



Mary Catherine Sayre

October 11, 1943 - February 1, 2026

Mary Catherine Sayre, 82, of Pipestone Township, died Sunday, February 1, 2026, surrounded by her family and grandkids, at Corewell Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Mary was born on October 11, 1943 in Benton Harbor to Lorenza and Bertha Ward. She married her husband, Ershell Sayre, and together they had 50 years of marriage until his death in 2012. Mary retired in 2006 after 42 years of employment from Monte Packaging where she was a machine operator. She attended the Safe Harbor Church of God in Sodus. Mary enjoyed cooking, playing cards, working puzzles, and listening to music. She loved to watch the deer through the picture window of her living room. But most of all, Mary loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Her family includes her children, Joyce Sayre of Coloma, Rick Sayre of Eau Claire, Justine (Bobby) Joyner of Florida, and Chandra (Shane) Tokarz of St. Joseph; her brother, Richard Ward of Watervliet; her sister, Wilda Swope of Texas; her grandchildren, Amy (Bruce) Pullins, Ranae McNew, Julia Reynolds, Casey (Jason) Bishop, Danielle McFadden, Alex Wurtz, Kaitlynn Sayre, Porshea Monte, Richard Tokarz, and Alisha Tokarz, her 15 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren; her numerous nieces, and nephews; her sisters-in-law, Bev Ward and Betty Sayre; and her brother-in-

law, Calvin Sayre. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Lorenza and Bertha Ward; her grandson, Bobby Joyner; her brothers, Glenroy Ward, Clarence Ward, and Eugene Ward; and her sister, Eva Hopper.

Services celebrating Mary's life will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral and Cremation Service in Benton Township with Kenneth Ward officiating. Burial will follow the service at Shanghai Cemetery in Pipestone township. The visitation will be from Noon until 2 pm on Saturday at the Fairplain Chapel. Please share memories or messages at www.florin.net.

Cemetery Details

Shanghai Cemetery

Pipestone Twp., MI

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Celebration of life

FEB 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Burial

FEB 7 (ET)

Shanghai Cemetery
Pipestone Twp., MI

Tribute Wall

LM

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of my dear friend Mary. I grew up with Mary on Pipestone Rd. Mary, Wilda and I spent a lot of time watching American Bandstand, going for walks, sleepover's, and so much more. Rest in Peace old friend. you will be missed. Love you



Lou Ann McGregor - February 06 at 04:44 PM

JR

“ Love you Nanny! 💜



Julia Reynolds - February 06 at 02:44 PM

TP

“ Sweet Auny Mary, I have fond memories of spending time at your house in the summer and the chocolate gravy and biscuits you would make for breakfast. The things that still bring a smile to my face. Joyce, Ricky, Justine and Chandra my heart goes out to you at this time. May you all find peace knowing there is no more pain and she is with your Dad now. Until you meet again, smile through the tears with all the memories and love you have received from her. Love you all, Tammy Sue.

Tammy S Pence - February 06 at 12:21 PM

TV

“ Todd, Sharon, Jessica, Justin, & Vivian purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Catherine Sayre.



Todd, Sharon, Jessica, Justin, & Vivian - February 06 at 10:30 AM

TV

“ Todd, Sharon, Jessica, Justin, & Vivian planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Catherine Sayre.

Todd, Sharon, Jessica, Justin, & Vivian - February 06 at 10:30 AM

PS

“ Patricia Swope lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Sayre



Patricia Swope - February 05 at 08:58 AM

PS

*Sending prayers and love 🙏
Aunt Mary is a beautiful soul. God please give the loved ones left here on earth peace and comfort knowing she is rejoicing in Heaven 🙏*

Patricia Swope - February 05 at 09:07 AM

VC

“ She was an amazing Aunt! I remember sleeping over at ya'lls house and having so much fun ❤️ Then in the morning she would make delicious CHOCOLATE gravy and biscuits! A kids dream come true!! I love you Aunt Mary and will miss you!

Valerie Swope Cook - February 05 at 07:58 AM

PS

The best chocolate gravy ever! Love you Aunt Mary!

Patricia Swope - February 05 at 09:09 AM

CT

“ Chandra Tokarz lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Sayre



Chandra Tokarz - February 04 at 09:17 PM

CF

“ Chandra and family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mary Catherine Sayre.



Chandra and family - February 04 at 09:13 PM

CF

“ Chandra and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Catherine Sayre.

Chandra and family - February 04 at 09:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Catherine Sayre.* ”



February 04 at 03:01 PM