



Joanne S. Whalen

March 18, 1941 - May 6, 2025

Albany-Joanne Marie Snyder Whalen, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt, nurse, musician, poet, and friend, entered into eternal life peacefully surrounded by her family on May 6. She was the devoted wife of 62 years to Dr. Michael B. Whalen and a cherished mother to Dr. Elizabeth Whalen (Dr. Peter Duffy), Michael (Molly) Whalen, and Maura Whalen (Michael Creaser).

Joanne was a loving grandmother to Annabelle, Declan, and Johanna Duffy; Clara, Michael, and Joseph Whalen; and Liam, Justin, Gavin, and Brendan Creaser. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Denis Whalen, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Elizabeth McCarthy Snyder and Frank W. Snyder; her brother, Frank Snyder Jr.; her sister, Marcia (Russell) Snyder Hawthorne; her nieces Terry Hawthorne Nan, Jennifer Joanne Hawthorne, and Mary Ann Allen; her brother-in-law, Hon. Thomas Whalen; and her sisters-in-law, Carolyn (John) Gaynor and Mary Pat (Thomas) Devane.

Born in Albany and a proud fifth generation Albany resident, Joanne was a graduate of Vincentian High School and the Saint Peter's Hospital School of Nursing (Class of 1963). In 1991, she earned a bachelor's degree in English and Anthropology from the State University of New York at Albany. Joanne

worked as a staff nurse on the float team at St. Peter's Hospital, balancing her professional work with the joy and responsibility of raising her three children in Albany. She also volunteered with the Medical Auxiliary, contributed to the American Red Cross, and taught English as a Second Language to hospital staff. She was a parishioner of Mater Christi church and had a special devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux.

In addition to her nursing career, Joanne was a gifted classical/flamenco guitarist and a published poet, authoring three books of poetry. She was a proud member of the W.W. Writing Group, finding deep connection and inspiration among its members.

Joanne was passionate about travel and adventure. She and her husband-high school sweethearts, began their married life together in Galway, Ireland, in the mid-1960s and lived there for 4 years while Mike studied medicine. Their shared love of music—especially jazz—infused their marriage and family life. Joanne also found joy and serenity on Anna Maria Island in Florida, the Florida Keys and enjoyed many travels to the Caribbean, Spain, Italy, Greece, Morocco, Mexico, Hawaii. She especially loved spending time at her family's cottage on Schroon Lake, where she loved passing afternoons on her porch, appreciating a gentle breeze and gathering strength from the mountains. During the pandemic, she created joyful memories for her grandchildren by hosting socially distanced "pink martini" dance parties in her backyard.

Joanne cultivated very special relationships with all her family and many friends, and particularly her ten grandchildren. She was interested and invested in all they did and was famous for her Sunday night texts- individual and creative messages for each grandchild which brought much joy. Joanne's wit, intellect, and unshakable love for her family shaped the lives of everyone who knew her. She inspired a passion for lifelong learning, creative

expression, and adventure. Her family is deeply grateful for the legacy of love, humor, and wisdom she leaves behind. She will be missed beyond measure, and her memory will continue to guide and uplift those who loved her.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Joanne's family Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Parish of Mater Christi, 40 Hopewell Street (Rev Kenneth J. Doyle Way), Albany, NY 12208.

Her funeral Mass will follow at 12:00 pm.

The Rite of Committal will be held in St. Agnes Cemetery Menands, NY immediately following the Mass.

Those wishing to remember Joanne in a special way may send a contribution to Breakthrough T1D to support research and efforts for Type 1 Diabetes at www.breakthrough1d.org.

To leave a message for the family or view other helpful services please visit www.mcveighfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Funeral Mass

MAY 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall

JC

“ We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Joanne. During the 1960's Mike and Joanne came to Salthill, Galway, Ireland. While Mike was attending University College Galway they rented a house from my parents.

I was a child then but still have fond memories of Joanne. She was always very kind and loving and in particular she shared a comradery with my mother who was also a nurse.

In the intervening years we met with Mike and Joanne on a couple of occasions and they never changed a bit.

Deepest sympathies to Mike and all of the family.

Anne and Jarlath Conneely

Jarlath P Conneely - May 20, 2025 at 12:40 PM

SG

“ Sending love from the Duffys in Galway purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.



Sending love from the Duffys in Galway - May 13, 2025 at 08:13 AM

SP

“ Dear Dr. Mike Whalen,
I am surprised and saddened to learn of your sudden loss of your dear wife, Joanne. May her soul rest in peace with God Eternal. May you be blessed with good health, patience and fortitude to sustain you during this difficult time. It's important to remember that God knows best as His Will must be done. May your path in life be bright with His Light. May new experiences allow you to stockpile many happy and lasting memories. You and Joanne are in my prayers.

Your friend and neighbor,
Sam Piccolino
little white house on corner
725 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208

Sam Piccolino - May 12, 2025 at 07:40 PM



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

May 12, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.



May 12, 2025 at 10:42 AM

TM

“ Tara, Darragh Hannah and Toby McMoreland purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.



Tara, Darragh Hannah and Toby McMoreland - May 11, 2025
at 04:31 PM

TH

“ The Hinchens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joanne S. Whalen.

The Hinchens - May 11, 2025 at 11:41 AM

TH

“ The Hinchens purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.



The Hinchens - May 11, 2025 at 11:41 AM

BC

“ Betty, Gail & children purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.



Betty, Gail & children - May 10, 2025 at 02:48 PM



“ - *The Phelans purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.*



- **The Phelans** - May 10, 2025 at 11:47 AM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.*



May 10, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.*



May 10, 2025 at 07:33 AM



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

May 10, 2025 at 07:33 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.*



May 09, 2025 at 09:17 PM



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

May 09, 2025 at 09:17 PM



“ *The Flanagan Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.*



The Flanagan Family - May 09, 2025 at 05:33 PM



“ *Michael Whalen and Family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time.*

robert britton - May 09, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ *I remember Joanie fondly. We went to grammar and high school together and she was a terrific and popular schoolmate. Betsy and I will say a special prayer for her and for you, Mike, and your family.*

Paul Sullivan - May 09, 2025 at 09:37 AM

AD

Our deepest sympathy to Mike and family. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Anne and Gary DeSormeau

Anne DeSormeau - May 09, 2025 at 10:16 AM



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

May 09, 2025 at 07:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Joanne S. Whalen.



May 09, 2025 at 07:55 AM