



Mary Mann

February 9, 1931 - November 23, 2025

Mary Therese Huff Burge Mann, age 94, of Centralia, passed away at SLU hospital on November 23, 2025, 17 days after a fall at home.

Mary was born on February 9, 1931, to Helen and Al Huff. The sixth of ten children, she grew up on the family farm just across the Southern Railroad tracks in Centralia, surrounded by peach and apple trees. She spent all 94 years of her life in Centralia and loved sharing memories of the town's history — especially childhood stories of the public swimming pool and the Fourth of July carnival.

Mary graduated from Centralia Township High School and lived through both the Great Depression and World War II. Her family raised chickens, pigs, and cows, and canned fruits and vegetables to get through lean times. She attended St. Mary's School, sang in the choir, and cherished the tradition of weekly Mass. Mary carried her childhood memories of Christmas and family gatherings with deep fondness throughout her life.

Mary married James L. Burge, and together they raised seven children. Their marriage spanned nearly 29 years before Jim's sudden passing in 1980. She is survived by their children:

Donna Burge, Cathy Burge, Karen nee Burge Chianakas (Gary), Gina nee Burge Fischer (Larry), Mary (Micky) Burge (Paul Beckley), David Burge, and

James J. Burge (Trina).

She is also survived by her brothers Ray Huff (Jane) and Phillip Huff (Nancy), and by many nieces and nephews.

In 1982, Mary married Jack Mann. For the 39 years they shared, Mary and Jack enjoyed traveling, gardening, and tending to their flowers together. Jack preceded her in death in 2021.

To most who knew her, she was Mimi — a name that came with the birth of her grandchildren and never left her side. She is survived by 15 grandchildren: Keri (Hunt) Wall, Jennifer Hunt, Meghan Hunt, Michelle (Chianakas) Larkin, Daniel Chianakas, Mary (Chianakas) Stremlow, Alison Thom, Philip Maslow, James Maslow, Nicholas Burge, Kaela (Burge-Beckley) McDaniel, Derek Burge-Beckley, Tanner Burge-Beckley, Danielle (Burge) Risinger, Jacob Burge, and Adam Shores. She is also survived by 19 great-grandchildren, as well as many friends and neighbors who loved her like family. Her niece Stephanie Obermeier loved her dearly. Mary was able to remain in the home she treasured thanks to devoted family members and extraordinary caregivers, for whom her family is deeply grateful.

Her family lovingly called her “the queen” — not because she ruled, but because she lived with unwavering strength, poise, and grace. She was a blessing to know. If she could speak to us today, she would remind us: “Not my monkey; not my circus”, to sing loudly at Mass, and that the greatest gift you can ever give someone is your time.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the St. Mary Catholic Church in Centralia. Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM until the time of Mass at the Church. Burial will follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Centralia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Mary’s Parish, where Mary was a lifelong member and will be accepted at the

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Mary's Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Funeral Home Facebook page.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Church
424 E Broadway
Centralia, IL 62801

Funeral Mass

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

St Mary Catholic Church, Centralia, Illinois

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Mann*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - December 04, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ *The Barone & Fisher Families purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Mary Mann.*



The Barone & Fisher Families - December 04, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ *Steve and Annette Shores purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mary Mann.*



Steve and Annette Shores - December 04, 2025 at 01:23 PM

LT

“ Liz, Sue and the Altus team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Mann.



Liz, Sue and the Altus team - December 04, 2025 at 12:34 PM

KS

“ I will always remember Aunt Mary’s kindness, her warm laugh, and the gracious way she made all of us cousins feel welcome at the Burges’ home on Cedar Street. Although my family—the Schnakes (Aunt Clara, Uncle Bob) —lived three hours north, our families often packed up the car to visit one another. Oh the excitement with upto nine Burges and eleven Schnakes (if my counts are right) all under the same roof! Many years have passed. Those great memories remain. Rest peacefully, Aunt Mary. --Kevin Schnake, Colorado Springs.

Kevin Schnake - December 03, 2025 at 12:53 PM

GF

Thank you Kevin. Our times together growing up are priceless. Love, Cousin Gina(Burge)Fischer

GINA FISCHER - December 11, 2025 at 08:52 AM

C(

“ Chris, Rick, & Travis (Copeland) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Mann.



