



## 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](http://www.siscofuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

380 E. Fletcher Ave.  
Springdale, AR 72762

# Previous 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

JH

“ Martha was such a fun beautiful person. My Mom Bernice Bland bowled with her on the Venetian Team in 1968. I have a few pics to share if I could get your contact info.  
Jan Bland Horton 478/787-8431

Jan Bland Horton - 12 hours ago

VS

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

Valerie S. - June 12 at 11:28 AM



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



June 08 at 01:43 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.



June 08 at 12:13 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.



June 05 at 06:41 PM



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

June 05 at 06:41 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.



June 05 at 05:02 PM



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

June 05 at 05:02 PM



“ Mallory and OC Team <3 purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.



Mallory and OC Team <3 - June 05 at 04:04 PM



“ *Mallory and OC Team <3 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha M. Pinalto.*

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**Mallory and OC Team <3** - June 05 at 04:04 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Jill Bowen** - June 05 at 10:28 AM



“ Some people come into your life and make you feel like family from the very beginning — that was Aunt Martha for me. She was one of the first people in Cory’s family to truly welcome us with open arms, and I’ll never forget that.

*She was precious, funny, fiercely protective, and full of love. I still laugh thinking about her telling me that if anyone ever hurt Levi, I just needed to let her know because Aunt Martha would “hunt them down and unalive them.” That was her — loving hard and protecting the people she cared about with everything she had.*

*She showed up for Levi too. She came to basketball games and joined Caroline at football games, cheering with those old-school chants that always made me smile. She loved him well, and she never missed a chance to tell me how proud she was of the young man he had become. Her encouragement and kind words meant more to me than she probably ever knew.*

*My heart is sad that she’s gone, but I also have peace knowing she is sitting with her Savior today. What a beautiful reunion that must have been.*

*She loved deeply, and she was deeply loved in return. Aunt Martha will be forever missed by our family, but never forgotten.*

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**Jill Bowen** - June 05 at 10:17 AM

LS

“ *Laura Williams (Bella Hair Salon) purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.*



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**Laura Williams (Bella Hair Salon)** - June 05 at 07:18 AM

LW

“ Sharing memories that will never be forgotten is the good days in the beauty shop. For many years for hairdressing I have had the honor and privilege to be apart of Mrs.Martha life along with feeling like she and her family has always treated me like family. Her favorite saying at the salon was.....  
“There isn’t anyone here but us chickens” forever she will be missed here on earth but am very lucky to have gotten to be apart of her over the last 20 years. Mrs.Martha always knew how to make anyone smile. Your hair will always be perfect now!!!

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**Laura Williams** - June 05 at 07:09 AM

LH

“ Love Gary & Deborah Hosman purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.



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**Love Gary & Deborah Hosman** - June 04 at 04:55 PM

LH

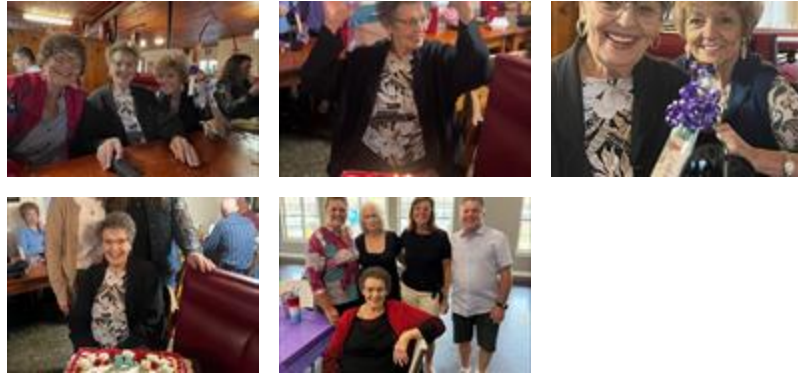
“ Love Gary & Deborah Hosman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha M. Pianalto.

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**Love Gary & Deborah Hosman** - June 04 at 04:55 PM



“ 5 files added to the album *Martha Memories Album*



**Sisco Funeral Chapel** - June 04 at 01:01 PM



“ *Queen Concordia 1956*



**Emily Pianalto Beshears** - June 04 at 12:47 PM



“ *From MARY CATHERINE NEIL AND FAMILY purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Martha M. Pianalto.*



**From MARY CATHERINE NEIL AND FAMILY** - June 04 at 12:38 PM

GS

“ Martha was one of the nicest people I ever met. I am so sorry for your loss family. Prayers for you 🙏

Glenda Stevens - June 04 at 11:31 AM

JF

“ sending love and prayers to the family. I have known her for years and worked with her for a long time at Venesian Inn. loved her smile and laugh. Jean Ferguson

jean ferguson - June 04 at 11:03 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Martha M. Pionalto.



June 04 at 08:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha M. Pionalto.

June 04 at 08:43 AM

HW

“ Martha was a wonderful lady. She liked having fun. She was beautiful inside and out. Sending prayers to her family. 🙏❤️🙏❤️

Holly White - June 03 at 09:51 PM

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 - June 03 at 07:03 PM

PF

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



Parker Family - June 03 at 06:41 PM

PF

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

Parker Family - June 03 at 06:41 PM