



## Josephine A. Syrjanen

October 19, 1922 - October 22, 2020

Josephine Antoinette Syrjanen, 98, of Florence, passed away on Oct. 22, 2020 at Dickinson County Hospital from complications of Covid 19. Josephine was born at the family home in Iron Mountain on October 19, 1922, the first child born to two Italian immigrants, Leonardo and Addolorata (Antonucci) Altobelli. Her parents named her for two Saints: Saint Joseph and Saint Anthony. Josephine was raised in this area and graduated from Iron Mountain High School. She married the love of her life, Leo F. Syrjanen, in Iron Mountain on August 12, 1942. Leo Preceded her in death in 2003.

Josephine was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Florence. She was active in the Alter Society, Ministry of Prayer, Christian Mothers and the Daughters of Isabella. She was also a member of the Iron Mountain Paisano Club and the Finnish American Roja Ryhma. Over the years, she has been very active, enjoying bowling, cross country skiing, reading, dancing to Glenn Miller's "In the Mood," playing cards and birthday club gatherings. Josephine was an avid Green Bay Packer fan and secured season tickets for the family in the Vince Lombardi days. She was very proud of her Italian heritage and was an excellent cook, baker and pasta maker. She also had an impeccable sense of style. Josephine had a strong faith in God and deeply loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. In addition to her mother, father and husband, she was preceded in death by her mother and father-in-law, Hilda and Frank Syrjanen; brothers, Arthur (Bernice), Americo (Arlene)

and John Altobelli; brother-in-law, Charles (Esther) Syrjanen; sister-in-law, Evelyn Clarke; niece, Jeanne Syrjanen; and nephew, Ramon Altobelli.

Josephine is survived by her children, Michael (Eric Kugelman) Syrjanen of Chicago, Frederick (Barbara) Syrjanen of Waukesha, WI, Jeffery (Staria) Syrjanen of Crystal Falls, Merry Beth (Gregg) Gerschke of Richfield, WI and David (Terry) DeMuri of Crystal Falls; grandchildren, Erik (Erin) Syrjanen of Carmel, IN, Kristen (Travis) Krans of Hartford, WI, Lee Allyn (Laura) Syrjanen of Chicago, Joy Ling (Tony Han) Syrjanen of Lake Orion, MI, Geoffrey (Olivia Boyle) Gerschke of Chicago, Annelise Gerschke of Chicago, Kate Kugelman of Chicago, and Suzy (Jake) Armstrong of Chicago; and great-grandchildren, Kai and Kira Syrjanen, Florence Krans and Isaac Armstrong. She is further survived by a sister-in-law, Rena Altobelli; a brother-in-law, William Clarke; nieces, Jodie Kay (Susan Kirkham) Altobelli, Therese (Michael) Seda, Paula (John) Baker and Lynne (Leon) Sutherland, Sue Ann Overby; nephews, Michael (Janice) Altobelli, James (Karen) Altobelli, Dan Altobelli, Tony Altobelli, Dean Altobelli, Steve (Debbie) Altobelli and Billy Clarke; many great nieces, nephews and cousins in the United States, Switzerland and Italy; and her grand-dog, Noelle. She was the deeply loved matriarch of her family and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Visitation will be from 9:30 am - 11:00 am on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Florence, WI. A memorial mass will follow at 11:00 am at the church with Fr. Robert Chinnapan officiating. Burial will be in Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

Memorials may be made in her memory to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Florence, PO box 166, Florence, WI 54121 Or Friends of the Florence Library, PO Box 440, Florence, WI 54121

Condolences to the family of Josephine Syrjanen may be expressed online at

[www.nashfuneralhome.net](http://www.nashfuneralhome.net).

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home and Cremation Services with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
308 Florence Ave.  
Florence, WI 54121

## Memorial Mass

MAY 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
308 Florence Ave.  
Florence, WI 54121

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Lynne, Leon, Connor, & Casey Sutherland purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Josephine A. Syrjanen.*



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**Lynne, Leon, Connor, & Casey Sutherland** - May 13, 2021 at 11:26 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine A. Syrjanen.*



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May 13, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine A. Syrjanen.*



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May 12, 2021 at 08:04 AM

AH

“ Wesley and I met Josephine and her friend Audrey at The Tavern on Central on fish fry Friday. We wound up sharing a table, and as we conversed Wes was interested to learn she had grown up on Iron Mountain's Nort' Side. He would mention one of the wonderful Italian musicians with whom he had played trombone over the years. Josephine was so excited! "He was my next door neighbor!" "He lived across the street!" After that, we made it a point to meet Josie and Audrey for fish when we were at Spread Eagle in the summer. We loved to hear her stories of growing up in Iron Mountain during that time. She was a lovely, gracious lady And we will miss knowing that she was part of the world that is Florence. We are grateful that we receive The Florence Mining News by mail, but so sorry to read that she has left us. We cherish our memories, and may yours also sustain you as you mourn. Dr Wesley L and Mrs Ann Hanson, Muncie Indiana.

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**Ann hANSON** - November 21, 2020 at 02:03 PM

ML

“ I am so saddened by this news. Jo was such a kind soul and soo empowering to be around. The way she shared her memories of the past was fascinating and I will truly miss our talks. I can only hope to gain the grace and motivation Jo had in life. She was by far the best neighbor I've had and although she is not my relative she holds a special place in my heart. Sending big hugs and lots of love to the whole Sryjanen Family. ♡♡♡♡

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**Meaghan LaChapelle** - October 31, 2020 at 08:43 PM

KP

“ With deepest sympathy on the loss of your beautiful mother! She was one classy lady! I remember her delicious meal she served our basketball team way back in the late 70's! And my many days working at Big Boy. She had a generous giving heart & so very proud of her family! Praying for God's peace to you all at the difficult time! Karen (Weber) & Dennis Podnar

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**karen Podnar** - October 29, 2020 at 07:58 PM

 Connie Davis

“ Sorry to learn of Josephines passing, I enjoyed her visits to the library. She was blessed to have kind and loving children and family.

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**Connie Davis** - October 29, 2020 at 07:55 PM

MC

Jo was a great lady. Back in the Big Boy days she was like a second mom to me and alot of others. She was always there when i needed her. Glad i got to run into her a few times in the last couple years and talk about the old days. My sincere sympathy to the family. Hope to see you all when there is a service.

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**mike carlton** - October 29, 2020 at 08:33 PM