



Margaret Lewandowski

February 18, 1942 - September 30, 2025

Margaret Ann Lewandowski (“Ma” to her family) passed away on September 30, 2025 at the age of 83 after a year-long battle with cancer.

Margaret was born on February 18, 1942, grew up in Hamtramck, and graduated from St. Ladislaus High School in 1959. She then attended University of Detroit Mercy earning an associate degree.

She is survived by brothers Thaddeus and Kris. She was preceded in death by her brother Lawrence, parents Thaddeus and Helen, and husband Thomas. They were married for 47 years and had 5 children: Tom, Bob (Jonnie), Paul (Jennifer), Mark (Michele), and Ken (Renee), 14 grandchildren: Angelina, Alexis, Amanda, Cynthia, Joseph, Sarah, Michael, Matthew, Stephen, Vanessa, Jacqueline, Rachel (Riley), Kendall, Angelia and 7 great-grandchildren: Carmen, Callie, Lilly, Carson, Stephen, Chase, Addison, and Ryder.

Ma was heavily involved in her Catholic faith and various activities and organizations through the

church: Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, Evenings for the Engaged, as well as teaching multiple Bible classes and acting as a lector at Ss. Cyril and Methodious and St. Rene Goupil for many years.

Outside of the church, she loved playing cards with friends and family and was part of the same pinochle club for 50+ years. She also enjoyed bowling. She once bowled a sanctioned 300 game and even "Beat the Champ" on the TV show of the same name.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Detroit.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 4. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Visitation

OCT 5. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Rosary

OCT 5. 6:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

OCT 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

SS. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church
41233 Ryan Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3937
(586) 726-6911

Mass of the Christian Burial

OCT 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

SS. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church
41233 Ryan Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3937
(586) 726-6911

Tribute Wall



“ Margaret and I never met, but we played Words With Friends online for years and sometimes chatted. I knew her as a person of empathy and integrity and a true friend. She worked very hard to pass me in the number of games won and she kept the lead for a long time. In the end I had 319 wins and she had 318 but she defaulted on the last game she started so I can say we finished tied at 318 each. Before she died, she set me up to play with Michele, who puts up as good a game and keeps her memory alive.

Peter Macdonald, Binbrook, Ontario, Canada

Peter Macdonald - October 31, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Margaret Lewandowski.



October 04, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Lewandowski.

October 04, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Margaret Lewandowski.*



October 04, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Lewandowski.

October 04, 2025 at 09:40 AM

KL

“Hello, my name is Ken Lewandowski, the youngest of Marge and Tom’s 5 boys. Our family would like to thank you for coming to help celebrate Marge’s (Ma’s) wonderful life. As many of you know, Ma was a devoted member of the Catholic faith and would defend her beliefs as much as she would defend her family. Ma was very happy that she had all boys and had the ideal temperament to handle 5 boys who were so close in age. 5 boys in 7 years!!?? God knew that giving them any girls would reduce their life span greatly. As Catholics, we used to joke that they used the ‘rhythm method’ and Dad just laced rhythm. Lucky for me, I arrived at the time when she felt comfortable to allow the four others to ‘groom’ me (big mistake, but much appreciated). Allegedly, I may have had a foul mouth very early on, but at least I brought humor. At one point, before I was of school age, a classmate of my brother Tom said “Tom, is that your brother out on the playground with his pants down?” to which Tom thought he better take me home. Maybe I was just trying to create some buzz for the female students, I’m not even sure.

Anyway, I mentioned they had 5 boys in 7 years. Paul was born a short 14 months after Bob. As we looked back on some of ma’s notes and she was willing to tolerate a little more of my humor, I said “Ma, 14 months? Did you race home after getting clearance from the doctor to ‘resume activities’?” and she basically giggled it off. The biggest gap was between Mark and myself, almost 2.5 years. Once they achieved their masterpiece, they were done. She didn’t discipline with spankings, just raised her voice to let us know we better shape up. There once was a time when all 5 were being very rambunctious, and she basically chased us to the stairs yelling “YOU BETTER GET UPSTAIRS AND I DON’T WANT TO HEAR A PEEP OUT OF YOU” to which I naturally responded “PEEP”. The quick slap across the face that I received was warranted, but definitely worth it. She was also not a fan of the TV. If she wanted something done and the boys weren’t responding, it was often met with a “TURNOFF THAT STUPID IDIOT BOX AND DO WHAT I TOLD YOU TO DO”. That would certainly motivate us. Ma’s hearing, or lack thereof, was a blessing and a curse. When her granddaughter Cyndi asked “Grandma, do you have any glue?”

Grandma responded "Cyndi, I can't give you blue. I can get you SOMETHING BLUE". Cyndi said "Grandma, I said GLUE!" "OH, I can get that".

Ma was also a very smart woman, but could say some of the most outlandish things. When someone was driving recklessly near her house, she declared "One day, he's going to wake up dead and wonder what happened."

