



## Minerva Schmitz

April 5, 1943 - February 5, 2026

The Mass of Christian Burial for Minerva Schmitz, of Cokato and formerly of Wadena, will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena, with Father Jean-Claude Duncan as celebrant.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Parish Hall in Wadena with a Rosary at 5:00 and Prayers at 6:00 p.m. Visitation will resume at the church on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Mass.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

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You are invited to watch the service via live-stream by going to Schuller Family Funeral Homes' Facebook Page or YouTube Page

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At the age of 82, Minerva passed away on February 5, 2026, at the Cokato Manor in Cokato, MN.

Minerva Ann Ritten was the youngest of four children born to Michael and Margaret (Thoennes) Ritten on April 5, 1943, in Alexandria, MN. She grew up on their farm near Carlos and attended a one room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. She graduated in 1960 from Alexandria High School and went to work at General Mills in Minneapolis.

On June 13, 1961, Minerva married Leo Francis Schmitz, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Belle River. They made their home on a dairy farm east of Wadena. Her days were filled with caring for their 12 children and helping with farming tasks. Her interests included sewing quilts for her family, embroidery, reading, gardening and working puzzles. She was an active member of St Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena and Catholic United Financial. In 2017, she moved off the farm into Fair Oaks Apartments and to The Meadows of Wadena in 2022, then to Cokato Manor in June.

Preceding Minerva in death were her husband, Leo (2002); parents, Michael and Margaret; grandson, Adam Denny; son-in-law, George Lipinski; brothers, Jerry and Roman (Phyllis) Barnack; and sister-in-law, Janice Ritten.

Memories will be treasured by her children: Deb (Clem) Crowley of Howard Lake, Donna (Jim) Hughes of Dassel, Bonnie (Pete) Gebhart of Detroit Lakes, Darlene (Scott) Fah, Marlene Lipinski both of Hewitt, JoAnn (Jerry) Oliver of Long Prairie, Mary (Tony) Traut of St. Joseph, John (Brandy) Schmitz of Hewitt, Tina (Louie) Wegscheid, Bob Schmitz both of Wadena, David (Christine) Schmitz of Perham, and Steve Schmitz of Detroit Lakes; 35 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; brother Michael Ritten of Parkers Prairie; along with sister-in-law, Karen Barnack.

Serving as pallbearers will be Dan Schmitz, Tom Schmitz, Jenny Johnson, Amanda Kimber, Keila Schmitz, and Ken Fah.

Honorary pallbearers will be all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Ann's Parish Hall  
514 2nd St. SE  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Rosary

FEB 10. 5:00 PM - 5:15 PM (CT)

St. Ann's Parish Hall  
514 2nd St. SE  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Prayers

FEB 10. 6:00 PM - 6:15 PM (CT)

St. Ann's Parish Hall  
514 2nd St. SE  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Visitation

FEB 11. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann Catholic Church  
514 1st St SE  
Wadena, MN 56482-1803  
(218) 631-1593

## Mass

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann Catholic Church  
514 1st St SE  
Wadena, MN 56482-1803  
(218) 631-1593

## Burial

FEB 11. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Calvary Cemetery  
Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - February 08 at 07:59 PM

JU

“ *John Uselman lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



john uselman - March 18 at 11:28 PM

BC

“ *Bob is a great worker and I am glad to know him. You raised a wonderful son.*

Bill Connolly - February 11 at 03:58 PM

LR

“ *Remember all the happy memories*



Lisa Randall - February 11 at 01:24 PM

PL

“ Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz



Pat Lorentz - February 11 at 10:50 AM

EF

“ Esther and Alan Freitag lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz



Esther and Alan Freitag - February 10 at 03:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Minerva Schmitz.



February 10 at 12:37 PM

AW

“ Amanda, Derek and Lacey Witthuhn purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Minerva Schmitz.



Amanda, Derek and Lacey Witthuhn - February 10 at 10:15 AM

JJ

“ *The memories of visiting the farm, baking with you, going garage saling, picking chokecherries. Making sauerkraut, playing bingo at church events, taking you on family vacations with us. These are the things I will remember, share with my kids, and cherish forever.*

*Your homemade pizza was the best and there was always bars and treats on top of the microwave!*

*I remember all the phone calls I had with you, watching my boys fall in love with their great grandma. Grayson loved pushing you out to the gazebo and looking at the flowers or having DQ. Landon loved playing skip-bo with you he always said when we get there im going to play cards with great grandma. Camdon loved helping you walk and pushing you around.*

*These are just a few of the memories i have. My memories and the memories you made with my kids will be held in my heart.*

