

Jean M. Luke

April 5, 1934 - September 5, 2025

Jean M. Luke
Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Sister and Friend
April 5th, 1934 – September 5th, 2025
Jean Magdalene Luke, affectionately known to many as “Maca,” went home to be with Jesus on September 5th, 2025, at the age of 91. A woman of grit, grace, and unwavering faith, she lived a life defined not by the era she was born into, but by the choices she made and the love she gave freely to those around her.

Born on April 5th, 1934, in Victoria MN, to parents Raymond and Gertrude Schmid, Jean was the fourth of eleven children. During the depths of the Great Depression, Jean’s early years were shaped by hardship, but they never hardened her heart. She graduated from Waconia High School, Class of 1952. Even as a young woman, she found joy in the simple things, like working at the Excelsior Theme Park to earn a few extra dollars and a lot of wisdom. She carried that same independence and work ethic into adulthood, later finding a professional home at Lakeland Envelope, where she devoted many loyal years until retirement. She loved her work there and the people she

worked beside, and they loved her in return.

Jean’s life was filled with quiet acts of strength and intentional love. She married husband Dwight Luke on June 25th, 1955. Unable to have biological children she chose to grow her family through adoption, welcoming Gary Luke on September 5, 1962, and Diane Koenig on August 29, 1965. This was a decision that reflected the very core of who she was: someone who always chose love, always made room, and always showed up. Her children and grandchildren were not only raised by her hands but by her heart.

She was the kind of woman who made a house feel like a home. Her door was always open, her kitchen always warm, her table always had extra chairs. Whether it was a Sunday roast, a game night on the floor, or a spontaneous trip to Walmart, time with Maca was full of laughter, lessons, and unconditional love. She always had the radio playing K102 and was often the fastest caller, winning countless concert tickets she would happily give to family. Holidays, especially Christmas, were pure magic in her care, full of twinkling lights, thoughtful gifts, and traditions we’ll cherish forever.
Jean had a no-nonsense charm and a smile that could disarm the most stubborn soul. She loved fiercely, worked tirelessly, and believed deeply in her family, in doing the right thing, and most of all, in her Savior. Her faith wasn’t performative; it was lived out in her kindness, her hospitality, and her perseverance.

She taught us how to be strong without being harsh, how to love without limits, and how to stay rooted even as the world changed around us. And oh, how the world changed. From ration books and war bonds to FaceTime and self-driving cars, Jean bore witness to an astonishing century of progress, but it was her steady presence that grounded us through it all.

She is survived by her children, Gary (Luanna) Luke and Diane Koenig; her grandchildren, Shawn Koenig, Shannon (Dylan) Hiler, and Grace (Brock) Bangasser; her great-grandchildren, Mason Koenig, Alexis Koenig, Azrael Hiler, and Malakai Hiler; and her sister, Janice (Gary) Lee, and brother, Douglas (Nancy) Schmid. Each of them carries pieces of her strength, her stories, her sass, and her boundless love.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Dwight Luke; her parents, Raymond and Gertrude Schmid; and her siblings, Virginia (aka Nonni) Smith, Donald (aka Boots) Schmid, Melvin Schmid, Robert Roy Schmid, Shirley Glirbas, Paul Schmid, Anita (aka Needy) Jarosak, and Audrey Cronick.

Her legacy is not just measured in the years she lived, but in the lives she touched. If you were loved by Maca, you knew it. And if you knew her, you were better for it.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial 11AM Wednesday, September 17 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 7025 Halifax Ave N, Brooklyn Center, visitation one-hour prior to mass.

Visitation

Wednesday, September 17th 10AM

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 7025 Halifax Ave N, Brooklyn Center, MN

Driving Directions

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

Wednesday, September 17th 11AM

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