



## Mary Ellen Odoerfer

September 27, 1931 - April 18, 2020

ODOERFER, MARY ELLEN Age 88 April 18, 2020. Beloved wife of Burnell "Barney" for 69 years. Loving mother of Joseph(Diane)Odoerfer, Janis(David)Thomas, Jeanne(Brian)Bosch, Marianne(Bill)Vargo & Julie(Matthew)Derris. Proud grandmother of 19, great grandmother of 17, great great grandmother of 1 and was predeceased by one great grandchild. Dearest sister of Ann(the late Barney)Schubring & was predeceased by 12 brothers and sisters. Mary Ellen, along with her husband, were founding members of Covenant Christian Church. All services are private, however a Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Donations are welcome to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Interment White Chapel Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @ [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Odoerfer.*



May 09, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ *We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your wonderful wife, Mary. She was always a soft-spoken, kind person and an example of what a Christian woman should be.*

*She will be missed by us all.*

*Jerry and Carmen Polarolo*

Carmen Polarolo - May 03, 2020 at 10:20 PM



“ *We were saddened to hear of Mary's passing. We hold dear wonderful memories of her when we worked together in the Catechism class many many years ago. Such a gentle spirit and a person we wanted to emulate. Our condolences to Barney and his entire family. We will meet again one day, Mary.*

Carolyn and Craig Grant - April 24, 2020 at 08:01 AM



“ *Our hearts go out to the entire family. May the comfort that only “The Comforter” can give be with you at this time.*

*Jim & Karole Thorsten*

*Riverside Christian Church*

*Grand Rapids, MI*

James Thorsten - April 23, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to the entire Odoerfer family. Mary impacted many and was a true soldier for God's kingdom. May God's peace comfort you during this time. Chuck and Myra Meredith*

Myra Meredith - April 22, 2020 at 03:56 PM

LC

“ Beautiful Mary was my Birthday Buddy. September 27--a great day on which to be born. Through all of the years I have known her, Mary has always been positive, serene and gifted in all social skills. What an example she has been for so many of us for so many years. It's been an honor to be a part of her life. Sending love, Linda Cadariu

Linda Cadariu - April 22, 2020 at 11:49 AM

DD

“ As we walk this road of life we are blessed to meet people like Barney and Mary which we served with for 48 years in many capacities. Mary was a true friend, a servant, and we will miss her warmth and smile. Dorothy and Mary shared many many years of friendship and laughter at their “girls only outing” of lunch and a movie. Heaven has gained a sweetheart that we will miss! Jim and Dorothy Dell

Dorothy Dell - April 21, 2020 at 01:15 PM

SK

“ Mary will be missed by so many. She was always so upbeat even when she had a million things on her plate. My Mom and Mary would talk on the phone for hours it seemed. We are sending hugs and prayers to the family.

September Kanigowski - April 21, 2020 at 09:35 AM

JG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Mary was a wonderful lady, I am glad I had the opportunity to know her.

Jennifer Griffin - April 21, 2020 at 07:36 AM

ML

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Mary. Mary was the same person no matter when you talked to her. She was always personable and calm. She probably had 1 million projects on her list but she never showed any stress. I especially enjoyed the picnics that were hosted by the church. It was a wonderful reunion with the family of God. I can't even imagine what Barney and his family are going through at this time. But, the sting of death can never take our hope away because we know one day we will be united with all of our loved ones that have gone before us and are waiting for that reunion in eternity. My prayers are extended to Barney and his entire family at this sad time.

Mary LeBeault - April 20, 2020 at 05:12 PM

KA

“ We pray for comfort and peace through these hard days of lose. A wonderful women of God and His Church!!

*Prayers and love,  
Kathie Bugajski*

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**Kathie** - April 20, 2020 at 02:19 PM

CL

“ We enjoyed the privilege of growing in Christ at Bethesda catechism in the 90's with this amazing lady! Such energy and devotion to the Lord Jesus!  
*Alan & Cheryl Lawrence*

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**Cheryl Lawrence** - April 20, 2020 at 12:17 PM

AS

*Love and miss that sister so much. She was everything and more that was spoken by the above.*

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**Ann Schubring.** - June 19, 2020 at 07:37 AM

LM

“ I loved my “God-Given” aunt Mary. She was truly like family to me. I so loved the wonderful relationship she and mom (Fran Francisco) had. They were Best Friends, confidants, partners in games (they were so excited when they beat dad and Barney at golf!!!! It was so cute to watch.) She would always tell me that it wasn't the same without Fran.

