

Louise Thoma was born Oct. 30, 1933, in Minneapolis to Edward and Rose (Zoch) Hausotter. She graduated from Minneapolis West High School and from the University of Minnesota. She married Ben Thoma on June 15, 1957, in Minneapolis and taught Home-Ec in Caledonia, leaving the job after the birth of her first son in 1958.

She and Ben settled in the Willmar area in 1963, when Ben became one of the original faculty at what is now Ridgewater College, where he taught biology for 35 years. They summered annually at Itasca State Park, where Ben was the seasonal naturalist for 46 years. They built a house north of Willmar in the early 1970s and lived there until Ben's failing health prompted them to sell the property in 2009. Ben died in 2011.

Louise devoted herself to Ben and raising her three sons; after the sons flew the nest, she was quite active in volunteer work and at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Her faith, and the St. Mary's community, meant a great deal to her.

Louise passed away on Thursday, May 15, at Bethesda Grand in Willmar, at the age of 91.

Louise is survived by her three sons, Edward (and Linda Vanderwerf) of Mankato; William (and Janet) of Pleasanton, Calif.; and David (and Brenda) of Annandale, and by two grandchildren, as well as her sister, Rosemary of Minneapolis.



*Louise Thoma*

*1933 - 2025*



***Prayer of St. Francis  
of Assisi***

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

In Loving Member Of

***Louise Thoma***

October 30, 1933

Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 15, 2025

Willmar, Minnesota

**Funeral Mass**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Church of St. Mary

Willmar, Minnesota

**Celebrant**

Fr. Josh Bot

**Music**

Pianist: Tim Cayler

St. Mary's Resurrection Choir

Opening Song: *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

Responsorial Psalm: *"The Lord is my Light"*

Preparation of Gifts: *"Prayer of St. Francis"*

Communion: *"On Eagle's Wings"*

Song of Farewell: *"The Hand of God"*

Closing Song: *"How Great Thou Art"*

**Interment**

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

Willmar, Minnesota