

## Mary Louise Skwiera

was born on June 2, 1937 in Little Falls, MN. She grew up in Flensburg, MN, where her parents Steve and Irene (Wacholz) Skwiera ran the local grocery store. She attended school in Flensburg and completed her high school years at St. Francis High School in Little Falls. She then enrolled in school at the Breckenridge Hospital to become a medical record technician and she worked there following graduation. While at the hospital, she rented a basement apartment from a family down the street from the hospital. It was here she would meet the family's young son, James Irsfeld, home on leave from the Army, whom she ultimately wed on June 17, 1961. They would eventually live in Fargo while Jim attended NDSU School of Pharmacy and Mary worked at St. Angsar's Hospital in Moorhead. Upon Jim's graduation in 1962, they moved to Jamestown, where Jim worked for White Drug and where their son Tom was born, upon which time Mary became a fulltime mom. In 1964, Jim was transferred by White Drug to Dickinson, and shortly after, they added another son, Steve. In 1966, they bought a house on 4th Avenue West where they continued to live. While her kids were in high school, Mary worked for the Stark County Extension Service where she was a 4-H leader and taught arts & crafts within the school system. In 1982, Jim opened Irsfeld Pharmacy and Mary helped out behind the counter and in the office until their son Steve took over in 1996. Mary was a member of the Jaycees, Philanthropic Education Organization and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. She was a volunteer for the blood bank, calling to get people to donate blood, earning her the nickname "Bloody Mary" and was a member of the Queen of Peace funeral luncheon team. She liked to be the boss and knew how to get things done. Missing out on having any female children of her own, she was blessed with five granddaughters and she spared no expense in showering them with gifts and attention, often driving across the state simply to see a single piano recital or sporting event. Her grandkids said

that going to Grandma Mary's was like going to Disneyland. Mary really loved to cook and made lots of cookies to distribute to Irsfeld Pharmacy customers, friends and relatives at Christmas time. In later years, she preferred to cook whatever her grandchildren wanted --- they all loved her spaghetti and meatballs. Nobody ever went hungry on her watch, as she was notorious for cooking too many sides and desserts. She owned almost every kitchen gadget invented. But most of all, she was a great entertainer and knew how to throw a fun party. One of her hobbies was sewing -- she sewed some of her own clothes for a while and attempted to sew clothes for her family, with mixed results. For a period of time, she enjoyed arts & crafts, anything from macramé to ceramics to quilting. She played cards of almost any kind, and was a member of several bridge clubs. She was a sports fanatic and loved to watch sports on TV or in person. In addition to watching her kids, nieces, nephews and grandchildren in sports, she could be found watching any style of sports on TV, from the Olympics to golf and tennis to March Madness, and especially NDSU football. Mary is survived by her loving husband Jim; her sons Tom (Beth) Irsfeld of Fargo and Steve (Carolyn) Irsfeld of Dickinson, and her granddaughters Meredith (Ryan) Schroeder, Molly Irsfeld, Andrea (Mike) Jones, Emily (Nic Betteni) Irsfeld and Grace Irsfeld. She is also survived by her sister Lorraine (Chuck) Gress of McMinnville, OR and her brother John (Ann) Skwiera of San Angelo, TX, as well as her many friends and relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents, Steve and Irene Skwiera.

# Mary Irsfeld

June 2, 1937 - April 8, 2020







*Prayer of  
St. Francis of Assisi*

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

# Mary Irsfeld

**FUNERAL MASS:**

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:00 p.m.  
Queen of Peace  
Dickinson, North Dakota

**CELEBRATING:**

Monsignor Thomas Richter

**READERS:**

Grace Irsfeld & Meredith Schroeder

**GIFT BEARERS:**

Beth Irsfeld & Ryan Schroeder

**PALLBEARERS:**

Meredith Schroeder  
Andrea Jones

Molly Irsfeld  
Emily Irsfeld

Grace Irsfeld

**ENTOMBMENT:**

Dickinson Mausoleum  
Dickinson, North Dakota

**ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Dickinson, North Dakota