



## Mary Grace Whelan

April 25, 1927 - September 9, 2024

Mary Grace Whelan (née Koppi), age 97, of Minnetonka, passed peacefully on September 9th, 2024 surrounded by her loving children.

Mary Grace attended Holy Rosary School during her early years and later graduated from South High School in Minneapolis. She married Mel in 1947 and over the years their family grew to include eight children, 20 grandchildren, and 28 (soon 29) great-grandchildren. She loved spending time with family and delighted in her grandkids. She also had a great passion for card games and spending time with her friends. She made friends easily due to her sociable and outgoing nature and maintained close bonds with many throughout her life. Mary Grace was an avid (and trophied!) bridge player, and in her later years enjoyed several weekly games. Her genuine interest in others and concern for the well-being of all were examples of the grace and beauty she personified.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Mel, who was the love of her life and always-adoring husband; daughter, Margaret Garding; and son-in-law, Steve Rand.

She will be greatly missed and always lovingly remembered by her children, Mary Kay (Peter) Burgess, Mike (Sue) Whelan, Patricia Rand, Betsy (Jim) Jenks, Tom (Jane) Whelan, Jean (Scott) Nelson, Will Whelan; and son-in-law,

John Garding.

Funeral Mass to be held on Friday, September 13, at 11 AM, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 13505 Excelsior Boulevard, Minnetonka, 55345.

Visitation one hour prior. For those who are unable to attend in person, a livestream of the Mass can be found at <https://ihm-cc.org/> Interment to take place at 2 PM at St. Mary's Cemetery, 4403 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, 55407.

Memorials can be made to ICA food shelf or your local food shelf.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church  
13505 Excelsior Blvd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

## Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church  
13505 Excelsior Blvd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

## Graveside Service

SEP 13. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery (Mpls)  
4403 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

# Tribute Wall

RE

“ Regina lit a candle in memory of Mary Grace Whelan



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Regina - September 13, 2024 at 12:25 PM

Regis Fdz

“ Putting into words what a wonderful person she was, full of qualities, is not easy. She was the whole world, her advice, her words, her cookies. I had the honor of knowing her and spending time with her talking, putting together puzzles, shopping, drinking Dr Pepper and above all she opened her arms to her family to ours. We all keep beautiful memories of her and Mister Whelan in our hearts, they are our grandparents from Minnesota. They will always be remembered and will always be present in our hearts. Hugs to all, I wish I could be there hugging you. Much love from Guatemala

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Regis Fdz - September 13, 2024 at 12:02 PM

NM

“ Andy, Gina and Sarah, I did not know your Grandma well but her eyes tell all. Those who knew her loved to be in her presence. My thoughts and prayers for joyful memories as you deal with your loss. Love, Nancy M

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Nancy Miller - September 12, 2024 at 12:31 PM