



Martha M. Pianalto

June 7, 1941 - June 1, 2026

Martha M. Pianalto, born June 7, 1941, passed away on June 1, 2026, in Springdale, Arkansas, surrounded by her two daughters, Annette and Janice. Martha leaves behind a legacy of love and generosity that will live on in all who knew her. She made life brighter wherever she went, and her warmth, compassion, and spirited nature touched countless hearts throughout Northwest Arkansas and beyond.

Born and raised in Tontitown, Arkansas, Martha was the oldest of five children born to Lawrence “Buster” and Lillian Granata. She was deeply rooted in her community and remained proud of her Italian heritage throughout her life. Martha was crowned Queen Concordia in 1956 at the annual Tontitown Grape Festival—an honor that reflected the grace, charm, and vibrant spirit she carried throughout her life.

She graduated from Springdale High School in 1959 and, after a few years in Southern California, returned home to work for her dear Aunt Alice Granata and Uncle Paul Leatherman at the Venesian Inn. This is where she learned the restaurant business that would one day become such an important part of her life.

Martha was a successful business owner and the proud force behind Martha’s Inn, a beloved restaurant that, at one time, grew to four locations across

Northwest Arkansas before her retirement in 1996. Through hard work, determination, and a gift for making people feel welcome, she built more than a business—she created places where people gathered, laughed, and felt at home. Everyone loved Martha, and it was easy to see why: she was generous, compassionate, and always ready to help anyone in need.

Martha's greatest joy in life was her family, especially her two daughters, Annette Drake and husband Mark, and Janice Swearingen and husband Jim, who were the center of her world. She also cherished her granddaughters, Martha Anne Hepler and husband David, and Alicia Werner and husband Zach, who brought her tremendous pride and happiness. She was also blessed to meet her three great-granddaughters, Harper Hepler, Cassia Hepler, and Sierra Werner.

A lifelong member of the Catholic Church, Martha's faith was a steady and meaningful part of her life. She carried that faith with quiet strength and expressed it through kindness, hospitality, and care for others. She also knew how to enjoy life fully. Martha was fun-loving and full of energy—she loved dancing, live music, and had a beautiful singing voice that was evident each week during Mass.

Among her many passions, Martha was an avid bowler, and one of her proudest achievements came in 1992 when she won the Arkansas State Team Bowling Championship. Even more special was the fact that she won it alongside her daughters and sister Carolyn, with the team representing Martha's Inn—a perfect reflection of the love of family, fun, and togetherness that defined so much of her life.

Martha was preceded in death by her father, Lawrence B. Granata; her mother, Lillian Cortiana Granata; and her brother, Tommy Granata.

She is survived by her sisters, Carolyn Bowen and husband Forrest, and Darlene Johnston and husband Dale; her brother, Bobby Granata; and her dear sister-in-law, Mary Alice Granata.

Martha will be remembered for her generous heart, her joyful spirit, and the way she made people feel welcomed and loved. Her life was a beautiful tapestry of faith, family, friendship, and kindness. She will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her and will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

Visitation will be held on Monday, June 8, 2026, at Sisco Funeral Chapel from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by a Rosary service.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Springdale, Arkansas, followed by burial at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Tontitown, Arkansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Raphael's Food Pantry.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

380 E. Fletcher Ave.
Springdale, AR 72762

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 8. 5:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 West Meadow
Springdale, AR 72764
(479) 751-4577
siscofuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.siscofuneral.com>

Funeral Mass

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Raphael Catholic Church
1386 S. W. End St.
Springdale, AR 72764

Tribute Wall

ST

“ I grew up at the bowling alley watching Martha bowl on Monday nights with my mom. I have to say she was one of my favorites out there. She and mom were good friends and I know they have reunited and are laughing over silly things they remember. R.I.P. Martha. Prayers for you Annette, Janice, and families

Shelley Skansen Turner - 1 hour ago

PF

“ Parker Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.



Parker Family - 2 hours ago

PF

“ Parker Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha M. Pianalto.

Parker Family - 2 hours ago