*Mary always made all of us feel so loved, cared about and needed. She would always make sure we were invited to any function the church was having. Her care made us know we were a part of her life.*

*Our love, thoughts and prayers are with all of your family at this very sad time, especially to Barney. There is no feeling like loosing the love of your life - there is a Very Big Hole.*

*Our only comfort is in knowing that we'll be together again for eternity. Mary is now free from all her pain and suffering and happy with her Lord, and all of her friends and family that went home before her - waiting for the day when Barney will join her after his work on earth is done.*

*In the meantime, please know we're here for you and we love you all very much.*

*Linda & Frank Mayo*

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**Linda Mayo** - April 20, 2020 at 11:54 AM

HB

*Brother Barney, Harrell and I are sorry for your loss. Mrs Odoerfer was truly kind and loving.*

*Brother Barney I know you miss her dearly and we share in your loss. Every time I saw Mrs Odoerfer she had a wonderful smile on her face.*

*Brother Barney we love you and we are praying for you and your family.*

*Harrell and Cynthia*

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**Harrell and Cynthia Bailey** - April 20, 2020 at 11:07 PM

KH

“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to Pastor Barney and the entire family - what a legacy. I have known Pastor Barney and Mary my entire life from Bethesda and remember fondly Sister Mary teaching my Sunday school class for a year in the gymnasium of the Detroit Church. I have pictures her doing that often through the years. Mary's quiet and loving spirit and care made an impression on me that I have carried through out my lifetime. Precious wonderful lady.*

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**Karen Harris** - April 20, 2020 at 10:52 AM

KH

*PS the family would know me as Karen Stallons.*

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**Karen Harris** - April 20, 2020 at 10:53 AM

TC

“ *Truly one of the Best!! Gracious and kind. Always showing the love of Christ. Our prayers go out to Barney and the whole family.*

*- Todd & Robin Carley*

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**Todd Carley** - April 20, 2020 at 08:42 AM

WS

“ *Our condolences to the Odoerfer family. Steve and I got to get to know them at the bible study they held at their church. Wonderful woman! Wendy & Steve Sitek*

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**Wendy Sitek** - April 20, 2020 at 05:36 AM

JC

“ I don't recall the first time my wife and I first met Mary and Barney. But I will tell you that we feel as though we've known them all along! Mary has always been a Pillar in the Church of Jesus Christ! Nobody actually knows when that happened but those of us that knew her will tell you that it felt like she was one all along. As a pillar, Mary was unmovable in her love for God and God's people as we shared with her and Barney their ministry to others in instructions in the faith through Catechism. Her quiet strength was reassuring to us especially when we just started to serve! We will miss her deeply but we rejoice in knowing that although she is now absent from us she is now in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Mission accomplished Mary, rest and receive your reward in Heaven! We Will See You Soon! With all our love and thanks Bev & Jim Chudyk

Jim Chudyk - April 20, 2020 at 12:37 AM

JR

“ Sending prayers to the Thomas family, love and our deepest sympathy. Tad & Jeri Ruggeri & family (Marco, Nico, Mario) 🙏

jeri Ruggeri - April 19, 2020 at 09:55 PM

BF

“ Pastor Barney and family, sorry to hear of Mary's passing. What a blessing she was to so many, but now she is with our Lord Jesus Christ and we will see her again. God bless you all.

Brian Fitzpatrick - April 19, 2020 at 09:10 PM

PB

“ Mary leaves behind great many friends who remember her fondly. She certainly had the God given gift of hospitality. I am so blessed to have known her and learn from her. She was for sure a Godly woman. Heaven has been enriched today.

Patricia Van Den Berg - April 19, 2020 at 08:15 PM

JS

“ We are broken hearted to hear that our Mary has gone on to be with the Lord!!! She was a great friend to both of us. She shall be missed. Our prayers and our thoughts are with Barney and the family.

Jim and Sandy Hoenicke

Jim and Sandy - April 19, 2020 at 06:35 PM

GS

“ Gene & Marylou Sowa sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Ellen Odoerfer



Gene & Marylou Sowa - April 19, 2020 at 05:39 PM

GS

*Aunt Mary was one of the strongest and kind hearted women I have ever known. We were so blessed to have visited with her a few months ago. She will be greatly missed! Love and hugs to her family.*

Gene & Marylou Sowa - April 19, 2020 at 05:43 PM

RW

“ *The fruit of the Spirit developed in the life of Mary was amazing. Her gentleness, quietness, and love will long be remembered and missed. Mary had a great reward awaiting her. I taught a couple of classes in their church the second with the strong urging of Mary, “Run to Win”. She wanted to make sure of the reward she would win. My heart felt thoughts and prayers are for you, Barney and your family. Ruth Whittaker*

Ruth Whittaker - April 19, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Odoerfer.



