



Raphaelene Zak

December 3, 1940 - March 20, 2025

Raphaelene “Rae” Zak, 84, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2025, at Bickford of Gurnee, surrounded by the love of her family. Born on December 3, 1940, in Chicago, IL, Rae lived a life filled with faith, kindness, and an unwavering dedication to her family and friends.

She was the beloved wife of the late Lawrence Zak and a devoted mother to Leonard Zak and Laura (David) Olsen. Her greatest joy came from being the world’s best grandmother to Hallie and Daniel Olsen, with whom she shared a special bond. She was also a cherished sister to Joseph DeSimone and Gloria DeSimone, and she was preceded in death by her parents, Maria and Tony DeSimone, and her brother, Nick DeSimone.

Rae spent many years as an assistant at Morgan Stanley (formerly Dean Witter), where she supported George Reichl and Andy Bury with diligence and grace. Beyond her professional life, she found joy in crocheting, playing bingo, painting ceramics, reading, and gathering with friends over coffee and movies.

Her faith was the cornerstone of her life. A dedicated member of Prince of Peace Parish, Rae was active in her church’s Bible study and prayer groups. She also volunteered at Open Arms Mission and participated in the Rosary at Victory Lakes, always eager to serve others with a compassionate heart.

Rae had a unique gift for making everyone feel special. She brightened every room she entered, her warmth and humor leaving a lasting impression on all who knew her. Fiercely devoted to her family, she was a constant source of love and support, particularly to her grandchildren, whom she adored beyond measure. In her eyes, they could do no wrong.

The world is a different place without Rae in it. She was an angel among us, a woman of boundless positivity and hopeful spirit. Though we will miss her dearly, we take comfort in knowing she is watching over us, her love enduring beyond this life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rae's honor to Open Arms Mission in Antioch, IL.

Memorial visitation will be 9 - 10 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Lake Villa, IL. Mass will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 28. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
135 S. Milwaukee Ave
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-7915

Funeral Mass

MAR 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
135 S Milwaukee Ave
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-7915

Tribute Wall

TB

“ We met Rae at Carillon North and were drawn to her friendly manner and gentle kindness. We attended a Bible study with her and her faith was evident in her lifestyle. God rest your soul, dear lady!

Teri Larry Bobko

Teri Bobko - March 26, 2025 at 02:30 PM

AW

“ My condolences to Rae's family. She was my neighbor and friend. I enjoyed my afternoon visits on her patio. She also included me in her "game day." A great lady. Will miss you. Alice Watkins

Alice Watkins - March 25, 2025 at 02:20 PM

J.

“ Rae, remember when Gloria, Nick and I used to tease you when you were about 10 and you packed your clothes and stood by the front door ready to leave but didn't because you wanted to say goodbye to Mom. Being good and helpful siblings we offered to tell her for you and encouraged you to leave. All of us were glad you stayed and brought joy and love to our family. You were a wonderful and loving Wife, Mother, Sister and friend to all that knew you. I will always remember the times we spent together at my home in Charlotte, NC. I've lost a sister and the angels have gained one. I miss you already.

Your loving brother Joe

JOSEPH A DESIMONE . - March 25, 2025 at 11:21 AM

YJ

“ Your loving brother: JOE purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Raphaelene Zak.



Your loving brother: JOE - March 25, 2025 at 11:15 AM

YJ

“ Your loving brother: JOE planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphaelene Zak.

Your loving brother: JOE - March 25, 2025 at 11:15 AM

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Your loving brother Joe

JOSEPH A DESIMONE . - March 25, 2025 at 11:07 AM

SE

“ Rae was a cornerstone of the Tuesday Morning Volunteers at Open Arms. She was such a hard worker, even when her body hurt. Yet she always found time to smile and tell us about the latest accomplishments of her grandchildren! We will miss her terribly, but we know she's watching over all of us. Rest in Peace, dear Rae!

Sheila Eisen - March 24, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Raphaelene Zak.



March 24, 2025 at 02:32 PM

DG

“ DeSimones, Monsons, Grants purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raphaelene Zak.



DeSimones, Monsons, Grants - March 23, 2025 at 11:53 PM

DG

“ DeSimones, Monsons, Grants planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphaelene Zak.

DeSimones, Monsons, Grants - March 23, 2025 at 11:53 PM

MA

“ Thank you Rae, for the years of volunteering with us here at Open Arms Mission Food Pantry. Your time and effort was greatly appreciated not only by your fellow volunteers but also by the community you served. "You will be missed."

Marytherese - March 21, 2025 at 02:05 PM