

Florence Louise (Timmerman) Soenen was born on March 4, 1929, in Duluth, MN to Gaston and Lena (Dobbelaere) Timmerman. When Florence was 3 years old, the family moved to Ghent, MN.

Florence received her education in Ghent and later graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Graceville, MN in 1947. She landed her first job with First National Bank in Minneota, MN.

At a typical Friday night dance, Florence's life changed forever when Jerry asked her to dance. They were married on September 7, 1950, and began their life together farming near Marshall, MN. Florence was a dedicated partner on the farm until the couple moved to Emmetsburg in 1964 and purchased Soenen Oil Company. Once her seven children were school aged, she returned to the workforce, first at D&K Auto and then as a teller at Brenton Bank, a role she truly loved because of the daily connections she made with her customers.

After retirement Florence and Jerry enjoyed wintering in Texas, Arizona, and Florida with family and many new friends made along the way.

Florence was an avid card player. She especially loved to play bridge, not just for the challenge of the game, but for the cherished friendships she made. She crocheted beautiful gifts of comfort and care, from baptismal blankets to prayer shawls and countless blankets for her family and community.

She and Jerry instilled a deep devotion to God and family in their children and grandchildren. The couple walked to daily Mass together. They shared a lifelong commitment to the daily Rosary—a tradition Florence's daughters kept alive after Jerry's passing by taking turns to pray with her every day.

Florence served her parish with love for decades. Her ministry included teaching Religious Education, 50+ years as a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Eucharistic Minister at Mass and nursing homes, circle leader, and funeral choir member, just to name a few.

Florence's memory is cherished by her children: Greg (Liz) Soenen, Bob (Jane) Soenen, (Sue) Soenen, Ken (Karen) Soenen, Mary Lee (Dave) Orr, Geriann (Gary) Vaske, and Julie (Jim) Koeppel, brother-in-law Bob Hamerlinck, 18 grandchildren, and extended family of great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Waiting to greet Florence were her parents, her husband Jerry, her sons Tom and infant Steven, and her siblings Leo, Bertha, Andrew, Archie, and Marie.

The family would like to thank you for your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy, and invite you to join them for a time of fellowship and luncheon following the service at the cemetery.

In Loving Memory of Florence Louise Soenen

March 4, 1929
Duluth, Minnesota

July 26, 2026
Emmetsburg, Iowa

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

11:00 AM Thursday, July 30, 2026

Holy Family Catholic Church

Emmetsburg, Iowa

Celebrants - Fr. Thomas Kollasch & Deacon John Rudd

MUSIC

Sue Rouse - Organist

Erin Schany & Diane Noonan - Cantors

"Amazing Grace" - "The Lord Is My Light"

"Be Not Afraid" - "Here I Am Lord"

"On This Day O' Beautiful Mother"

(This hymn was sung at the wedding of Jerry & Florence)

"May The Angels Lead You Home"

"I Know My Redeemer Lives"

READERS

Ben Vaske - Joel Vaske

GIFT BEARERS

Grace Soenen - Wyatt Soenen

CASKET BEARERS

Jeremy Soenen - Brian Soenen - Chris Soenen

Pat Soenen - Joe Soenen - Luke Zearing

John (Tom) Soenen - John (Ken) Soenen - Matt Soenen

Jeff Orr - Ben Vaske - Joel Vaske - Josh Koeppel

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Jill Winter - Ann Zehner - Katie Axisa

Jayme Crow - Katherine Soenen

INTERMENT

St. John's Catholic Cemetery

Emmetsburg, Iowa

In Loving Memory



*“To our mother, who taught us that a life of faith
is a life of service. Your ability to see the best in
everyone was your greatest strength.
As we move forward, we strive to honor your
legacy by walking with the same grace and
kindness you showed us every day.”*



Florence Louise Soenen

March 4, 1929

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July 26, 2026

Arrangements by Martin-Mattice Funeral Home
martinmatticefuneralhome.com