April 19, 2020 at 05:01 PM

RK

“ *Mary was a prayer partner and counselor to us for over 25 years. I emulated her walk with Christ and we cherished her words of wisdom. She celebrated anniversaries and our daughters wedding along with standing along side us when our special needs granddaughter was born. She was a dear friend and a rare precious gem. Our prayers and sincere condolences to all her family. Love, Rachel & Rob Korth*

Rachel Korth - April 19, 2020 at 04:36 PM

JE

“ *A beautiful woman of God loved by everyone who met her. It was a joy and a privilege to work with her all those years in Catechism. She welcomed one and all. We lift up Barney and her family to the Lord. Richard and Jeri Eix*

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**jeri eix** - April 19, 2020 at 04:29 PM

KD

“ *I loved sitting with her and visiting her at a recent wedding and a baby shower this past fall. Nick and I just loved her and we will miss this faithful woman of God who we met years ago at Bethesda. Love and prayers, Kathy Delis*

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**Kathy Delis** - April 19, 2020 at 03:50 PM

FP

“ *I was sorry to hear about Mary's passing yesterday. My prayers are with the family.*

*Frank Pollard*

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**Frank Pollard** - April 19, 2020 at 02:32 PM

GC

*Sorry too hear about Marys passing.what a lovely Lady she will be missed*

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**GARRY COOPER** - April 19, 2020 at 03:36 PM

PD

“ *What a beautiful,faithful, happy woman of God! She will be remembered and missed. So grateful we will meet her again in Heaven.*

*Dennis and Pauline Delaney*

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**Pauline Delaney** - April 19, 2020 at 02:25 PM



“ *SISTER MARY WAS A WOMAN OF GREAT FAITH. AND SHE LOVED THE LORD..WE WILL MISS HER, AND HER WARM HUGGS...BUT WE KNOW SHE IS REJOICING IN HEAVEN WITH HER LORD AND SAVIOR...THE FAMILY, IS IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...*

*JOE & TAMMY TROST*

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**Tammy Trost** - April 19, 2020 at 02:18 PM

JL

*Mary was a wonderful lady who had a deep love for the Lord. She always made us feel special. These will always be an empty spot in our heart for her.*

**Jack and Pat Loshaw** - April 19, 2020 at 02:53 PM

IH

*“ We have so many happy memories with our dear friend. I will miss her and the joy she shared with us all. With love, Iris H.*

**Iris Harkins** - April 19, 2020 at 01:47 PM

PJ

*“ Mary was one of the best people to work with. I enjoyed her sense of humor and her sweet disposition and kindness. She was a beautiful lady of God and will be missed.*

*Paul & Lillian Jozefiny*

**Paul Jozefiny** - April 19, 2020 at 12:31 PM

JH

*“ We were saddened to learn this morning of Mary's passing. We are so sorry for you loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*John and Elaine Hudson*

**John & Elaine Hudson** - April 19, 2020 at 11:56 AM

FP

*“ What fond memories we have of this great lady. Mary was like a second mother to our Allison when she kept her while we ministered in Columbus, OH. Mary had no guile in her and her sweet demeanor made her approachable no matter how busy she was. Truly, Mary was a powerful woman of God who shared her home, her heart and her love for others. Blessings to the family.*

*Fred and Florence Parker, Victoria, BC Canada*

**Fred & Florence Parker** - April 19, 2020 at 11:47 AM

MS

*“ The photo captures the gracious, vibrant and energetic woman we came to know and love. May the Lord bless the memories of this lovely servant of the Lord and bring the Comfort of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage all who mourn her passing. God alone knows the way to lead through this wilderness time of loss. Blessings and love.*

*Bill and Elaine Stoddard*

**MR-MRS WILLIAM STODDARD** - April 19, 2020 at 11:14 AM

PL

“ Mary was always approachable, kind & willing to serve. She was sweet & honorable. A dedicated woman of prayer; Mary was a gracious role model for many. She will be missed. Love & prayers for family. Peggy Nash-Lowery.

