

*Margaret Mary Gartner*, 87, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, artist and entrepreneur, died March 30 in Glen Ullin after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Margaret Mary Gartner was born May 1, 1937 -- the second youngest of nine children -- to George and Barbara (Loren) Gartner on their farm south of Hebron, N.D.

She attended school in the rural Flasher, N.D., area until 1949, when her family moved to Glen Ullin. She graduated from Glen Ullin High in 1955 and earned a teaching certificate from Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish, S.D. She taught in one-room schoolhouses near Glen Ullin and Hebron and also at the Litchville (N.D.) School. She married Virgil "Pat" Swift on Sept. 26, 1959. They lived on a ranch south of Glen Ullin for many years, where they raised their five children.

In the early 1970s while taking her daughter to art classes, Margaret became so interested in the topic that she also began taking lessons. This early love of art would bloom into a 45-year career, which ended only after she developed macular degeneration later in life.

By 1978, Swift opened her first business, The Art Shack, where she sold art supplies and gave lessons. She taught different art techniques to students of all ages -- sometimes traveling as far as Colorado and South Dakota to do so.

She won numerous awards for her highly detailed, realistic style and expert use of color. Several of her works were selected to hang in the North Dakota Governor's Mansion.

In 1997, Swift, an excellent cook and hostess,

opened the Rock Roof Inn Bed and Breakfast in the Swift home. Over the years, the Swifts provided lodging for guests from all over the U.S., as well as from China, England, Russia and Australia.

When Swift was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2019, her family feared the worst. But she beat the disease, and Mayo surgeons declared her a miracle. She continued to run the inn until fall 2023, after learning the cancer had returned. Through it all, Swift's faith never wavered. She found great comfort from weekly Mass and reading her devotionals as well as from spending time with her family.

Swift's gentle strength, steadfast integrity, tireless work ethic and creative talent have left a lasting legacy and a place in the hearts of all who knew her.

She is survived by husband, Virgil; her children, Sandy (Rob) Gerving of Glen Ullin, Terri (Mike) Tyree of North Ft. Myers, Fla., Connie (John) Bailey of Lakeland, Fla., Tammy (Randy) Swift Shone of West Fargo, and Gary (Karen) Swift, Bismarck; four grandchildren, Eric Gerving of Bismarck, Sara (James) Farrell of Glen Ullin, Kari (Daniel) Schaaf of Hebron, N.D., Courtney Bailey of Oxford, Miss., and Heather Bailey, Lakeland; and nine great-grandchildren, McKenzie and Madisyn Gerving of Bismarck; Henry and Jacob Farrell of Glen Ullin; Blixen and Theo Schaaf of Hebron; Grace and Joseph McCormick, Bismarck, and Benjamin Gero, Cleveland, Ohio. She is survived by one brother, George Gartner, of Billings, Mont., and her sisters-in-law, Avis Halpern and Ethel Flynn, both of Glen Ullin.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings Joe, Thomas and Raymond Gartner, Regina Himmelspach, Laurabell Peterson, Marion Reinke and Elizabeth Muller, as well as sister-in-law May Smith.

# In Loving Memory Margaret Swift

May 1, 1937 - March 30, 2025



# Margaret Swift

## FUNERAL MASS

Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:00 am  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Glen Ullin, North Dakota

## ROSARY

Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:30 am  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Glen Ullin, North Dakota  
Rosary Leader: Loretta Gerving

## CELEBRATING

Father Gary Benz

## MUSIC

Glory and Praise  
Nancy Morman

## READERS

Sara Farrell and Courtney Bailey

## GIFT BEARERS

All of Margaret's Grandchildren &  
Great-Grandchildren

## PALLBEARERS

Eric Gerving      Mike Tyree  
James Farrell      Rob Gerving  
Danny Schaaf      Randy Shone

## INTERMENT

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery  
Glen Ullin, North Dakota

## ARRANGEMENTS BY

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Glen Ullin, North Dakota

*Lunch will be served in the Parish Hall  
following the Graveside Service.  
Everyone is welcome.*