When our father, Thomas was at the end of his life, we all took a few minutes alone with him to tell him we would take care of Ma and it was time for him to stop his fight. When we were all done, we were all in his room getting ready to go to dinner, we all said "bye Dad" and "we'll see you later" and Ma said "we'll see you later Tom, ... or maybe not"

On the Monday before ma passed, I watched as my wife Renee and her best friend Bev said goodbye (talk about a tear-jerker). I told them to give me a minute with her. Her pain was so obvious and we all felt her pain over the past year. I leaned over her barely-living self and asked her for a final birthday wish. "Ma, I love you and will miss the hell out of you. Please do me a favor and end this fight to ease your pain and our pain on or before my birthday on Wednesday and I gave her a final kiss. I'll see you later, or maybe not." Well, I'd like to think she listened, because Paul called us Tuesday night at simply said "945" and we knew her pain was over. Thank you Ma and thank you Jesus. Now she will be in Heaven with my dad where she's planned to be her whole life. And what a great life it was. Thanks Ma, we all love you and will miss you.

Ken Lewandowski - October 03, 2025 at 04:15 PM

“Ma, in addition to being an amazing person and mother, was a bit of an amateur philosopher. She didn't model herself after the philosophers of old: Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Descartes, et al. Ma was more along the lines of Yogi Berra (younger generations, Google him). We collected these nuggets of wisdom over the years and teased her that we would share them at her funeral. Sadly, here we are. Maybe these will brighten an otherwise somber occasion:

Ma-isms

- *It's a dry rain*
- *The school is closer at night*
- *It's in the script (whenever someone would ask why something seem completely out of place in a movie or TV show, people would ask: "Why dd they do that?"*
- *He's gonna end up dead then wonder why*
- *Upon entering the vitamin store: "What -brings you in today?" - response, "Vitamins"*
- *I'm almost only 3 cards short of a royal-flush*
- *I hope you don't have to go to the bathroom in heaven*
- *If you can't eat in heaven, then I am going to eat as much as I can now*
- *Me to Grandma: How was the party? Grandma's response: Interesting. ...pause... Well - maybe boring*
- *Chickens are different now*
- *Why do you keep the birthday candles in the freezer? So I know where they are at*
- *I don't know why they call it City Chicken... it's not chicken and it doesn't belong in the city*
- *I just do it so that you guys can get together and laugh at my funeral*
- *The rolls are hot. They are less calories that way. It burns 'em. That's my scientific opinion*
- *Hey ma. Where's the container with all of the scissors in it? "It's over there but without the scissors."*
- *Ma: What is that?*
- o *Me: Cuticle Cream*

o Ma: Oh! I could use some cuticle cream. What does it do?
- Oh! That reminds me of something... but I don't remember what it reminds me of
- When trying to start a new game, ma said; "If you have to know anything, I'm out"
- Grandma, do you want cheesecake or ice cream? Grandma: Whaddya mean, "or"?
- When asked about what the movie "Courageous" was about, Ma replied: "Courage"
- Upon hearing that the food at a funeral luncheon was BBQ because the deceased liked BBQ, Ma asked, "Why are they having BBQ, he's not going to be there."
- From the woman who falls asleep with:
o pen in hand and head up white laying on her stomach
o finger on phone
o sitting, eating, breathing...
o "That's the one thing that makes me fall asleep, reading"
- While talking with Renee on the phone, 'I texted you something...in my mind'
- When you start counting chickens, that's when you lose
- Look at this paper, perfectly rectangular
- I drink better at night

Mark J Lewandowski - October 03, 2025 at 12:11 PM

IS

Margie my dear friend. I missed your special day today and that saddened me but it made me glad that you are in God's loving arms pain n free finally and looking down at your your loved ones, family and friends. You were in my heart today and that is where you'll always stay. Say hi to AL for me. All my love always, Irene

irene scaglione - October 06, 2025 at 05:16 PM

“ What is a Mother?

That line has been in my head as a title for whatever I would say about Ma after her passing since the day I saw it on a greeting card and bought it for her birthday. Ma was known by many names: Ma, Marge, Margie, Polack, “MA!!!” (very loud), and ‘What’. For those who didn’t know, Ma was hard of hearing her entire life which, some say helped her to raise 5 boys born within a 7 year span. So, in our case, “What is a mother” has always been a statement of fact.

In Ma’s case, being a mother meant: loving, disciplining, teaching, and being an example for her kids and anyone else who ever crossed her path and was a witness to her life. She did not have an easy life. Her mother (Grandma Helen) passed away when she was just 5 years old. Her brother Lawrence died at the age of 11 when Ma was just 13 years old. She knew bitter loss from a very young age but what helped her get through it all was what defined her life: her faith. Ma had faith in God and his plan for her no matter what life would throw at her. She also believed and prayed for everyone to have that faith as well – that, no matter how painful life can be, if you trust in God, you will be rewarded in the end.

