



## Theresa M. Purkat

July 16, 1979 - January 24, 2021

Theresa M. Purkat, 41 year old resident of Burtrum, MN passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 29, 2021, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Belle Prairie, MN, with Father Ben Kociemba and Father Joe Herzing officiating. Burial will take place at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. Visitation will be on Thursday from 4 to 8 PM at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN and one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church. Parish Prayers at 7 PM.

To View The Livestream of Theresa's Funeral, Click the Link and You Will Be Redirected to the Livestream.

<https://www.facebook.com/littlefallscatholic>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMflg0\\_x49U0vQcleRNUPVg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMflg0_x49U0vQcleRNUPVg)

Theresa Michelle Moran was born July 16, 1979 to Larry and Joyce (Erdman) Moran in Little Falls, MN. She grew up on the family farm north of Little Falls with her seven siblings. Theresa graduated from Little Falls Community High School with the class of 1997. She attended Central Lakes College in Brainerd, and graduated with honors from St. Cloud State University with a degree in Elementary Education. She traveled to Honduras, where she taught for a short time. Returning home, she began teaching in Staples, MN. A few years later, she accepted a position at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Pierz.

She made many great friends within that school system. She loved her students and they loved her back. It was an honor for her to teach and prepare the children for the sacraments. Theresa had many close friends in her lifetime. Her closest friends were known as the "usuals." She took several trips with her friends and made many great memories. They were adventurous and would go kayaking and skydiving. They would gather to watch football games and enjoyed a few beverages. An occasional music festival provided opportunities to deepen friendships. The usuals played a big part in the success of her benefit that took place two years ago. In the year 2012, she met the love of her life, Nicholas Anthony Purkat. Married May 30, 2015, they eventually made their home in Burtrum in 2017. She enjoyed making their house a home. Nicholas and Theresa enjoyed traveling, fishing, dancing, playing cards, watching movies, Harley rides and cooking together. A bike trip to the Black Hills and a honeymoon trip to Montana provided fond memories. Theresa had many great opportunities to travel and enjoy life. A mission trip to Guatemala with a church group was the first of many trips she took with her mother. Theresa and her Mom also ventured to Hawaii, Alaska, New York City and Washington D.C. She was a great planner, always looking for the best deals and the most exciting places to visit. Theresa enjoyed watching the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, hiking and playing cribbage. These were only a few of her numerous hobbies. On August 22, 2018, an operation was performed to remove a brain tumor. The results from this procedure presented challenges for Theresa. She most always appeared cheerful but struggled at times with not being able to accomplish all her goals and fulfill her greatest desires. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 24th. She will be remembered for her loving and generous heart, big beautiful smile and great sense of humor. She will also be remembered for being the world's greatest cribbage player with a record of winning more than 150 games in a row.

Theresa was preceded in her death by her father, Larry Paul Moran.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Nicholas Purkat; mother, Joyce Moran; siblings, Claudette Moran of Little Falls, Phil (Theresa) Moran of Becker MN, Mark Moran of New York Mills, Ed (Stacey) Moran of Little Falls, Matthew Moran of Sauk Rapids, Roseanne (Adrian) Throener of Swanville, Stephen Moran of Little Falls; many nieces, nephews and friends.

Thank you to all her family members and friends for the love and support over the years. We encourage you all to have a beer (if of age) and go dancing in her memory.

# Cemetery Details

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115  
Little Falls, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 28. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls  
214 2nd Street SE  
Little Falls, MN

## Visitation

JAN 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church - Belle Prairie  
18777 Riverwood Drive  
Little Falls, MN

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 29. 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church - Belle Prairie  
18777 Riverwood Drive  
Little Falls, MN



# Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Theresa M. Purkat* ”



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**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - January 28, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ *Theresa M. Purkat* ”

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January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

“ Hey, Hey, Hey!!!!

*I won't ever hear that again. Not like that. Not the way it was with her voice, enthusiasm, and her tone.*

*Theresa's laugh and energy filled the space, and however large that space was didn't matter. It could be space itself and she could fill it. Her catch-phrases, smiles, glasses perched on top of her head and the occasional eye roll.*

*More laughs and smiles... and as I continue to think of her, it's just more laughs and more smiles.*

*She was so small in stature, but so big in life. You can't imagine how much positive energy, warmth, and fun could fit into such a small frame.*

*She is our spirit. The force that pushes this group of usuals together, even as time passes and we get pre-occupied with our families and adult lives, she continued to bring us together.*

