom hoped it would inspire me to enter the convent some day. I still have that doll dressed in the habit that Joann made for me.

Virginia Gebhart - July 02, 2022 at 09:14 AM

KA

“ Joann's legacy of giving, true friendship and spirituality is visible through the way her three daughters live in this world. She will be missed and I feel blessed to be connected to her family.

Kathy Abbott - June 22, 2022 at 03:33 PM

EK

“ Elaine & K Kittler lit a candle in memory of Joann Mary Smith



Elaine & K Kittler - June 21, 2022 at 08:34 PM

EL

I chose the color green for a candle in memory of Joann since the color of green is the color of hope and new life, as in new growth of things in the spring.

Joann was my dear friend of many years, as well as George. I can't even begin to tell you all the beautiful memories we have of her and George. Joann and I had many lunches together when we lived in Bismarck and I enjoyed having them both in our Religious Education Family Program. We had a chance to visit with them while we were RVing full time and stayed in Rochester for awhile. We loved their sense of humor & had many good laughs. This has left an empty space in my heart, but I feel blessed & am thankful for their presence that graced us in our life journey!

*Know of our love, dear friends, until we meet again. 💕
Elaine & K*

Elaine - June 22, 2022 at 12:13 AM

JH

“ *There was never a time that Joann did not have a smile or a kind word. She even endured me coming to Bismarck and rearranging the whole house to accommodate me so I could find a job. Thoughts and prayers going out to the family as she will be sorely missed. James (Jimmy) Harrigan*

Jim Harrigan - June 21, 2022 at 03:09 PM

GS

“ *My memories of Joann are that she was soft spoken and very kind and hospitable. I never heard her raise her voice. She was very spiritual and responsible. She was a great homemaker and mother. She was always a calming influence to those around her.*

Gail Shelby - June 21, 2022 at 01:27 PM