Now, she certainly had many joys in life. One of the biggest was meeting and marrying dad. Looking at their wedding pictures, we would joke that dad had (sorry dad) “outkicked the coverage” when it came to marrying Ma. Ma saw in dad the kindest, most gentle, and faithful soul who shared her faith. They also shared a dedication to the Blessed mother which showed up so many times in their lives.

1) Their wedding date was October 13, 1962 – 45 years to the day from the Miracle of the Sun which occurred in Fátima, Portugal on October 13, 1917

2) Her son Bob married his wife Jonnie on May 13, 2011 – the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima

3) Dad, near death on March 24, 2010, passed away just minutes

after midnight on March 25th – the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

4) Her son Ken suffered a subarachnoid hemorrhage on October 13, 2012 on what would have been their 50th wedding anniversary – 95 years since the Miracle of the Sun

With that happened to Ken on their 50th anniversary, something that was likely to kill him instantly, I was driving Ma to the hospital that day right after it happened. I was angry. How could God do this to him (and to Ma) at all, let alone on this day. It was like a cruel joke God was playing on Ma – toying with her life. She could see my anger (I don't hide it well). She told me that everything would be ok. That it happened on that day was a blessing. She, through her faith, knew that he would be ok. She was incredibly calm. Her faith that day strengthened my faith that day immeasurably.

Ma taught multiple Bible classes for many years and people I had never met would stop me and tell me how great she was at it. Anyone who knew her knew that she was not one who necessarily wanted to be noticed or to be the center of attention. So, I asked her how she got started teaching these classes and how she knew what to do. This is not something to do if you are just going to 'wing it'. She said that she had no idea what she was doing. I think she herself started using the Jeff Cavins Bible Timeline for her own faith enrichment and she said that she felt that she needed to share it with others. She felt that she had been called and she followed the call.

Ma also brought God's Word and the Eucharist to people in nursing homes who were physically unable to attend Mass. She was active in any way she could be until the cancer made it impossible for her to continue doing so.

Ma loved spending time with her family. She loved to play cards (pinochle, fast rummy, euchre, etc.) and other games. She was a fierce competitor which rubbed off on us. Poor dad didn't stand a chance in cards most of the time because we always played to win.

(continued on the next post)

Mark J Lewandowski - October 03, 2025 at 10:53 AM

ML

“ (Continued)

A large part of her was her playful and, sometimes goofy, side. She was riding the larger coasters at Cedar Point just 2 years ago at the age of 81. Watching Ma watch TV was usually more entertaining than whatever was on TV. Her changing facial expressions are legendary. Bob and Jonnie took her to Italy a few years ago and tour guides and others were loving watching her expression change with everything that they would say. Even through the excruciating pain of her cancer, she would be writhing and crying in pain but would, in the middle of it, ask my wife Michele: “What’d you get on Wordle today?”. She could be in that same writhing pain when I would offer her a hot cinnamon Zotz (her ‘medicine’). She would get a big smile and say: “Ooh yeah!”.

What she wanted more than anything was for all of her family (and EVERYONE else) to share in the joy of Christ and the Faith of the Church. That is certainly the legacy she left for me and my family. I pray that you all find this as well.

I love you Ma. You will be dearly missed. We will love each other through life’s difficulties and be kind to each other because that is what you taught us and showed us through your faithful example. Rest in the peace of Christ (and say hi to dad for us).

Mark J Lewandowski - October 03, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Lewandowski.



October 02, 2025 at 07:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark J Lewandowski - October 02, 2025 at 05:36 PM

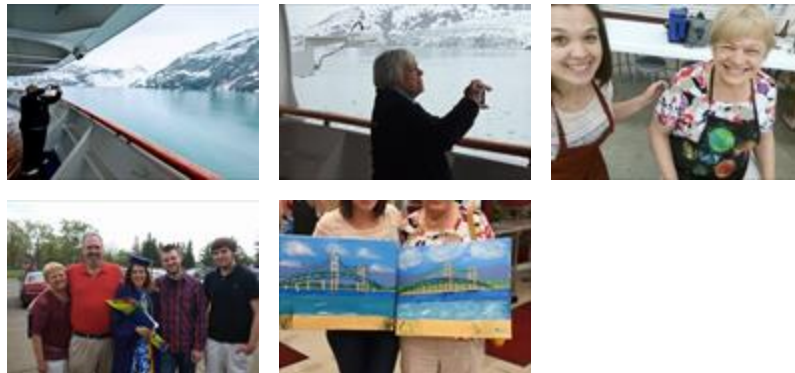


Sanctioned 300 game on March 30th, 1972

Mark J Lewandowski - October 02, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Family



Mark J Lewandowski - October 02, 2025 at 03:29 PM

ML

“ 192 files added to the album *Family*



Mark J Lewandowski - October 02, 2025 at 07:33 AM