*She cared and loved deeply. No matter how late we were out, she would remind us that she had to be up for church the next morning. And her dedication to Christ was similar to her dedication to her friends. Unwavering, and without regard of circumstance, she loved you. For what you were, and for who you are right now, she loves you.*

*Friends of her quality are rare, but we are blessed because it seems like birds of a feather... and here we all are.*

*Friendships are chosen, and they are chosen repeatedly. One must continue to choose to be friends to put in the actions to maintain the relationship.*

*And even among a very dedicated, resilient, and loyal long-time group of friends, she stands out.*

*She shines as the spirit of what we represent. Continuing to choose each other, because we still matter to each other.*

*There is no replacement, the group is now one less, but let no one forget what she stands for and signifies:*

*Friendship. Plain and simple.*

*I am very fortunate she chose me as a friend. As are the rest of you. Friends are undervalued in today's society. "Friending" is now a term that just means a click on a phone. And guess what? That's not a friend. Theresa is a friend, but at its most advanced stage.*

*It is my belief, after she left us she was met by St. Peter with these words:*

*"I will treat you well, my sweet angel, so help me Jesus."*

*She was able to make a moment better than before she entered it. She made your life better than before she entered it. Heaven is now better than before she entered it, for even the divine is not exempt from her effect.*

*-Ryan Bakke*

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**Beth Oberton** - January 29, 2021 at 06:40 PM

CM

*Beautiful tribute, Ryan and "The Usuals".*

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**Claudette Moran** - January 30, 2021 at 04:33 AM



“*Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 28, 2021 at 11:59 PM

TH

“ Tom & Doris Heying lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat



Tom & Doris Heying - January 28, 2021 at 03:45 PM

TF

“ The Sjurseth Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



The Sjurseth Family - January 28, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 28, 2021 at 12:33 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 28, 2021 at 11:49 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 28, 2021 at 08:49 AM



“ *Thinking of you all and sending our condolences. Nicole and Peter Paulson*



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**Nicole Paulson** - January 28, 2021 at 08:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 27, 2021 at 10:27 PM



“ *My Sincere Prayers, Sympathies and Condolences to ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND LOVED ONE's...  
David Toivola*

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**Dave Toivola** - January 27, 2021 at 09:24 PM

PF

“ Aunt Joyce and family, sending all our love and prayers to you all.

Paula Bernard & family - January 27, 2021 at 08:51 PM

CM

Thank you, Paula! Love and hugs to you and your entire family as well.

Claudette Moran - January 28, 2021 at 01:35 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 27, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 27, 2021 at 07:24 PM

MK

“ *My husband and Nick were deployed together. We kept in touch, met for lunch, we understood each other's loneliness and was a great support person. She had the most beautiful smile of anyone I know. Mary and Jerry Kratz*



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**Mary Kratz** - January 27, 2021 at 06:12 PM

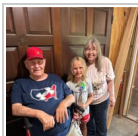


“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 27, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *I remember my Dad talking about all the great kids Larry had and he loved making some doll houses and cradles for them. They will see her again now. Prayers for all the family.*

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**Rosemary Line** - January 27, 2021 at 02:43 PM

CM

*Hi Rosemary, we still have the doll house that your dad built, along with the wishing well. My nieces still enjoy the doll house.*

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**Claudette Moran** - January 27, 2021 at 05:18 PM

BB

“ *Babe Brisk lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Babe Brisk** - January 27, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 27, 2021 at 02:39 PM

SF

“ *Ed and Family,  
I am so sorry for your loss.  
Thinking of you.*

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**Shari Force-Smith** - January 27, 2021 at 01:18 PM

KF

“ *Kathleen Fischer purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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**Kathleen Fischer** - January 27, 2021 at 10:39 AM

YS

“ *Your Friends at Seitz Stainless purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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**Your Friends at Seitz Stainless** - January 27, 2021 at 09:13 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 26, 2021 at 10:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 26, 2021 at 07:12 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 26, 2021 at 06:55 PM

TB

“ *Tim, Tabitha, And Wyatt Brisk lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Tim, Tabitha, and Wyatt Brisk** - January 26, 2021 at 04:16 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 26, 2021 at 04:11 PM

DJ

“ *Theresa's smile always made everything seem brighter, our family had many wonderful memories we were able to share with her. Theresa will forever hold a special place in our hearts.*



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**Deborah Johnson** - January 26, 2021 at 03:33 PM

JH

*My condolences to Theresa's family. Her kindness will fill our memories.*

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**Jeff Hanson** - January 26, 2021 at 05:41 PM

FC

“ From your Sunburg Ambulance Crew purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



