



## Mary Ann Zenthoefer

September 7, 1946 - October 1, 2023

Mary Ann (Clevenger) Zenthoefer passed from this world on October 1, 2023 at the age of 77. Mary Ann was born to Samuel and Sibyl Clevenger in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 7, 1946. She met her husband of 47 years, Daniel, while working at the former Zenthoefer's Tavern in 1975. They were married in 1975 at St. Agnes Catholic Church and she entered the Catholic Church on Easter of 1976.

Mary Ann is preceded in death by her parents, her brother and sister, Bruce Clevenger and Sharon Hensley; a son, Zack, and granddaughter, Martha, both through miscarriage. She is survived by her three beautiful children of whom she was immensely proud: Philip (Abby), Erin Gries (Jason) and Fr. Alex. Her 13 grandchildren brought her great joy and she witnessed her faith to them constantly: Cecilia, Rudy, Mary, Clare, Emma, Henry, Lauren, Kylie, Karter, Samuel, Leo, Patrick and Bernard.

In 1985, she went to work for Fr. Eugene Dewig at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and served in various capacities during her time there. She loved Fr. Dewig and "Big Om," Monsignor Meyer. In the early 90's she helped turn a geriatric center into a pediatric center, creating Sacred Heart Preschool. She was extremely proud of that accomplishment and loved the teachers she worked with. She went on to help establish a preschool at St. James Parish in Haubstadt. She later served as the Coordinator of Religious Education for

various parishes in Gibson County.

She worked at the Cornerstone Catholic bookstore for years, where she not only sold (and bought at a discount) a variety of religious items, but also built many relationships and was a source of comfort and faith for many. Her involvement in the Teens Encounter Christ movement earned her the title “Mama Z” which she fondly embraced. She helped coordinate the Diocesan Confirmation team and led many young people to Jesus Christ. She worked with various youth groups and she happily remembered the priests, religious sisters and joyful marriages that emerged from those groups.

Over the years, she received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Catholic Girl Scouting, the Bishop Simon Brute Award and the TEC Leadership Award. Her greatest rewards were in relationships and all the health struggles she faced always led to new opportunities for her to care for others. In 2009 she was diagnosed with IPF and started her transplant journey along with a support group. Her best experience was with her friend, Artie, who said he wasn't into her “Jesus thing.” She encouraged him to remain open. When Artie had his transplant he experienced the Lord Jesus standing by his bedside holding his hand through the surgery. He began to believe.

In all of her illnesses she has been a witness to and of God's love and mercy. She was a mother in all things: one who embraced and one who imitated the love of the Church for her children. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, October 5 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (2701 W Franklin St.) in Evansville at 6:00 pm. Visitation will be held from 2:00-6:00 pm in the church. Visitation will continue on Friday, October 6 from 9:00-10:00 am during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered per her request. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial to follow at St. Joseph Mausoleum with her son, Fr. Alex Zenthoefer, presiding. Donations may be made to St. Boniface Catholic Parish and the

Indiana Donor Network.

Condolences may be made online at [www.pierrefuneralhome.com](http://www.pierrefuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

2500 Mesker Park Drive  
Evansville, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 5. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
2701 W. Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN

## Memorial Service

OCT 5. 6:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
2701 W. Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN

## Visitation

OCT 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
2701 W. Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN

## **Mass of Christian Burial**

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OCT **6**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
2701 W. Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ To the family of Mary Ann Zenthoefer,  
You are in our thoughts and prayers at the passing of a wonderful  
lady.  
With our very deepest sympathy,  
The Russler Families

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**Mary Lue Russler** - October 07, 2023 at 07:28 PM

SC

“ When Mary Ann made her Cursillo weekend I was fortunate to be  
her table leader. We have been friends ever since that weekend. I  
would run into her frequently at different churches for weekly mass.  
She would always greet me with her gentle, warm smile. I feel so  
blessed to have been her friend. May she rest in the arms of Our  
Savior who she served so faithfully. My condolences and prayers to  
all her family. Sheila Cecil

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**Sheila Cecil** - October 06, 2023 at 07:04 PM

CF

“ My condolences to Mary Ann's family and  
friends. I first met Mama Z when my sons  
attended summer camp at The Outpost. Mary  
Ann was the cook that year and was so  
gracious, and the children loved her (and Mr.  
T). Thank you to Mary Ann's family for sharing her with our church  
and community all these years. May God bless all of you.



