

Legacy OF Love

A wife, a mother, a grandma too,
This is the legacy we have from you.
You TAUGHT US LOVE and how to fight,
You gave us strength, you gave us might.
A stronger person would be hard to find,
And in your heart, you were ALWAYS KIND.
You fought for us all in one way or another,
Not just as a wife not just as a mother.
For all us you gave your best,
Now the time has come for you to rest.
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,
Your love in our hearts, we'll
Eternally Keep.

Thank You

Your words of encouragement, acts of kindness and presence with us at the visitation and funeral have touched our hearts. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Please accept this as our formal thank you as individual thank you's will not be sent.
The family of Joan Michaelson

Celebrating THE *Life* OF

Joan T. Michaelson

OCTOBER 18, 1955 – JANUARY 9, 2026

Services At:

Assumption Catholic Church - Morris, MN
Monday - January 19, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Officiating Clergy:

Father Todd Schneider

Musician:

Josh Fischer

Readers:

Steph Payne, Ashton Kleinbaum, Micki Ritter

Giftbearers:

Joan's Grandchildren
Maddix, Allison, Ryker, Logan, Tayven, Gunner, Lola

Pallbearers:

Micki Ritter, Sandy Wienhold

Casket Bearers:

Jeremy Michaelson, Tana Erickson, Allison Michaelson
Maddix Erickson, Ryker Erickson, Logan Michaelson

Honorary Bearers:

Joan's Nieces and Nephews

Interment:

Calvary Cemetery
Morris, Minnesota

Joan Theresa Michaelson was born to Fabian and Elizabeth (Robertson) Ritter on October 18, 1955. Coming into the world small but mighty, Joan was baptized that same day in the hospital by Father Leiser. She was later confirmed into the Catholic faith on November 17, 1968, at St. Mary's Church in Chokio. Joan attended Chokio-Alberta High School graduating with the class of 1974.

In her junior year of high school, Joan met the love of her life, Gary Michaelson. After a few years of dating, they celebrated their wedding on October 23, 1976 at Assumption Catholic Church in Morris. To this union, two children were born. More than anything, Joan loved being a mother to Jeremy and Tana who came into her life like a wrecking ball, filling her life with love, laughter, and chaos.

As a natural born caregiver, Joan started her working career as a nursing assistant with a passion as a home health aide, but with two little ones at home, she took on the role of daycare provider. Joan treasured her daycare kids and the opportunity she had to be home with her children. After many years, Joan changed paths working for the Willie's deli where she found a love for serving food and serving people. This led to her role at the UMM as a cook at Turtle Mountain Café where she worked for many years until her retirement in 2021. Joan spent many years bonding with students over smoke breaks, serving them food with a smile, or working alongside them in the kitchen becoming a trusted leader and friend.

Born with the gift of gab, Joan was an exceptional conversationalist with the ability to talk to anyone about anything. Always willing to share a pot of her famous egg coffee, Joan cherished the time she could spend chatting with family and friends. Her most favorite time of year was undebatably the Stevens County Fair, when anyone could park in her yard in exchange for a conversation. Forever happy to greet anyone in her path, Joan also enjoyed her quiet moments gardening and hanging with her pup Kato.

Joan was over the moon to officially change her title to Grandma J, welcoming eight grandchildren with open arms. Joan was incredibly proud of her grandchildren, and they were the light of her life. She was more than a grandmother — she was a constant presence, a safe place, and a source of unconditional love. She spent countless hours with her grandchildren, shaping their days with laughter, patience, and care. The time she gave so freely became some of their most cherished memories. Her influence will live on in the values, kindness, and love they carry forward.

Joan passed peacefully at the age of 70 in her sleep on January 9th, 2026, at her home in Morris.

Left on this earth to carry on her legacy of kindness are her children Jeremy (Hannah) and Tana; son-in-law Andy Erickson; her beloved grandchildren Maddix, Allison, Ryker, Logan, Tayven, Gunner, and Lola; sisters Sandy (Don) Wienhold and Micki Ritter; brother-in-law Lowell Hacker; sisters-in-law Julie (Kirby) Hufford and Joy Michaelson; and many aunts, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Waiting with open arms in heaven are Joan's husband Gary; grandson James; parents Fabian and Liz; sisters Peggy, Geri, Lynn Ritter, Jayne Hacker; brother Tom Ritter; nephew Joe Wienhold; in-laws DeWayne and Lola Michaelson; and her favorite fur friend Kato.



Please use this QR Code to access
Joan's online guestbook and tribute video.

Pedersen
Funeral & Cremation Service

I N L O V I N G
Memory

