



## Michael Gerald Gillen, Jr

February 5, 1928 - January 31, 2025

Michael G. Gillen Jr, age 96, went to Heaven on Friday, January 31, 2025 surrounded by his loving family. He was born in north Minneapolis and was a resident of south Minneapolis with his loving bride for 54 years. He enjoyed being with his family, fishing, friends, watching the Gophers, walking, and his faith. Mike will be remembered for how he touched everyone's lives with his kind and gentle soul.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Coleen. Mike is survived by his three children, James (Dionna) Gillen, Mary (Greg) Schluck, and Mark (Amy) Gillen; nine grandchildren, Ciara, Ashlyn, Trevor, Ryan, Alec, Nicole, Michael, Steven, and Lindsey; and great-grandson, Brooks.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, February 6, at 10:45 AM at St. Anthony of Padua Chapel, 813 NE Main Street, Minneapolis, MN 55413. Visitation beginning at 8:30 AM. Masks required for visitation and Mass. Interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Memorials preferred to the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation <https://safeharborfoundation.org/make-a-donation/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 6. 8:30 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

St. Anthony of Padua  
813 Main Street Northeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 6. 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

St. Anthony of Padua  
813 Main Street Northeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ I came to know Mike & Colleen during the many years we spent together as volunteers during the St Helena festival counting the money coming in from all areas of the festival. Mike was always smiling & so pleasant to work with. He was one of the only people to call me Susan which made me feel special in some way. Mike was a man with integrity, a loving family man with strong faith. It's comforting to think of him reunited with Colleen who no doubt met him with a plate of delicious homemade treats we all enjoyed so much.

*Peace to his family*

*Sue Worley*

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**Sue Worley** - February 08, 2025 at 08:55 PM

KS

“ My deepest condolences to Michael Gillen family i knew Colleen and Michael they were a very precious lovely couple, the last time I saw Michael he said to me that he saw Colleen in the corner of his eyes and I told him that she was coming down to get him ready to go to Heaven to be with her, I was so very happy that i was able to say goodbye may they both rest in peace, my deepest sympathy 💔

🙏🙏 *Kim Schlundt*

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**Kim Schlundt** - February 07, 2025 at 11:06 PM

JH

“ My family knew Mike and Colleen as fellow parishioners of St. Helena Church. Colleen's singing voice was so beautiful, and it was a definite presence at Mass. Mike, myself, and others owned pick up trucks, and every Fall we'd load up the leftovers from the Autumn Daze festival, and distribute them to the Salvation Army stores. Early on, as Mike is thirty years senior to me, I used to think, what a cool "old guy" that shows up with his truck when there's work to be done. Now, I'm that "old guy." A couple of years ago, Mike noticed me limping at Mass one morning, and he asked me about it. I explained that ever since my wife and I retired, we were walking lake Nokomis, and I had developed knee pain. He counseled me a number of times, and I can still hear him say, "Don't wait too long, Jim" in his deep fatherly voice. Last year, I had both knees replaced, and a hip replaced on 1/30/25. I learned of his death from a friend (a fellow parishioner and member of "the breakfast club) the following day. I'm sad and I will miss him and our breakfasts together after daily Mass. He was such a kindred spirit, and he genuinely cared about all whom he came in contact with. Thanks Mike, for providing the push I needed to repair this old frame. Rest in Christ's peace and enjoy your reunion with your dear wife Colleen.

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**Jim Hillenbrand** - February 07, 2025 at 01:48 PM

SB

“ We were neighbors for many years. Mike always had time to talk and was always interested in how our family was doing. Mike & Coleens friendship and faith meant so much to us. We will miss him!

*Mari & Steve Berglund*

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**Steve Berglund** - February 06, 2025 at 01:55 PM

BJ

“ When I used to watch Mark and the rest of the guys play softball when they were in their 20s, I would sit on the bleachers by myself, and Mr. Gillen always made it a point to come and sit with me and talk to me and find out more about my culture and country and where I was from. I will never forget his kindness and how special he made me feel.

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**Bridget John** - February 05, 2025 at 08:28 PM

MA

“ Mr. Gillen was such a WONDERFUL man. I used to love to listen to him do the readings at St. Helena's. He had such a strong and comforting voice. He was one of the few people who always called me Michael. I thought that was neat. He will be sorely missed. Sending our LOVE and PRAYERS to the Gillen family.

*Mike and Jody Arendarczyk*

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**Mike Arendarczyk** - February 04, 2025 at 10:19 AM

BB

*Mike and Colleen were friends of my parents and Mike and my father worked together at the Post Office. We got to know them through the years and after my parents died, Kate and I would occasionally stop over at their house and chat for a while. I think the first time we did this, Mike Just stared at me at the door (I guess I look like my dad) and kept saying my dad's name. It could have been a heart attack right then. They were always so nice and I am glad we stayed in touch. We are very very sad at their passing but they led good, kind long lives and they will always be in our hearts.*

*Bob and Kate Brill*

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**bob brill** - March 15, 2025 at 02:22 PM