

Agnes Gertrude Schwanke (nee Spartz) was born on January 21, 1940, in New London Township, the daughter of Sylvester and Sophie (Nord) Spartz. When Agnes was four years old, her mother passed away from tuberculosis. She grew up on the family farm and received her education in New London Spicer. She was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Faith. On June 11, 1960, she was united in marriage to Virgil Schwanke at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Willmar.

Agnes dedicated her career to various roles, including secretary for Kandiyohi County Health Services and School Districts. For over 60 years, she managed bookkeeping at Schwanke Tractor and Truck. Later, she worked at S & F Supply Inc., starting in bookkeeping before becoming their manager, eventually retiring after over 50 years with the company. At St. Mary's Catholic Church, she was an active member of the Altar and Rosary Society, taught Religious Education, sang in the Resurrection Choir, and volunteered to serve many meals. Those who knew her enjoyed her kindness, warm smile, and sense of humor. She cherished taking her grandkids on many adventurous "Grandma trips" each summer. Her hobbies included collecting antiques and attending auctions. Traveling across the country with her husband Virgil to see many sites, especially those with bright lights, was always memorable and fun. She was truly married to her best friend.

Agnes is survived by her daughter Connie (and David) Burns of Spicer; her son Tung (and Dieu) Huynh of Garden Grove, California; and her daughter-in-law, Sharon Paler of New Prague. She is also survived by six grandchildren: Mark (and Nicole) Schwanke, Angela (and Justin) Paffrath, Matthew (and Andrea Hannem) Burns, Sarah (and Adam Callier) Burns, Anna (and Mercedes) Halaska, and Leyna Huynh. Additionally, she leaves behind seven great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter, one sister, Marion Person of Eden Prairie, two brothers, Charles (and Gerlinda) Spartz of Noblesville, Indiana, and Ambrose Spartz of Hartford City, Indiana, one brother-in-law, Norman Schueler of Willmar, and one sister-in-law, Sheila Spartz of Noblesville, Indiana, besides other relatives and friends.

Agnes was preceded in death by her husband Virgil; her son Michael; her parents Sylvester and Sophie; two brothers, Lawrence and Vernon Spartz; two brothers-in-law, Bill Person and Eldin (Bud) Schwanke; and three sisters-in-law, Eleanor Schwanke, Mary Spartz, and Carol Schueler.

Celebrating the Life of



Agnes G. Schwanke

1940 - 2025

Twenty-Third Psalm

*The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want...
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters...*

*He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for His name's sake...*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff,
they comfort me. Thou preparest a table
before me in the presence of mine
enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over...*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord forever.*



In Loving Memory Of

Agnes G. Schwanke

January 21, 1940
New London, Minnesota

July 20, 2025
Willmar, Minnesota

Funeral Mass

Monday, July 28, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Church of St. Mary
Willmar, Minnesota

Celebrant

Fr. Steve Verhelst

Music

Pianist: Neal Haugen

St. Mary's Resurrection Choir

Opening Song: "Here I Am Lord"

Responsorial Psalm: "Shepherd Me O God" - Psalm 23

Preparation of Gifts: "Prayer of St. Francis"

Communion: "You Are Mine"

Song of Farewell: "The Hand of God Shall Hold You"

Closing Song: "How Great Thou Art"

Casketbearers

David Burns	Mark Schwanke	Matthew Burns
Tung Huynh	Justin Paffrath	Tom Conway

Interment

Cloverleaf Memorial Park Cemetery
Willmar, Minnesota