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**Cathy (Wellmeier) Funkhouser** - October 06, 2023 at 11:23 AM

CG

“ Fr. Alex and Family,  
It doesn't matter how old we are... or how old they were. The loss of someone so dear is hard to accept for any of us. I have found comfort in sharing this thought with children who have lost a parent or grandparent... children of all ages. God has given us the ability to see His beautiful creations here on Earth. But we have also been gifted with the ability to see a 'reflection' of God's Holy Light. When the Moon is full, brightness nearly erases the night and you look at the earth in a new way... light illuminating every tree and rooftop, shadows stretch across the lawn. That light comes from so far away, yet it enters through your windows to touch your world in a way that is amazing! On every moonlit night, you may hold out your open hand and be touched by that Holy Light. Offer a prayer of thanks for having been so blessed, knowing she is even more blessed in her New Life. Saints are smiling... a mother who was so loved has been welcomed into God's Holy Light.  
Our sympathy with a promise of prayers to comfort you,  
Carol and Bob Gallucci

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**Carol Gallucci** - October 05, 2023 at 04:37 PM

CF

“ Fr.Alex I send prayers & great memories for you & all the family.

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**Celeste Farnsley** - October 05, 2023 at 08:48 AM

AL

“ Such a beautiful obituary but it doesn't even scratch the surface of the impact Mama Z made in the world! She truly brought Christ to everyone! Yes, we will pray that she may be brought swiftly to her heavenly home, but we will also remember October 1 as the feast day of an incredible saint that we were so blessed to have been able to know in this world as well. Saint Mama Z, pray for us!

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**Alan and Julie Lagree** - October 04, 2023 at 06:30 PM

LS

“ I wish to offer my sympathy and prayers to Mary Ann’s family. Many years ago I was in a lay ministry formation program with her and Erin.

*Sister Laura Marie Schmitt*

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**Laura Marie Schmitt** - October 04, 2023 at 10:59 AM

GD

“ My sincerest condolences on the passing of your wife,mother,grandmother. God bless you all in this time of your sorrow Sincerely George Doherty

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**George Doherty** - October 04, 2023 at 08:39 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Zenthoefor.



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October 03, 2023 at 10:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Ann Zenthoefor.

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October 03, 2023 at 10:51 PM

BD

“ My deepest sympathy to you Dan and all of your family. She will be missed so much by her Barnes transplant family. Bonnie DuBois

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**Bonnie DuBois** - October 03, 2023 at 09:19 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Zenthoefler.*



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October 03, 2023 at 08:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Ann Zenthoefler.

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October 03, 2023 at 08:05 AM



“ *Prayers for Erin and the entire family. I remember Mrs. Zenthoefler from school and she was always there volunteering and caring for everyone.*

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**Marcella Happe Heroy** - October 03, 2023 at 07:59 AM



“ *I am very sorry for your loss and I am praying for you and your family!*



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**Tod Schneider** - October 03, 2023 at 07:41 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss*

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**Jeff Cheshire** - October 03, 2023 at 06:38 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Zenthoefer.*



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October 03, 2023 at 05:59 AM



“ *Oh my God!  
A long time  
w/o see each other, always very nice!  
Full of life and friendly eyes!  
I am so sad,  
Rest in Peace my dear Mary Ann and May all of you received from  
God, resignation in her  
“absence“ and Joy, knowing that she reached her Destiny!  
I hug to all of you Phillip, Fr Alex, Erin and families friends  
Joining to you as a sign that I am with you.  
God bless you my dear friends!*

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**Nydiq Rodriguez de Cabrera** - October 02, 2023 at 11:20 PM



*\* Nydia ( NO Nydiq)*

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**Nydia Rodriguez** - October 02, 2023 at 11:28 PM

JR

“ Dan & Family, so sorry to read about the passing of Mary Ann. As one who has lost both parents, sister and an adult son, we can appreciate your feeling of loss at this time

*With sympathy,*

*Joe & Barb Rettig  
Cincinnati, OH*

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**Joe & Barb Rettig** - October 02, 2023 at 10:00 PM

JH

“ Momma Z was the rock of our late teens and early twenties. From her warm hugs to her contagious smile, the love she showed us was unforgettable.

