

Her heartbeat was my very first sound,  
Her **KISS** my first affection,  
Her *loving arms* brought security,  
Her instruction, clear direction.  
I owe the person I've become  
to her *unselfish love.*  
There's comfort knowing  
*she's not gone.*  
She lives with **GOD** above.

Arrangements by  
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF



*Gladys Burns*

August 14, 1930 - December 19, 2025

**Gladys Leona Burns** was born on August 14, 1930 to Hector and Olga (Becker) Thooft in Minneota, Minnesota. While growing up, Gladys attended Tyler School, graduating in in 1948. During her time in middle and high school, she enjoyed dancing, riding her bike and playing yard games. She also enjoyed a good game of cards and spending time in the kitchen baking and cooking. Gladys furthered her education by attending courses at Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota and at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. She obtained her teaching degree. On September 26, 1953, Gladys was united in marriage to Patrick Burns at St. Dionysius Catholic Church in Tyler, Minnesota. Gladys was a resident at the Beehive Homes Assisted Living Center in Lakeville, Minnesota, where she passed away on December 19, 2025 at the age of 95 years, four months and 5 days.

During her life, Gladys wore many hats. She worked as a time keeper for Northrop Grumman Company while living in California. Following her time in California, Gladys became a teacher at the Lynd Elementary School in Lynd, Minnesota, teaching 5th Grade for three years. She then became a teacher at St. Michael's Catholic School in Stillwater, Minnesota for four years. Gladys spent the remainder of her teaching career being a substitute teacher for District 197 for ten years.

Gladys is survived by her children, Nancy (Denny) Donaldson of Mesa, Arizona, Diane Dau of Farmington, Minnesota, and Dale (Julie) Burns of Northfield, Minnesota; grandchildren, Patrick Dau, Robert Donaldson, Kathy Schwartz, Jenny Giller, Angie Burns, Dan Burns, Brian Donaldson, Michaela Dau and Ashley Dau; great-grandchildren, Preston, Easton, Cameron, Winter, Malik, Cooper, Vanessa, Colt, James, Evelyn, Jackson, Hannah and Jacob. Gladys was preceded in death by her husband, Patrick Burns; children, Tim Burns and Baby Burns; parents, Hector and Olga Thooft; six siblings; niece, Jacqueline Thooft; and nephews, Mike Felsch and Jerome Rynda.

*Celebrating the Life Of*

*Gladys Burns*



**Mass of Christian Burial**

Saturday, January 10, 2026 - 1:30 PM  
St. Dionysius Catholic Church  
Tyler, Minnesota

**Celebrant**

Fr. Cornelius Ezeiloaku

**Scriptures**

Isaiah 25:6A,7-9      Romans 5:5-11  
Matthew 11:25-30

**Organist** - Darla Bakker

**Cantor** - Danielle Brandt

**Congregational Hymns**

"On Eagles Wings" - Hymn 441

"Be Not Afraid" - Hymn 439

"We Remember" - Hymn 486

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" - Hymn 597

**Honorary Casket Bearers**

Kathy Schwartz      Michaela Dau  
Ashley Dau      Jenny Giller

**Casket Bearers**

Patrick Dau	Dan Burns	Rob Donaldson
Preston Schwartz	Brian Donaldson	Easton Schwartz
Tony Nelson	Kim Thooft	Frank Engels

**Interment**

St. Dionysius Catholic Cemetery  
Tyler, Minnesota