



Betty Sue Letarte

July 29, 1948 - October 25, 2025

Betty Sue (Michalski) Letarte of Pickford, Michigan, died peacefully on October 25, 2025, in Flint, Michigan, at the age of 77, after a stroke. She was born a twin on July 29, 1948, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Stanley Joseph and Virginia Belle (Rice) Michalski.

Betty grew up on the Michalski Farm on Sand Ridge in Goetzville, Michigan. She attended Leaches School House and Raber Institute of High Learning through the 8th grade. Her education continued at Pickford High School, where she graduated with the Class of 1966. After graduation, she attended Lake Superior College. She met James A. Letarte, an airman in the Air Force stationed at Kincheloe Air Force Base and they married on October 10, 1970. They resided in the Upper Peninsula where they welcomed their daughter, Laurie Ann Letarte, then later moved to Chicago, Illinois. Betty worked in retail for many years; the majority of her working years were in sales at JCPenney's. She retired from JCPenney's in 2013, a few years later she moved back to Pickford where she bought her forever home and cared for her mother.

Betty was a devout Catholic, throughout her life she was a member of St. James Church in Chicago, Illinois, St. Peter the Apostle Church in Itasca, Illinois, and finally of St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in Goetzville, her childhood Church. She was also an instrumental part in the St. Vincent

DePaul and in the altar society through St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. Betty has always kept herself busy. She was a Girl Scout leader and a Den Mother for many years in Chicago. She was always volunteering for something at each of her churches. More recently she was a member of the Quilt Guild, and she had taken the training to work with Hospice, something she always wanted to do. Unfortunately, one of her previous strokes kept her from completely fulfilling that goal.

Betty loved gardening, cooking, baking, quilting, ice fishing, volunteering, shopping, keeping her house in impeccable shape, and helping those in need. Her biggest passion was her Catholic Faith.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Laurie (Mike) Maris of Marysville, Ohio; grandchildren, Andrew (Katie) Maris of West Mansfield, Ohio, Alexander Maris of Bellefontaine, Ohio, and Sydney (Jonathan) Downing of Marysville, Ohio; great-grandchildren Oaklynn, Audrey, and Emberly; mother, Virginia Michalski of Goetzville; siblings, twin-Barbara Pierce of Sault Ste. Marie, Thomas (Mary Jean) Michalski of Pickford, Richard Michalski of Raber, Michigan, and Beverly (Tim) Arman of Pickford; sister-in-law, Valerie Michalski of Copemish, Michigan; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Betty was preceded in death by her father, Stanley Michalski and brother, David Michalski.

Visitation will be held on November 9th, 2025, from 3:00 PM till 6:00 PM at Family Life Funeral Homes – Pickford. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on November 10th, 2025, at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 12841 E. Traynor Rd., Goetzville, MI 49736, beginning at 1:00 PM.

Burial will follow at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, in Goetzville.

Memorial Contributions can be made in Betty's honor to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 12841 E. Traynor Rd., Goetzville, MI 49736.

Cemetery Details

St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery

E Traynor Road
Goetzville, MI 49736

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **9**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church
12841 E Traynor Road
Goetzville, MI 49736

Tribute Wall



“ Love, The Maris Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Sue Letarte.

Love, The Maris Family - November 03, 2025 at 08:32 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Betty Sue Letarte.



November 03, 2025 at 08:32 PM



“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Betty's passing, sending my deepest sympathies to her family. I met Betty working with her at JCPenney and have many memories, may Betty rest in peace. Connie Stahlmann

Connie stahlmann - November 01, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ Betty was one of my favorite 1st cousins mainly because we were the same age. I have many good memories of us playing together on summer vacations, shocking peas in grandma's house, playing cards etc. But when I told Betty I was moving to Pickford 1 mile from her she was so excited, hugged me and said I love you. I was able to help her as much as I could in these past 2 years. She will be missed dearly 😭.

Loraine Jarman - October 29, 2025 at 07:53 PM

MH

“ I enjoyed meeting and working with Betty when she lived in Roselle. We were brought together because of Pampered Chef and became friends. She also helped me with furniture purchases at JCPenneys. Sending my sympathies to her family and friends.

Margaret Hay - October 28, 2025 at 06:39 PM

KP

My Deepest Sympathy to the Family of Bette. I have fond memories of Bette as I worked with her at JCPENNEY Woodfield Mall. Once I learned she was a Yooper Girl we had much to reminisce about. I was born in Crystal Falls. I came to Illinois when I married. My brother was from Manistique Michigan. So again we had a lot to chat about. I so enjoyed seeing pictures of Bette ice fishing after retirement. Bette was always a lovely person to share chats with. May she Rest In Peace in the Arms of Our Lord. 🙏🙏

Karen Parcels - October 28, 2025 at 08:24 PM