Peggy Nash Lowery - April 19, 2020 at 10:25 AM

KT

“ Barney and family our love and condolences to you all. Mary had a beautiful servants heart that will be greatly missed. Her smile and kindness will always be in our memories. Heaven certainly gained a lovely Angel Love Joe and Kim Tibbetts

kimberly Tibbetts - April 19, 2020 at 10:09 AM

DS

“ All of our love and prayers for the Comforter to minister to you during this tremendous time of loss. One sweet day we all will be together again...

Dave and Lynda Stallwood - April 19, 2020 at 09:37 AM

AS

“ Oh my dear sister this hurts so hard, Yu were my last sibing and I will miss you so much and wil miss our daily chats but will cherish all the time we spent together this winter. Heaven has gained such a beautiful and oving Angel, but this earth has also lost one. I know you will be welcomed there with open arms.m We all are going to miss you nd your love.

Ann Schubring - April 19, 2020 at 09:27 AM

GK

“ Mary, what A beautiful person and friend. You will be sorely missed. you have a beautiful family and you were a wonderful person. Barney, I will miss Mary as you know as well as all of you will too. God didn't make anybody better than Mary Odoerfer.Mike and I love you and Mary and your whole family. What a privilege to be your friends.

grace kern - April 19, 2020 at 08:53 AM

TA

“ Dear Odoerfer family:  
Our deepest condolences to you on the loss of such a wonderful woman. May the peace of God be with you each day ahead. We have fond memories of her smiling face generous love.

*Terry Allen Family*

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**Terry Allen** - April 19, 2020 at 08:47 AM

BB

“ Mary’s sweet demeanor, gentleness of spirit and deep loving care for others impacted her world. If the Bible were written today, she would be listed as a devout and faithful example of a Christ follower. Another Mary in the Bible! Our love and prayers to Barney and family.

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**Bob and Judy Bogrette** - April 19, 2020 at 08:45 AM

Jl

“ I love the picture of Mary on this page. I remember her this way with a smile on her face and asking me how I was doing. I haven’t seen her for several years but I have such wonderful memories of her life. She was so hospitable and such a faithful woman of God, truly a role model for me. I love the whole family and my prayers are with all of you, Barney, Joe, Julie, and other family members. Dan will be happy to welcome Mary to Heaven!!!!

*Judi Igrison*

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**judi igrison** - April 19, 2020 at 08:42 AM

EG

*Sister Odoerfer was such a special, Loving and elegant lady!  
She was never too busy to pray, or offer encouragement. This world has suffered such a great loss as well as Bro Bernie!  
I will be praying for Sis Marys family, as I know that would be the one request she would ask of all of us!  
In Deepest Sympathy,  
Love Ellen Gingrich*

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**Ellen Gingrich** - April 19, 2020 at 08:59 AM

BC

“ Am sure those in heaven greeted you with open arms. Tracie almost joined you today, but am certain she will shortly. We miss you on earth but God and the heavens rejoice.

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**Bill Cuppy** - April 19, 2020 at 08:19 AM

TZ

“ Dear Barney, Julie, Matt and Family...my definition of a SWEETHEART would be MARY. always kind, loving and giving, that was MARY. her gentle spirit will live on through her family and friends. we all have been blessed to have known her and having that sweet fragrance that the Bible speaks of---Mary's special loving fragrance has rubbed off on us.

Lord, thank You for this faithful servant of yours---that we knew her and learned from her.

Love and blessings....Tina Ziebron....St. Augustine, FL

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**TINA ZIEBRON** - April 19, 2020 at 08:11 AM

JJ

*In thankfulness for a woman who was a SOLID FRIEND. These many, many years of PRAISING, PRAYING AND OH, THE FELLOWSHIPS....NONE CAN COMPARE! We shared church services, car pooling, school events, so many activities including our conventions. A picture of a true servant's heart...Demonstrated! The joy of the Lord definitely was her strength.*

*Mary was tricky though...Come on over, bring the kids, I have something to show you....Oh, I should have known. That same day returning home with one of the liter of pups their dog*

*had birthed. She turned out to be the infamous MISSY; basically becoming the school mascot.*

*Such blessed and happy memories!*

*To Barney and the family, no words can express except HOPE!*

*Always, Joanna Jones*

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**joanna jones** - April 21, 2020 at 08:59 AM

SM

*My condolences go out to the Thomas Family. My prayers are with you and your family.*

*Sharon Manthey*

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**Sharon Lee Manthey** - April 22, 2020 at 04:06 PM