

Marsha R. Cerar, 74, of Dilworth, MN, passed away on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Heather's House in Fargo, ND, surrounded by her family.

Marsha Renee Theresa (Brusegaard) Cerar was born on May 23, 1951, at St. Michael's Hospital in Grand Forks, North Dakota, to Raymond and Ruth (Scheel) Brusegaard. She was raised in Gilby, North Dakota, and graduated from Midway High School in Inkster, North Dakota, on May 23, 1969.

The summer of 1969 was spent on Cape Cod with her brother, Dick, and Barb Brusegaard, where she worked at a plant that manufactured components for the moon rocket. That fall, she attended North Dakota State University and graduated in 1973 with a major in German Education and a minor in Physical Education. During college, Marsha participated in the Experiment in International Living and lived with a family in Lyss, Switzerland, for one month. She also took part in the auxiliary to the ROTC, and was crowned Military Ball Queen in 1973. Additionally, she played on the inaugural NDSU women's basketball team after Title IX was introduced.

In the fall of 1973, Marsha began her teaching career in Slayton, Minnesota. During her second year of teaching, she met the perfect man for whom she had prayed. Marsha and Tom Cerar were married on December 27, 1975, at St. Francis de Sales Church in Moorhead. She converted to Catholicism in August 1975.

Before having children, Marsha worked in security, gift wrap, and layaway at Dayton's in the West Acres Mall in Fargo, ND. She and Tom welcomed their children: Lee in 1977, Renee in 1979, and twins Matt and Jenny in 1988. Marsha was a stay-at-home mom for 17 years before becoming a paraprofessional in the Moorhead School District for 10 years, serving as secretary at St. Joseph's Church for eight years, and then providing "Grandma Daycare" for the remainder of her life. She loved being with all of her grandchildren - they were her best medicine.

Marsha survived cancer, a brain bleed, and a blood disease before succumbing to ALS on January 6, 2026. While it took her life, it never took her spirit.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Ruth Brusegaard; her brother, Richard Brusegaard; her great-niece, Emma Rice; and her parents-in-law, Dolores and Stan Cerar.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Tom Cerar; her children, Lee (Christine) Cerar, Renee (Nathan) Lauwagie, Matt Cerar, and Jenny (Tyler) Johnson; her sister, Barb (Bob) Pohl; her brother, Ken (Pam) Brusegaard; her sister-in-law, Barb Brusegaard; as well as 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Marsha R. Cerar

May 23, 1951 – January 6, 2026

*"I am the living bread that came
down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread
will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life
of the world."*

- John 6:51

*The family of Marsha R. Cerar thanks you for your
presence here today and for your many acts of kindness.
Following the Mass of Christian Burial please join
the family for lunch and fellowship.*



Marsha's Mass of Christian Burial
Monday, January 12, 2026 - 10:00 AM
St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church - Moorhead, Minnesota

Officiating

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, presider
Monsignor Michael Foltz, con-celebrant
Fr. Vincent Miller, con-celebrant
Deacon Mark Krejci Deacon Rob Thom

Homilist

Monsignor Michael Foltz

Scripture Readers

Marsha's Grandchildren
Caleb Cerar Harper Tangen

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
New Testament Reading - Thessalonians 4:13-16
Gospel Reading - Luke 23:33, 39-43

Gift Bearers

Marsha's Grandchildren
Madison Tangen Anna Tangen Logan Cerar
Carter Johnson Kenley Johnson Abby Merseth

Liturgical Music

Gathering Song: *How Great Thou Art*
Responsorial Psalm: *Shepherd Me, O God*
Preparation of the Gifts Song: *Give Me Jesus (Instrumental)*
Communion Songs: *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*
Song of Farewell: *With You (Instrumental)*
Closing Song: *Joy to the World*
Karen Thom, cantor Bev Noonan, accompanist
Matthew Cerar, instrumentalist

Active Casket Bearers

Marsha's Godchildren
Kristen Lord Dan Besemann Dave Besemann
Rob Besemann Jason Cerar Katie Coates
Jason Pohl Dan Evert Ashley Finton

Final Place of Rest

St. Joseph's Cemetery - Moorhead, Minnesota