Chris, Rick, & Travis (Copeland) - December 03, 2025 at 11:04 AM

JS

“ So sorry for your loss Dave.
Prayers for you and your family

Jim Szczublewski - December 03, 2025 at 10:09 AM

JB

“ Jo B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Mann.

Jo B. - December 02, 2025 at 01:58 PM

JB

“ Mary was a dear friend and wonderful neighbor. I will miss her gentle demeanor and smiling face. Jo Beguelin

Jo Beguelin - December 02, 2025 at 01:54 PM

CF

“ Copeland AME Scroll Assembly Facilities purchased the Living Life Memorial Framed Art for the family of Mary Mann.



Copeland AME Scroll Assembly Facilities - December 01, 2025 at 12:33 PM

LF

“ I met my best friend growing up in Centralia in Kindergarten, Karen Burge! It was so wonderful to be invited over to the Burge house on Cedar street. As an only child when I went over to their home I felt like I died and went to heaven. Mary was an amazing mother of seven children and she always made me feel welcome in their high action household! She was a vibrant person who was faithful to her family and St.Mary's Church/School. My condolences to Mary's family and friends I feel blessed to have known her.

Linda F.

Linda Fiock - November 30, 2025 at 08:02 PM

BU

Thank you!!! You were always welcome and so calm amidst our chaos. It's been a long road and an endearing, "forever"Green Eggs & Ham friendship! Heep Wah XXX

Burge - December 01, 2025 at 10:21 AM

LF

“ Linda F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Mann.

Linda F. - November 30, 2025 at 07:46 PM

TT

“ I remember that swimming pool and the 4th of July celebrations. They were central to my childhood as was that roomful of noisy kids that Barb describes.

I feel blessed to have had Aunt Mary and all the cousins whether directly or loosely connected to that farm by tracks.

*Tony Taylor
Phyllis' first son*

tony taylor - November 26, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ I am so sorry Jamie & Trina💔
Praying for you & your whole family.



Rae Ann Quidgeon - November 26, 2025 at 11:03 AM

BJ

“ Aunt Mary was always kind and gracious. I remember their home as filled with love and laughter. Aunt Mary had a beautiful, caring heart and a special way of making me feel important, even in a room filled with many noisy children. I send my love to all of my cousins. I am grateful and blessed to have been a loved niece of Aunt Mary.

Barb Jones - November 26, 2025 at 10:55 AM

AL

Aunt Mary was always a serene island of calm in the midst of LOTS of activity. She always made me feel special. She had a well lived life! Godspeed, Aunt Mary!

Angie Lickhart - November 26, 2025 at 10:41 PM

KS

..very well said! filled with love and laughter. And a beautiful, caring heart. A beautiful person.

Kevin Schnake - December 03, 2025 at 01:07 PM

BK

“ I remember many as a child the Sunday afternoons when the Calvin Burge Family drove to visit the Jim Burge family. Aunt Mary always gracious and kind and I envied having a bedroom full of sisters! As an adult visiting with Aunt Mary was such a delight. She was always interested in me and made each of us feel special. What a legacy of love for family, gentleness and strength she has left. She will be missed!

Beth Kenyon - November 26, 2025 at 09:22 AM

BB

“ Barb, Beth and Kenny Burge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Mann.

Barb, Beth and Kenny Burge - November 26, 2025 at 09:07 AM



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



November 26, 2025 at 09:07 AM

KC

“ I can only imagine.... as mom hugged dad she exclaimed: ‘Oh Jim, if you could only see how blessed we were, you would be so proud!’ And dad joyfully responded, ‘Mary I know! God is kind & merciful and He gave me a front row seat. And let me save this one next to me, for YOU!’

Karen (Burge) Chianakas - November 26, 2025 at 08:51 AM

PP

Mary was a beautiful lady inside and out. She always had a smile for everyone and was always very pleasant. We will miss her very much. May she rest in peace. Doug and Paulette Pahnke

Paulette Pahnke - December 04, 2025 at 09:56 PM