*My mind instantly goes to all the many gatherings at her house she lovingly hosted.*

*She is one of my favorite memories of my youth. Praying for your peace.*

*Phil, Fr. Alex, and Erin my heart breaks hearing this and I am here is you need a friend. Praying for you all in this hard time.*

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**Joe Hardesty** - October 02, 2023 at 09:08 PM

ST

“ I had the privilege of teaching all of Mary Ann and Dan's' kids when each was in 5th grade. On the last day at St. Agnes, she came up to my classroom. We visited a bit, and I asked her to go home and make more kids because hers were a delight to teach. She looked at me like I was nuts and said, "No, thanks," but she said she would always be part of Westside Catholic School. Your amazing children and grandchildren are the product of an amazing, loving, and faith-filled marriage. Love ya," Mary Ann. Sharry Thompson.

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**Sharon R Thompson** - October 02, 2023 at 09:05 PM

VM

“ MY PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO FR. ALEX AND ALL THE ZENTHOEFER FAMILY. VERNON MARX

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**vernion h. marx** - October 02, 2023 at 08:29 PM

MB

“ Our prayers are with your family. Mary Ann was a role mother and role grandmother of the kind of person I want to be. She encouraged me as a wife, a mom and a grandma. During lockdown, my oldest grandson and I would sometimes go to Reitz Hill to pray over the city. When my grandson saw her sitting at her deck, he would call out a greeting to her. She was always friendly whenever we saw her.

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**Mary Biever** - October 02, 2023 at 07:26 PM

AN

“ I shared not only many a youth retreat with Mary Anne but many years with her at the Cornerstone. Her faith was ever growing. Her creative decorating skills a real blessing! And the source of faith and strength since she had her transplant to those who suffered from lung disease has been a real example to all! Her attitude was always “How can I help?”

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**Anne** - October 02, 2023 at 07:24 PM

GR

“ I loved her sense of humor- her hearty laugh-her love of Jesus - and how she loved all people. She taught me how to teach young children through prayer services mostly around the saints. We did workshops together to teach teachers who’s led to the young children loving Jesus and the Saints- I know one of her favorites is coming up with the Feast off St Francis on Wednesday, Oct 4. I remember Ho much she love introducing children and adults to Jesus and the Saints. She loved her family and grands more than anything. When they moved off of the hill and I would pass the house - it just wasn’t t he same without maybe. Seeing her in the porch or Dan mowing the yard. I know she is sitting by Jesus smiling and laughing her hearty laugh! Thanks Mary Ann for everything you have done!

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**Gretchen** - October 02, 2023 at 05:39 PM

EE

“ She set so many Hearts on fire for Christ. Her beautiful way of teaching was thru her kindness and actions. The youth fell in love with her because of her love for them. She treated them like her own Children. I will dearly miss My Beautiful friend Momma Z.

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**Elaine Elpers** - October 02, 2023 at 04:17 PM

KI

“ Had the pleasure of knowing Mary Ann during many stages of my life. My favorite was being able to work with her for many years at The Cornerstone. She was full of faith and knowledge and shared it with so many. Always with a smile on her face. I can only imagine how happy she is to be in the presence of Jesus. I know her love will live on in her children and grandchildren.

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**Kimberly** - October 02, 2023 at 03:46 PM

JW

“ I was so very fortunate to have Mary Ann touch my life in so many ways. TEC, Cursillo, DRE, MayerDei! My favorite was the DRE conventions sharing a room for a couple days each time. You simply could NOT be in her presence and not be happy!! I'm sure that she is as elated as we are grief filled today! God bless the lovely family she leaves behind.

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**Jalane Weber** - October 02, 2023 at 03:33 PM

GL

“ There are so many memories...Babysitting her kids, game nights with the families, football games, Mass and Church events. I am sad that she won't be here with us, but am so happy for her now that she is with Jesus and the angels and the saints. Many sincere prayers to the Zenthoefer family.

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**Greg A Lehman** - October 02, 2023 at 03:10 PM

DC

“ Mary Ann was such a beautiful soul! She was my table leader when I made my Cursillo. I'll always remember her gentle guidance and peaceful spirit. Hugs and prayers to all her family.

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**Debbie Collins** - October 02, 2023 at 03:04 PM