



Mary Martha Johnston

August 4, 1955 - May 6, 2026

Mary Martha Johnston, 70, of Indianapolis, passed away May 6, 2026. She was born August 4, 1955 in Logansport, Indiana to the late Hollis F. and Mary (Panagon) Johnston. Mary Martha was a graduate of Logansport High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music from Ball State University, and her Master's Degree in Music Education from Indiana University, Bloomington. Mary Martha began her career in teaching music with the Greensburg Community School Corporation. She then taught music at St. Joan of Arc School and was the Music Director at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, St. Mary Catholic Church and finally as Assistant Music Director for Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Mary Martha was felt blessed to be able to use the gift that God gave her which was music. She offered her music as a return gift to God from God's gift to her. She prayed that her music blessed others as well.

Mary Martha wishes to acknowledge her greatest friend and soulmate, Father Leo Piguet. In her words, "He was a mentor to me and was the person who gave me the most loving image of God that I wish everyone could experience. I wish people didn't have negative thoughts of God. Father Leo turned my image of God around and changed my spiritual life as an adult to a positive one."

Visitation will be Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 11:00 a.m. at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 North Meridian

Street, Indianapolis.

Mary Martha is survived by her sister, Diana Geisler; nieces, Alyssa Mead and Christy Geisler (Kyle); nephews, Hollis "Chip" Geisler (Heather), Richard Geisler (Maurissa) and Justin Geisler; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and several great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her nephew, Aaron Mohler.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Mary Martha's honor may be made to St. Mary's Legacy Fund and/or Ss. Peter and Paul Music Endowment Fund. Final arrangements and care are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Union Chapel Cemetery

8306 Union Chapel Road
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
1347 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
1347 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Tribute Wall

KR

“ My son Ivan has been taking piano lessons with Ms Mary Martha and absolutely adored her. He recently had his first ever recital with her and she was so very proud of him. She will be missed. Our condolences to your family. She was a very special lady. Rine family



Krista Rine - Yesterday at 08:21 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Martha Johnston.



May 11 at 10:25 AM

DB

“ Dear Diana ~ Sympathy in the loss of your sister



Debbie Baker - May 10 at 06:56 PM

MW

“*Mary Martha and I were close buds from babyhood: my name for her was Mewy Moffa. We were blessed to be cousins born a year apart. We traveled to Greece together twice, had secret words with our older cousins, played together at Nyona Lake every summer, and wrote letters whenever we were apart. Mary Martha taught me to use a sewing machine, how to play guitar, and how to pray in making music. Thank you, Mary Martha. Make lovely music there in heaven with your dad and with my dad. I love you. Marian*

Marian Hoke Whittaker - May 09 at 02:32 PM

JG

“*Mary Martha always a skilled pianist even in High School. An extremely capable and respected classmate. Her accomplishments are extraordinary. Deepest regrets to her family and friends.*
Dr James Gerni

James Gerni - May 09 at 01:49 PM

TH

“ I am very saddened to learn of Mary Martha’s passing. My sincere condolences to her family.

I had a phone call one afternoon from Mary Martha (btw, she was always Mary Martha and not just Mary) several years ago to tell me good-bye - the nuns had just performed a blanket ceremony which means you will die very soon. Well, she didn’t die and a few weeks later she called me from her home. A new medical protocol saved her life in the nick of time.

Mary went right back to making beautiful music and working very hard to do so. I know all the choirs she directed and parishioners who listened loved her talent.

I’ve known Mary Martha since I was 3 years old. We were in the same Sunday School classes at the Baptist Temple. From that point we both were in the same grade, many of the same classes in elementary, then junior high school and on through our high school graduation. (Mary Martha was quietly competitive - every evening after receiving our report cards that day, she’d call to kindly compare grades. Mary Martha’s were often better than mine). Since then we have remained dear friends.

There are many stories I could relate at this time, but they all prove the point that Mary Martha Johnston was a kind, loving, and giving person. Mary’s death leaves an empty space in the lives of many people - it will go unfilled as no one can replace Mary Martha. Aren’t we fortunate she passed our way.

Tim Herd

Tim Herd - May 09 at 01:23 PM