



## Donna Van Goethem

July 16, 1935 - October 11, 2023

NORWAY- Donna Mae Van Goethem, age 88, of Norway, passed away Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at her home in Norway.

She was born on July 16, 1935 in Norway, the daughter of the late Richard and Anna (Bertoline) Faull.

Donna graduated valedictorian of Vulcan High School in 1953 and continued her education at the Gale Institute of Business.

She married Gerald Van Goethem on November 14, 1953 in Incarnation Church in Minneapolis, MN. Together they enjoyed spending winters in Port Charlotte, FL for over 25 years.

Donna taught vocal music at Norway Elementary School for several years and was the St. Mary's Church organist for over 30 years.

She was a member of St. Mary's Church, and choir, also Oak Crest Golf Course.

Donna enjoyed sewing, was an avid book reader, a walker for many years, care giver to her parents and others, was a great cook and a champion for her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years Jerry; sons Rick (Aimee) Van Goethem, Jeffery (Karen) Van Goethem and Daniel (Linda) Van Goethem; daughter Carol Ann (Peter) Angeli; grandchildren Michael, Ryan, Vinny, Kaycie, Zack, Chaia, Leah, Abby, Bethany, Joey, Stewart and Anais; great grandchildren Jackson, Lila, Holden, Molly, Lincoln, Miles, Leo, Scarlett, Carolina and Brooklyn; sister Betty Faull-Zeni; brother-in-law Jerome Pancheri; many nieces and nephews.

Donna was preceded in death by sisters-in-law Aileen Pancheri and LaVerne Olson; brothers-in-law Richard Olson and Dr. Byron Zeni.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 15 from 4-7 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, October 16 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Norway with Fr. Marty Flynn, officiating.

Interment will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **15**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home  
618 Norway Street  
P.O. Box 155  
Norway, MI 49870  
(906) 563-5700  
[ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com](mailto:ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com)  
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church  
401 Main Street  
Norway, MI 49870

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ Hello Jerry: Donna was an Angel and a Great lady on earth and now she is an Angel and a Great Lady in heaven. Sorry for your loss but Donna will never be forgotten. I will remember her smile and kindness at the church choir and at Nora's Grocery!!

All the best to you and your family.  
[jnora@workplacetransform.com](mailto:jnora@workplacetransform.com)

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Jack Nora - October 26, 2023 at 10:25 AM

MG

“ Prayers of sympathy and comfort to Donna's family. She was two years ahead of me at Vulcan High School, always exuding the confidence and poise I so envied. A beautiful person: our loss, heaven's gain. The suffering has ended, the cup emptied only to be filled at heaven's banquet. Once more, the best of wine has been saved for last. Amen.

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Mary Jean Giesen-Smith - October 18, 2023 at 02:08 PM

JP

“ Jerry Pancheri lit a candle in memory of Donna Van Goethem



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jerry pancheri - October 16, 2023 at 01:22 PM

BA

“ *Brian & Cheryl Adams lit a candle in memory of Donna Van Goethem*



**Brian & Cheryl Adams** - October 15, 2023 at 05:53 PM

MM

“ *Mary McCarthy-Bray lit a candle in memory of Donna Van Goethem*



**Mary McCarthy-Bray** - October 15, 2023 at 05:43 PM

GF

“ *Gary & Ada Bertoline and family. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



**Gary & Ada Bertoline and family.** - October 14, 2023 at 06:35 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



October 13, 2023 at 11:01 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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October 13, 2023 at 02:28 PM



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

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October 13, 2023 at 02:28 PM



“ *Dear Jerry and Family,  
We were deeply saddened to learn of Donna's passing. Sending heartfelt condolences and love. Donna was a beautiful lady inside and out. She was the epitome of grace and kindness. We will be praying for strength, peace and comfort for you and your family.  
Love,  
Nancy Salina Lusardi  
Larry Salina*

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**Nancy Lusardi** - October 13, 2023 at 12:41 PM



*Sylvia and I are sadden by her death. We so enjoyed breakfast with her and you and missed you both after you left Port Charlotte. We will pray for you and your family and wish you the best in dealing with heartaches this brings to you.*

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**Mathias Felber** - October 14, 2023 at 02:52 PM

BB

*Jerry and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Donna was a lovely lady and next door neighbor, always saying hello and stopping by from time to time to check on my mom. She will be especially remembered by me for her musicality having kindly accompanied Maria at my Grandma Van Eynde's funeral with the "Ave Maria". May she rest in peace.*  
*Barbara Benzie*

Barbara Benzie - October 16, 2023 at 12:06 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.



October 13, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.



October 12, 2023 at 07:43 PM

JS

“ JB and Carol Sanford purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Donna Van Goethem.



JB and Carol Sanford - October 12, 2023 at 07:40 PM

RF

“ *Ron and Nancy Whitehead and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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**Ron and Nancy Whitehead and family** - October 12, 2023 at 05:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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October 12, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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October 12, 2023 at 10:40 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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October 12, 2023 at 06:31 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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October 11, 2023 at 11:00 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donna Van Goethem.*



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October 11, 2023 at 08:53 PM



“ *Words cannot begin to explain the love I had for you. I'm forever grateful to call you my Grandma. You were such a joy and loving person to be around. You constantly warmed my heart. I'll never forget all of our previous memories together, including the summer days I would stay at your house when I was a child, you buying me toys (some Dan and Linda would not have approved of) and ice cream, staying in your condo in Florida, bringing me to church, showing me how to use the piano, and so much more. You knew how to always brighten my day. I'll love you forever. I will see you again in the afterlife. God is proud of you and all of the families/people you created, including myself.*

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**Zachary Joseph** - October 11, 2023 at 07:18 PM