



## Judy Ann Whalen

February 10, 1950 - December 8, 2024

### JUDY ANN WHALEN

February 10, 1950 – December 8, 2024

Judy Ann Drozda Whalen, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home after a brief illness on December 8, 2024, surrounded by love. Born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania on February 10th, 1950, Judy and the Drozda family moved to Butte, Montana when she was still five years old. She was shaped by the beauty and resilience of her hometown, which nurtured her adventurous spirit and compassionate heart. Nineteen years later, Judy married her high school sweetheart, Harry Whalen on September 20th, 1969. Soon after, they welcomed two beautiful daughters Jacqueline and Cherie.

Judy had a zest for life that inspired everyone who knew her. She loved exploring the world, traveling with her late husband, Harry, to Italy, Greece, and Alaska, and fulfilling her dream of seeing the lighthouse at Peggy's Cove with her daughter Jackie and her most recent cruise to the Western Caribbean with her longtime friend Lana. Her passion for adventure was only rivaled by her joy in the little things: reading, crafting, hiking, walking, and listening to Elvis and Christian music.

A lifelong learner, Judy found joy in expanding her horizons. She earned a writing certificate from the Children's Institute of Literature and completed classes in business management, speedwriting, and art. Her creativity and

curiosity left a lasting impression on those around her.

Judy's motto, "One Day at a Time," reflected her unwavering positivity. She treated everyone with kindness and always saw the best in life. Family was her greatest treasure—her children and grandchildren brought her endless joy, and she cherished every moment with them.

Judy often said, "I'm not really gone; I just changed addresses." In her unique, lighthearted way, she would smile and add, "No sadness, because I think I just saw Elvis. Yes, it's him!" She would always remind Jackie that her nails needed to look pretty for this occasion - sure enough, Jackie did paint her nails (even though she was getting cremated).

Judy is survived by her daughters, Jackie Seitz (Mark) and Cherie Best (Scott); her grandchildren, Brett and Brooke Seitz, Brandon, Kyla, and Nicole Best; and her brother, Mick Drozda (Paulette). She is preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Harry Whalen; her mother, Pauline Saarela; her stepfather, Al Saarela; her father, Mike Drozda; In-laws: Betty and Tyke Whalen, John Whalen, Sister Betty Whalen, Emmet and Nellie Whalen. Her gentle spirit, humor, and endless love will remain in the hearts of all who knew her. Now, Judy is surrounded by the wildflowers and lighthouses she adored. She is our angel, watching over us with care.

Judy, thank you for the memories, the laughter, and the light you brought into our lives. We will carry your spirit with us, one day at a time.

Judy's family will receive friends beginning Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock in Holy Spirit Catholic Church where funeral mass will be celebrated at 2 o'clock.

Memorials in her memory may be made to:

- Cancer Hospice ([donate.cancer.org](https://donate.cancer.org))
- Children Literacy Program ([secure.rif.org](https://secure.rif.org))
- Mother Lode ([buttearts.org](https://buttearts.org))

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
3930 East Lake Drive  
Butte, MT 59701

## Funeral Mass

DEC 13. 2:00 PM (MT)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
3930 East Lake Drive  
Butte, MT 59701

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ All The Snyder Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Judy Ann Whalen.



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**All The Snyder Family** - December 13, 2024 at 01:00 PM

JB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I went school and the last cruise with her so much fun. May she rest in peace

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**jan Barkell** - December 13, 2024 at 12:14 PM

SM

“ Sisters Ruth Wagner, Nancy DeRenzo and Janet Milan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judy Ann Whalen.

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**Sisters Ruth Wagner, Nancy DeRenzo and Janet Milan** - December 13, 2024 at 10:58 AM

KA

“ I will miss seeing you at Sunday Mass. You were always so happy and full of life. You will be missed. Rest in Peace, my friend.  
Karla Ahlborn

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**Karla Ahlborn** - December 12, 2024 at 08:23 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Judy Ann Whalen.*



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December 11, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judy Ann Whalen.

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December 11, 2024 at 11:51 AM