



Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen

March 26, 1919 - June 25, 2024

Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen (nee Glowacki), 105, of Garfield, passed away peacefully with her beloved daughter by her side on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Mary was the fourth of ten children born to John and Catherine Glowacki, who immigrated to this country from Poland when they were teens. She grew up on Fourth Street in Passaic along with many other Polish families. She grew up as a devout Catholic and started her religious education at Holy Rosary School in Passaic. After marrying and moving to Garfield, they joined St. Stanislaus Kostka R.C. Church where she remained a parishioner until this day. She was also a member of the Rosary Society at St. Stan's. Mary enjoyed going to school and when in high school, her oldest sister, Stacia, had her first child, Vic. Mary's father requested that she quit school and babysit the new addition while Stacia went to work. In 1941, Mary married Edward Gurak and they moved to Garfield where they raised their 4 children. Mary started working for Bendix in Teterboro after they bought their first home. She worked as a wire former which helped build airplanes. She remained there until she retired in 1984. Mary was happily married to Ed for 45 years until he passed. Four years later, she married Albin Bielen and moved to Ramsey where she lived on a farm and enjoyed helping him work the land. They would take time to travel around the United States together, with their favorite destination being Hawaii. They were happily married for 16 years and after Al passed, Mary moved back into her previous home back in Garfield where she lived for the remainder of her days. Mary loved doing things with her hands. When her

children were young, she would make them dolls and she sewed many of their clothes. After she retired, she took up crocheting and made beautiful blankets for all the adults and baby blankets for all the babies. She even made extras for the babies to come. Throughout her life, she always kept busy and loved socializing. While with Ed, they were members of a bowling league at Wallington Lanes and members of the Paramus Elks Club where, aside from other duties they would go to dinners and spend the entire night on the dance floor. They took dancing lessons for many years with their friends and practiced frequently in their basement where they taught their youngest daughter how to dance. She was well known for making hundreds of pierogis every Christmas for family and friends. Mary was the beloved wife of the late Edward Gurak and Albin Bielen, devoted mother of Frances Martin (Gurak) and her late husband, Robert, Edward Gurak and his wife, Susan, Patricia Rigoliosi and her ex-husband, John, and the late Kathleen Gurak, and step-mother of Nancy Bielen, loving grandmother of Michelle Swistock and her husband, Patrick, David Gurak and his wife, Lindsay, Jonathan Rigoliosi and his partner, Tatiana, Sara Fonohema and her husband, Moto, dear great-grandmother of J.E.B., Reagan and her husband, John Lassiter, Mattingly, Ginger, CharlotteAnne, Seanpatrick, William, and Willow, sister of the late Stacia Hrabal and her late husband, Victor, Carl Glowacki and his late wife, Midge, Helen Wojdyla and her late husband, Joe, Veronica Zalewski and her late husband, Frank, Matthew Glowacki and his late wife, Catherine, Wanda Timek and her late husband, Edward, Genevieve Pasek and her late husband, Theodore, Walter Glowacki, and Frederick Glowacki.

Donations in Mary's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org/donate) or the Bergen County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center (100 United Lane, Teterboro, NJ 07608) would be kindly appreciated by her family.

Cemetery Details

St. Michael's Cemetery

120 Saddle River Avenue
South Hackensack, NJ 07606

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kamienski Funeral Home of Garfield
207 Ray Street
Garfield, NJ 07026

Visitation

JUL 3. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Kamienski Funeral Home of Garfield
207 Ray Street
Garfield, NJ 07026

Funeral Mass

JUL 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Kostka R.C. Church
184 Ray Street
Garfield, NJ 07026

Burial

JUL 3. 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Michael's Cemetery
120 Saddle River Avenue
South Hackensack, NJ 07606

Tribute Wall

RS

“ This is Rosemary, formerly of Henry St. I just accidentally came upon this. So many years, so many pierogis, so many milk deliveries from Mickey, so many Christmas Eve celebrations shared with the Glowacki & Hrabal families. My heartfelt sympathy, love & prayers. Peace to all of you. Love, Roe



Rosemary A Smith - March 30, 2025 at 02:38 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.



July 01, 2024 at 07:53 PM

SM

“ Steve & Maggie purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.



Steve & Maggie - July 01, 2024 at 07:34 PM

SM

“ Steve & Maggie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.

Steve & Maggie - July 01, 2024 at 07:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.



June 30, 2024 at 02:11 PM



“ Ray & Brenda Zangrando planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.

Ray & Brenda Zangrando - June 30, 2024 at 02:11 PM



“ With love from Dick & Jane Swistock purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.



With love from Dick & Jane Swistock - June 29, 2024 at 09:50 PM



“ The Timek and Arches families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.



The Timek and Arches families - June 29, 2024 at 02:36 PM

DF

“ *Dom and Jane Annunziata and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.*



Dom and Jane Annunziata and family - June 29, 2024 at 10:30 AM

TF

“ *The Rigoliosi Family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.*



The Rigoliosi Family - June 28, 2024 at 05:49 PM

TF

“ *The Rigoliosi Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Theresa Gurak Bielen.*

The Rigoliosi Family - June 28, 2024 at 05:49 PM