

Dorothy Lorraine (Karels) Gmitterko was born on July 26, 1931, in Nassau, MN, to Leo and Margaret (Acker) Karels. She grew up in a large family with nine siblings. During her childhood, she also lived with her aunt and uncle, Henry and Antonia Karels, who played an important role in her life. Dorothy attended Ortonville High School before pursuing her passion for caring for others at the College of St. Catherine. She earned her degree in nursing and graduated in 1952.



On February 19, 1955, Dorothy married the love of her life, William Gmitterko. Together they built a loving home and raised their family, creating many cherished memories throughout the years. Dorothy continued her nursing career at the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis after the family moved to Fort Snelling. She dedicated herself to caring for veterans with compassion, kindness, and unwavering commitment. Through her hard work and gentle spirit, she touched the lives of countless patients, families, and colleagues.

Retirement gave Dorothy the opportunity to continue serving others in countless ways. She devoted many years to volunteer work, especially with the American Cancer Society's Walk of Hope, Catholic Aid, where she faithfully served as treasurer, and St. John's Catholic Church. At St. John's, she served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, led Circle 6, helped coordinate salads and desserts for parish events, participated in Bowl of Love, and generously gave her time wherever she was needed. Her faith and commitment to helping others were evident in every aspect of her life.

Dorothy found joy in creative pursuits. She loved ceramics, embroidery, sewing, and quilting, creating countless beautiful handmade treasures that she lovingly shared with family and friends. She also enjoyed playing bingo, where she cherished the friendships, laughter, and sense of community it brought.

Dorothy will be remembered for her caring nature, strong work ethic, unwavering faith, dedication to her family, and the kindness she extended to everyone she met. Her legacy of compassion, service, and generosity will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Dorothy is survived by her loving children: William "Bill" (Joanie) Gmitterko of Rochester, MN; Gregory "Greg" (Karen) Gmitterko of Chanhassen, MN; Theresa "Terry" (Dale Moldenhauer) Gmitterko of Hopkins, MN; Dorothy "Dotty" Shveima of Thousand Oaks, CA; beloved grandchildren: Christina (Kieran); Anna (Michael "Mike"); Nick (Lexi); Michael and Jackie; great-grandchildren: Theo, Kaden, Cody, and Brody; siblings: Irene Voigt, Cecilia Reiffenberger, and Matthew (Charlene) Karels; numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, William; siblings: Sister Ursula "Bertha", Vincent, Jerome, Edwin, Mary Ann, and Margaret Mary.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dorothy Gmitterko

WHO WAS BORN

July 26, 1931
Nassau, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME

August 1, 2026
Ortonville, Minnesota

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Monday, August 10, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.
St. John's Catholic Church
Ortonville, Minnesota

CELEBRANT

Father Shawn Polman

MUSICIANS

Diane Vangsness, Pianist
St. John Funeral Choir

LECTOR

Julie Treinen

SPECIAL SONGS

"Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore"
"Amazing Grace" | "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman"
"Prayer of St. Francis" | "How Great Thou Art"

ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS

Nick Gmitterko | Anna Dickinson | Michael Gmitterko
Jackie Gmitterko | Christina Gmitterko | Kieran Garcia

INTERMENT

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.
Ft. Snelling National Cemetery
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CELEBRANT

Father Joah Ellis

APPRECIATION

Dorothy's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the service, please join the family for a time of fellowship and luncheon in the church dining area.

Mundwiler & Larson Funeral Home, Ortonville, Minnesota

Blessed are Mothers

*Blessed are mothers... who did without for us.
They will be rewarded.*

*Blessed are mothers... who lost sleep when we were sick.
They will find rest.*

*Blessed are mothers... who taught us how to pray.
They will share God's kingdom.*

*Blessed are mothers... who comforted us.
They shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are mothers... who taught us right from wrong.
They will know justice.*

*Blessed are mothers... who showed us the Christian life by example.
They will live forever.*

*Blessed are mothers... who shared with us the meaning of peace.
They shall know peace.*

*Blessed are mothers... who taught us the importance
of loving God and each other.
They shall see God.*

Please use this QR code to view Dorothy's
online obituary and guestbook.



Celebrating THE LIFE OF



Dorothy Gmitterko