



Mary Rust Swisher

December 24, 2025

Mary Rust Swisher, our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away on December 24, surrounded by her family, following a brief illness with pneumonia. She was 91.

Mary was born to the late James and Drucilla Rust. She was married for more than 56 years to Lamar Swisher, until his passing in 2021.

She was a graduate of Columbia High School and the Episcopal Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia. Mary received a Masters Degree from Millersville University. She spent her career as a school nurse at Centerville Middle School.

After retiring, Mary and Lamar enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and Europe, spending time with friends, and—most of all—loving and caring for their nine grandchildren.

Mary is survived by her four children: Donna Brubaker (Scott), Mark Swisher (Terri), Jim Swisher (Mary Ellen), and Mary Ellen Kilp (Robert). She was the proud grandmother of Ryan Brubaker (Allison), Matthew Brubaker (Lian), Eric Swisher (Megan), Rebecca Swisher (Evan), Abigail Swisher (Jacob), Samuel Swisher (Megan), Adam Kilp (Sarah), Daniel Kilp (Anne), and David Kilp (Boranny), and the loving great-grandmother of Ellie, Amelia, Evelyn,

Emmeline and Levi.

Mary is also survived by her brother, Dr. James Rust, and his family.

She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Lancaster and worshipped at the Chapel of St. John's Herr Estates, where she lived and was active in the community.

Mary cherished cheering on and following her grandchildren's sports teams, and she rarely missed a game or performance, taking great joy in supporting them in all they did.

A member of the Lancaster Liederkrantz, she and Lamar were part of the founding members of the Alpenrose Schuhplattlers.

Friends and family are invited to a Funeral Mass at St. John's Episcopal Church, 321 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The family will greet friends following the service. Private burial will be in Wiconisco Cemetery. Please omit flowers. Donations can be made to St John's Episcopal Church. The service will be live streamed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@st.johnsepiscopalchurchlan91

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Mrs Swisher was the school nurse when I was at Centerville Middle School. I was in the club she had and spent time with her in the nursing office. She is the reason I became a nurse. I am sorry very sorry for your loss.*

Joanne (Moser) Bender

Joanne Bender - January 22 at 08:56 PM

AW

“ *To the Swisher Family,*

My heartfelt sympathy is with all of you. I count myself blessed to have been a part of Mary's remarkable life. As I embarked on my career at CMS, Mary offered so much love and encouragement. I saw firsthand how she cared for the students she served. Through the years, Mary continued to extend this love and encouragement as she welcomed us, the CMS "girls," into her home for her annual holiday celebration. Mary has left a lasting legacy to not only us, but to all of you. She always shared stories with all of us about her family, particularly all of her grandchildren. She loved you all so very much. I pray the rich memories will offer some solitude as you enter this new season of life. I rejoice with you knowing she is in the arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray His hand upon you for strength and comfort and pray your cherished memories bring healing.

In sympathy and love,

*Amy Waddington
CMS Friend and Colleague*

Amy Waddington - January 03 at 08:42 AM

AB

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Abigail - December 30, 2025 at 04:50 PM

DB

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Donna Brubaker - December 30, 2025 at 08:06 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Scott Brubaker - December 29, 2025 at 06:56 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences to the family. Mary was a lovely lady and an important confidant to my wife Des when they were working together at Centerville Middle School. Des learned a lot about parenthood from Mary and her experiences as a mother. We know that she and Lamar are once again together in Heaven dancing German dances. Rest in Peace Mary.*

Des and Tim St. Clair

Timothy J St Clair - December 29, 2025 at 01:18 PM



“ *Mary was a very warm, caring person, beautiful both inside & out. She will be missed by all who knew & loved her at St. John's. My condolences, Jane (Herchelroath) Kelec*

Jane Kelec - December 28, 2025 at 04:01 PM

RR

“ *Mrs. Swisher was my across the street neighbor as I was growing up in Columbia. When I would come home to visit my parents, if she was on her porch, I would pop over for a catch up. She was a kind and very sweet person. I’m so sorry for her entire family.*

Robbin Reinhart - December 28, 2025 at 10:17 AM

EP

“ *I will always remember my favorite cousin. She was kind and loving to me! I named my dolls Mary Catherine after her! I know she is having a wonderful time in heaven and I expect to see her again.*
Elaine Neagley Parvin

Elaine Parvin - December 27, 2025 at 02:39 PM