



*God saw she was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be,  
So He put His arms around her  
And whispered "Come with me."*

*With tearful eyes  
We watched her suffer  
And saw her fade away  
Although we loved her dearly,  
We would not make her stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.*

*In Loving Memory Of*

## **Mary Josephine Bitzer**

*October 3, 1926  
Hoven, South Dakota*

*January 27, 2015  
Gettysburg, South Dakota*

**WAKE SERVICE**

*7:00 p.m., Friday, January 30, 2015  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota*

**MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

*10:30 a.m., Saturday, January 31, 2015  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota*

**OFFICIATING ~ Fr. Jerry Kopel**

**LECTOR ~ Corey Brown**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER ~ Jim Bitzer**

**PLACING OF THE PALL "Daughters" ~ Lexie Hilmoe, Mary Lynn Brown,  
Kathy Rost, Liz McGuire, Michelle Vogel**

**GIFT BEARERS "Sons" ~ Jim Bitzer, Bob Bitzer, Tom Bitzer**

**ALTAR SERVERS ~ Reagan Brown and Braxton Beringer**

**CASKETBEARERS "Grandsons" ~ Corey Brown, Ryan Brown, Matt Hilmoe,  
Gabe Hilmoe, Jon Rost, Nick Rost, Jason Bitzer, Josh Bitzer, Travis Bitzer,  
Adam Bitzer, Tony McGuire, Andy McGuire, Lucas Vogel**

**HONORARY CASKETBEARERS "Granddaughters" ~ Sarah Yost,  
Angie Cedarstrand, Christie Brown-Munoz, Kacey Rost, Jessie Rost,  
Kari Taggart, Kelli Rhodes, Brooke Ruis, Annie McGuire,  
Maggie McGuire, Erika Rausch, Jenna Vogel**

**VOCALIST ~ Lexie Vogel**

**HYMNS ~ "How Great Thou Art" "Be Not Afraid"  
"Ave Maria" "Song of Farewell" "On Eagle's Wings"**

**INTERMENT**

*Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery  
Gettysburg, South Dakota*

**Mary J. Bitzer**, 88, Gettysburg, passed away Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Avera Oahe Manor, Gettysburg.

Mary Josephine Baus was born October 3, 1926 at Hoven, SD to William and Gertrude (Flock) Baus. She attended grade school and high school in Hoven. Mary continued her education at Northern State Teachers' College in Aberdeen where she obtained her teaching certificate. She taught in the Hoven and Tolstoy area country schools.

On February 18, 1950 she was united in marriage to Vincent H. Bitzer at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Hoven. They made their home in Tolstoy where Mary kept very busy raising their 8 children. She also worked as a substitute teacher and substitute mail carrier & postmaster. On December 17, 1977 Mary was appointed as the Tolstoy Postmaster and she remained in this position until September 02, 1988 when she retired.

Mary and Vincent remained in Tolstoy until 2004 when they moved to Gettysburg. In April 2013, they entered the Oahe Manor. Vincent passed away on January 28, 2014 and Mary remained in the Oahe Manor until her passing.

Mary enjoyed spending her spare time: bowling, playing golf, doing crosswords and jumbo puzzles, playing scrabble, and quilting. She was also a great cook and baker and loved to share all of this with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren whom she treasured spending time with. Mary was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the National Postmaster Association and the Legion Auxiliary.

Mary's life will be cherished by her children: Lexie (Dennis) Hilmoie of Coon Rapids, MN, Mary Lynn (Ken) Brown of Gettysburg, Kathy Rost of Springfield, OR, Jim (Kathy) Bitzer of Seneca, Bob (Kathy) Bitzer of Denver, CO, Liz (Rick) McGuire of Lake Preston, Tom (Kari) Bitzer of Loveland, CO and Michelle (Rick) Vogel of Gettysburg; 25 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; one brother, Dick (Carol) Baus of Redfield and one sister-in-law, LaVonne (Philip) Vik of Sioux Falls.

She was preceded in death by her husband Vincent in 2014; her parents; son in law, John Rost; two grandchildren: Jared and Jeffrey Bitzer and eight siblings.



Gettysburg, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)