From your Sunburg Ambulance Crew - January 26, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 26, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 26, 2021 at 02:32 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 26, 2021 at 01:49 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 26, 2021 at 01:09 PM



“ *Another classmate of 1997 gone too soon! Theresa you had the smile that would light up the room. Thank you for being an acquaintance of mine. Sending Positive vibes and prayers during this time of grief.*



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**Chris Harakel** - January 26, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ *Debbie Jelinski-Harakel lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Debbie Jelinski-Harakel** - January 26, 2021 at 12:21 PM



“ *Joyce and Family,  
We are so sorry to hear of your great loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this very sad time. She will surely have many great adventures in heaven!  
God bless you all.  
Steve and Shirley Olson*



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**Shirley Olson** - January 26, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ Gerberas and Palms Spray was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 26, 2021 at 10:13 AM



“ We celebrate the life of Theresa and will remember the love and joy she brought to you and all who knew her.  
Always here for you, your Earthpig brothers.



**Tim Wettstein** - January 26, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ Gary And Shannon Pusc lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat



**Gary and Shannon pusc** - January 26, 2021 at 07:57 AM



“ Beth Bochow Larsen lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat



**Beth Bochow Larsen** - January 26, 2021 at 12:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 26, 2021 at 12:10 AM



“ *Schutz Family lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Schutz Family** - January 25, 2021 at 11:05 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 25, 2021 at 10:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 25, 2021 at 10:40 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 25, 2021 at 10:10 PM



“ *Jason And Michelle Curtiss lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Jason and Michelle Curtiss** - January 25, 2021 at 09:37 PM



“ *The Schweisthal Family lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**The Schweisthal Family** - January 25, 2021 at 08:46 PM



“ *Gregg And Wendy Sweeney lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Gregg and Wendy Sweeney** - January 25, 2021 at 08:35 PM

CM

“ *Claudette Moran lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat*



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**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:32 PM

CM

*Rest in peace, little sister.*

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**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 25, 2021 at 08:17 PM

JS

“ *Theresa you were one of our favorite teachers at Holy Trinity. We were so blessed you taught our son William two years in a row. We uplift you and your family in our prayers. May you Rest In Peace.*

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**josh and audra stangl** - January 25, 2021 at 07:59 PM

CM

*Thank you, and hugs and blessings to your family as well.*

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**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:23 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



January 25, 2021 at 07:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



January 25, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“ *We are so terribly sorry for your loss. It is the hardest thing in the world to lose a child. John and I will keep you in our prayers.*



**Tina Snell** - January 25, 2021 at 07:43 PM



*Thank you, Tina and John.*

**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:24 PM

SW

“ Scott And Lori Williams lit a candle in memory of Theresa M. Purkat



Scott and Lori Williams - January 25, 2021 at 07:37 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.



January 25, 2021 at 07:21 PM

TP

“ Joyce and family, hugs to you all and prayers for strength. I know your hearts are breaking I am so very sorry for your loss.



Trudee Preimesberger - January 25, 2021 at 07:04 PM

CM

Thank you, Trudee! It was good to hear from you.

Claudette Moran - January 25, 2021 at 08:31 PM

DS

“ *Debbie and Gary Johnson and Dan Schlag purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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**Debbie and Gary Johnson and Dan Schlag** - January 25, 2021  
at 06:55 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Theresa M. Purkat.*



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January 25, 2021 at 06:43 PM

KG

“ *So sorry to hear about Theresa. She was an amazing, faith filled person who shared her love for God with so many. I'll always remember her smile, and love of Diet Coke and heals.*



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**Kristi (Schmidtbauer) Godbout** - January 25, 2021 at 06:39 PM

CM

*Thank you, and blessings to you, Kristi. It was good to hear from you yesterday.*

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**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:30 PM

FS

“Joyce and family,  
So sorry to hear of Theresa's passing. She was  
such a caring, beautiful young woman. Hold  
your precious memories close to your hearts.  
Find comfort in each other as you go thru these  
difficult days ahead.  
Love, Faye and Chuck Santala



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**Faye Santala** - January 25, 2021 at 06:07 PM

CM

Thank you, Faye and Chuck! She was a blessing to a multitude of  
people.

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**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“All of our childhood - adult years we spent  
together, but the best was our lip sync  
concerts in the living room upstairs at your  
house with Roseanne.



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**Kyle Runnoe** - January 25, 2021 at 04:47 PM

CM

Holly, I still have a photo of you and Theresa playing your flutaphones.

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**Claudette Moran** - January 25, 2021 at 08:26 PM