



## Catherine Schmitz

March 22, 1932 - August 3, 2024

Catherine (Lehner) Schmitz of Bear Valley/Sauk City, age 92, died on August 3, 2024.

She was faithfully, joyfully married for 71-plus years to Joseph N. Schmitz who died on April 29, 2024. Catherine is survived by children John (Jean Tretow-) Schmitz of Madison, Mary (Dan's widow) Schmitz of Marshfield, David (Kathleen) Schmitz of Dodgeville, Mike (Cynthia) Schmitz of Oconomowoc, and Larry (Roseanne Drake-) Schmitz of Madison, 13 grandchildren Peter Schmitz, Maria (David) Gohdes, Nathan (Cassy) Schmitz, Megan (Sean) Fanning, Anica (Josh) Taggatz, Ben (Kari) Schmitz, Andrew Schmitz, Caleb (Monica) Schmitz, Leah (Mihai Gurau) Schmitz, Jenny Schmitz, Josh Schmitz, Erin Schmitz, and Mariya Schmitz; and 17 great grandchildren; 9 godchildren; 32 Schmitz/Lins nieces & nephews; sister-in-law Lindy Schmitz, a number of Schmitz, Lehner, Bissen & Pulvermacher relatives, and many friends and neighbors.

A life-long, faith-filled and committed Catholic Christian, she was born 03/22/1932 to Alois and Catherine (Pulvermacher) Lehner. She was the last of her immediate family, and is now reunited with her husband, parents; 5 siblings: Marcella, John, Rosemary (Robert) Lins, Aloysius, and Larry. She is further united with her son Dan and infant son James.

She was an excellent student. She attended St. Mary's Grade School in Keyesville and was a proud member and president of the Ithaca High School Class of 1950. Her life's trajectory took a sudden turn upon her brother John's tragic death, when she abandoned her college dreams to stay and help her parents on the farm. Happily, it led to her falling in love with the strong, quiet young man who daily picked up their milk cans. Catherine and Joseph were married on September 23, 1952. They loved each other unconditionally for the rest of their days.

Mom supported Dad's hard work as a cheesemaker at Schmitz Cheese Factory while leading the charge in raising her 5, near perfect, yet humble sons.

Catherine was fully committed to the love of God and the love of neighbor. She was adventurous and quick-witted. She would lovingly pray with, cook a meal for, visit or serve those in need. She was a faithful ministry leader over the years at St. Patrick's in Loreto, St. Kilian's in Bear Valley, St. Mary's in Keyesville and with a Richland Center prayer group.

She endured bleacher seats for many a son's wrestling match and was inducted into the Ithaca High School Hall of Fame for Community Support. She treasured family time, including celebrating holidays with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Thank you to everyone for your loving support of and friendship with Mom over the years. We especially appreciate the care of Maplewood in Sauk City, St. Croix Hospice, Fr. Nathan and Fr. Miguel.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, August 9, 2024 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Keyesville, WI with visitation beginning at 9:30 am. Visitation will also be held at Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center

on Thursday, August 8th from 4 to 7 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Kilian's Cemetery Association or Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Catholic Church in Keyesville, WI. [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Kilian's Catholic

Bear Valley, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC  
26777 Jelland Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-6390  
josh@clarymemorial.com  
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

AUG 9. 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville  
32605 Durst Lane  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 585-4846

## **Mass of Christian Burial**

---

AUG 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville  
32605 Durst Lane  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 585-4846

# Tribute Wall



“ 159 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Clary Memorial Funeral Home** - August 08, 2024 at 03:47 PM

BT

“ My condolences to the entire Schmitz family, especially my neighbor John Schmitz in Madison. She has joined Joe and my grandparents, Larry and Lillian Tennant in heaven, perhaps for a round of cards.

**Brian Tennant** - August 07, 2024 at 04:28 PM

MS

“ 2 files added to the album *Catherine*



**Mike Schmitz** - August 05, 2024 at 05:44 AM



*“ I had the privilege of being a childhood friend of Catherine extended into our adulthood. We were High School friends and classmates. I have many fond memories of all our class reunions. The last reunion we had was our 70th. Catherine was a very special lady. Full of life, joy, and happiness. Rest in peace, dear friend. You will be missed by all who knew you.*

**Dorothy Cox** - August 04, 2024 at 02:30 PM

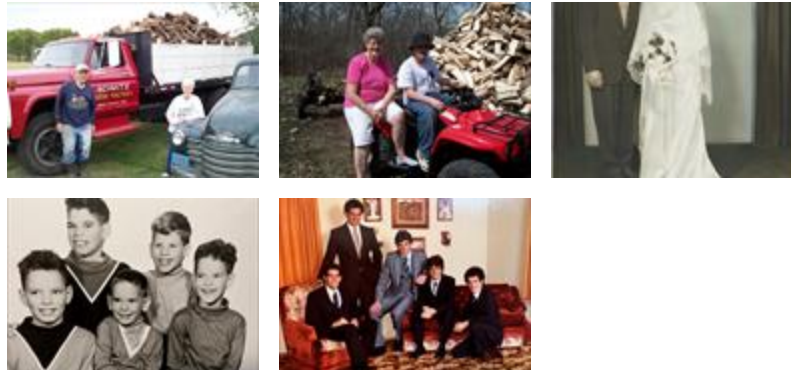
**MK**

*“ So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. May she rest in peace.*

**Mari Jo Kaul Kabat** - August 03, 2024 at 09:39 PM

**MS**

*“ 199 files added to the album Catherine*



**Mike Schmitz** - August 03, 2024 at 08:51 PM

**BH**

*Mike and Family, I am so sorry for the loss of both your parents, in such a short time! Keep the memories close, they are both together again in Heaven. God is Good!*

*Becky Helmlinger, Newman Chevrolet*

**Becky Helmlinger** - August 05, 2024 at 02:42 PM

GG

*Catherine was such a gregarious, welcoming person. She instantly made you feel at home and cared about everybody. Hers was a life well lived, with a loving family around her. Peace, Catherine.*

---

**Garry Grasinski** - August 05, 2024 at 08:38 PM

SH

*Although I never met your Mom or Dad, I know the heartbreak of the loss of our parents. When they have lived so long, we expect them to be there forever! My deepest condolences to newly found cousins. I wish I could have met your parents!*

---

**Susanne Holt** - August 09, 2024 at 01:54 PM