



Grace A. Schaaf

January 12, 1939 - November 11, 2021

Mineral Point - Grace Ann Schaaf (nee Streng), age 82, died on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

Grace grew up in Cascade, IA and was the last-born of nine children in a close-knit and happy family. She learned to play piano as a child; a skill that she used throughout her life as both a teacher and performer.

Three of her older sisters became nuns, and in 1957 Grace followed suit. While an Adrian Dominican she was briefly known as Sister Ciara. She earned a master's degree in Music Education and taught for 15 years at various schools in Arizona and Illinois, staying the longest at Boylan High School in Rockford, IL. Despite her successes as a teacher and a personal interest in her students, Grace did not find teaching fulfilling. Referring to her years as a classroom teacher, Grace often said "I love kids, and I love music. I did not love teaching kids music."

In 1973 Grace attended a retreat and experienced a profound call to get married. Shortly thereafter she sought and obtained a dispensation from her religious vows. Grace moved to Madison, WI where she became the head of Ward Brodt's sheet music department. While in Madison she commented to her parish priest that she was praying for a husband; the priest told her that "Praying is good, but you should buy a new dress." Having followed

instructions, she married Harold “Pete” Schaaf in 1980 and moved to the Mineral Point area.

After marrying, Grace occasionally joked that “As a nun I was sworn to poverty, chastity, and obedience, but I could only achieve one; I was neither poor nor obedient. As a farmer’s wife I’m still achieving one, and it isn’t obedience.” At the age of 44, she gave birth to her son Jonathan. Her son attests that she was an excellent mother.

Grace is well-known to many in Southwest Wisconsin for a variety of reasons. She worked for 20 years at the Dodgeville H&R block; she directed the choir and played the organ at St. Mary and St. Paul’s; she taught countless piano lessons; and she played the keyboard at Faith Lutheran Church.

Grace endured a lengthy battle with dementia. The family would like to thank staff members at both Sienna Crest and Bloomfield who contributed to her care.

Grace is survived by her son Jonathan (Sarah) Schaaf; her siblings Denise Streng, Lloyd Streng, Clara Streng, and Mary Neiers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Grace is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Pete; siblings, John Streng, Bob Streng, Dorie Streng, Joan Hamilton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Ss. MARY & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH in Mineral Point. Fr. Michael Tarigopula will officiate. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. A visitation will be held on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. at the church.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

700 Dodge Street
Mineral Point, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 20. 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

St. Mary's & St. Paul's Catholic Church
224 Davis St
Mineral Point, WI 53565-1113
(608) 987-2026

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ss. Mary & Paul Catholic Church
224 Davis Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Tribute Wall



“ *Grace A. Schaaf*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Grace A. Schaaf.*



November 18, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ *GE Healthcare - PDS - Imaging Team purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Grace A. Schaaf.*



GE Healthcare - PDS - Imaging Team - November 17, 2021 at 03:37 PM



“ *Jonathan and Sarah*
Our sincere sympathy on the loss of your Mother. No doubt she is playing the piano and singing with the angels.
Mark & Kym (neiers) Felton

Kym Felton - November 17, 2021 at 12:04 PM

CH

“ Dear Jonathan and Sarah,
So very sorry for your loss. Grace was such a lovely lady and
always a joy to talk with when Jonathan was in kindergarten and the
years to follow.
You are so right, she was a good mom.
God Bless you both.
Chris Heins

Chris Heins - November 16, 2021 at 06:22 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.gorgenfh.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the
family of Grace A. Schaaf.

November 15, 2021 at 03:32 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Grace A. Schaaf.



November 14, 2021 at 10:40 PM

SM

“ Our sincere sympathy to you and family. Grace will be remembered
fondly as will her contagious laugh and love of all things musical.
May she rest peacefully now and watch over your family.
Tom and Stephanie (Hamilton) McDermott

STEPHANIE MCDERMOTT - November 14, 2021 at 10:30 PM

JG

“ My sincere sympathy. I fondly remember Grace as one of my favorite aunts. She was always so full of life. Her laughter and singing was contagious, making family events at grandma and grandpas enjoyable. She loved children and was overjoyed with the birth of Her son. Jonathan, I'm sure you are as proud of her and she is of you. Jan (Streng) Gloden

Jan Gloden - November 14, 2021 at 09:21 PM



Dear Johnathan and Sarah,

My sincere sympathies to you! Although I never got the opportunity to meet your Mom, I know she was an amazing woman!!!! The world lost a beautiful woman, but heaven and both of you gained an Angel.

Jackie Mihelcic - November 19, 2021 at 09:45 AM



My sincere sympathies to you, Jonathan and Sarah!!!! I never got the opportunity to meet your Mom, but she was an amazing woman!

The world has lost a beautiful soul, but heaven and you have gained an Angel!!!!

Jackie Mihelcic - November 19, 2021 at 09:48 AM

LD

I am sorry for your loss. Grace taught me in high school at Muldoon and at Boylan in Rockford, IL. I loved her as a teacher and for some reason I knew our paths would cross again. I thought I saw her in church after my family moved into the Belmont area. Then I saw her at Dick's grocery store in Platteville. We remembered each other the minute we saw each other. We talked and became friends again. I am happy for all of the time I have known Grace. She was such a wonderful person. She has been in my prayers for many years. She will be missed but is where she should be now. Probably directing Celestial Choirs.

Loretta Gabel DeGroat - November 23, 2021 at 12:04 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Grace A. Schaaf.*



November 14, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ *Sympathies to Jonathan, Sarah and family. Grace lived a wonderful and challenging life. Faced with the difficult decision of leaving the convent, her smile, laughter and love of music never wavered. She touched many lives.*

Steve and Nancy Streng

Steve Streng - November 13, 2021 at 07:43 PM