*We love you grandma and great grandma forever and always.*

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**Jenny Johnson** - February 09 at 11:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Minerva Schmitz.*



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February 09 at 07:08 PM

AS

“ *Ag1 Risk Solutions planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Minerva Schmitz.*

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**Ag1 Risk Solutions** - February 09 at 07:08 PM

MN

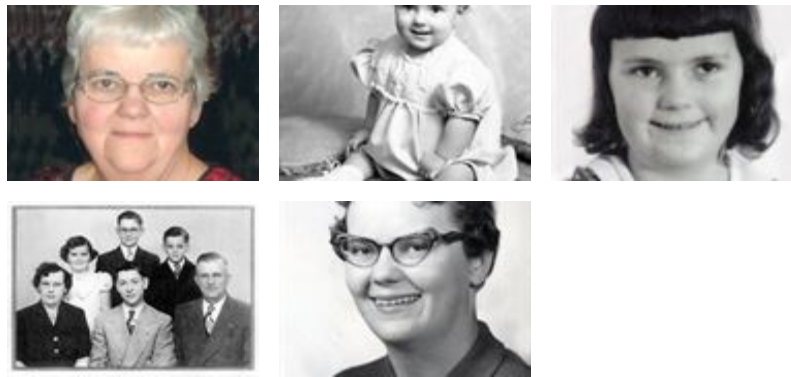
“ Sympathies to the family..



Melissa Dunn & Troy Nelson - February 09 at 09:32 AM



“ 38 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - February 08 at 07:57 PM

MM

“ Michelle, Mike, Mark purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Minerva Schmitz.



Michelle, Mike, Mark - February 08 at 06:30 PM

KB

“ I will always remember how welcome Minerva made us feel when visiting her home. She was a great cook and the kids loved all the treats she made. She was a loving lady and will be missed.  
Karen Barnack

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**Karen Lee Barnack** - February 08 at 03:49 PM

PP

“ Precision Printing purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Minerva Schmitz.



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**Precision Printing** - February 08 at 03:36 PM

PP

“ Precision Printing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Minerva Schmitz.

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**Precision Printing** - February 08 at 03:36 PM

KT

“ Karen Treangen lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz



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**Karen Treangen** - February 07 at 05:43 PM

KP

“ *My sympathies to Donna and family along with the whole extended Schmitz family.*  
*Krista (Lien) Potter*



Krista Potter - February 07 at 01:38 PM

MH

“ *Marladene Heinen lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



Marladene Heinen - February 07 at 11:56 AM

BD

“ *Bob and Kathy Derby lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



Bob and Kathy Derby - February 07 at 11:10 AM

PL

“ *Paul and Elaine Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



Paul and Elaine Lorentz - February 07 at 09:35 AM

RF

“ *Rousslang Family lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Rousslang Family** - February 07 at 09:31 AM

GC

“ *Gary and Marcy Collins lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Gary and Marcy Collins** - February 07 at 09:04 AM

JJ

“ *Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Jon Johnson** - February 07 at 08:54 AM

RG

“ *Roland & Ginger Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Roland & Ginger Gilbert** - February 06 at 10:46 PM

LB

“ *Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Lucille Belch** - February 06 at 10:21 PM

BS

“ *Bruce and Trish Steinkopf lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Bruce and Trish Steinkopf** - February 06 at 10:18 PM

MR

“ *Our condolences to the Schmitz family. We have lots of great memories of Leo and Minerva.*



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**Mark & Bonnie Richter** - February 06 at 10:07 PM

BS

“ *Thank you for raising your son to be the man of my dreams! 💜*

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**Brandy Schmitz** - February 06 at 08:35 PM

GD

“ *Gene & Mary Denny lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Gene & Mary Denny** - February 06 at 08:11 PM

PD

“ *Patty Desrocher lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Patty Desrocher** - February 06 at 06:34 PM

LH

“ *Leo Haisman lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Leo Haisman** - February 06 at 05:09 PM

SR

“ *Steve and Kathy Richter lit a candle in memory of Minerva Schmitz*



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**Steve and Kathy Richter** - February 06 at 03:38 PM

AF

“ *Al Schmitz Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Minerva Schmitz.*



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**Al Schmitz Family** - February 06 at 01:49 PM

AF

“ *Al Schmitz Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Minerva Schmitz.*

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**Al Schmitz Family** - February 06 at 01:49 PM

PS

“ *I had a beautiful visit with Minerva last summer. She and Leo went to many dances with Al and I. Such a devoted wife, mother and friend to many. My sincere condolences to her family.*

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**Penny Schmitz/Zaphel** - February 06 at 01:08 PM