



Grace R. Distler

December 15, 1919 - November 4, 2025

Grace R. Distler, age 105, of Clarion, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at Clarion Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born on December 15, 1919 in Huefner to the late Edward M. and Pauline Schill Hartle.

Grace married Vernard J. Distler on August 19, 1941. They shared thirty-six years together until his passing on December 23, 1977.

She was the cafeteria manager at the Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Clarion, retiring after twenty-seven years.

Grace was a devout Catholic and a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion, where she was also a member of the Ladies' Guild and proudly served as eucharistic minister for the shut-ins. She was a loving mother, and her greatest joy was spending time with her family. Grace also loved to read, play cards, and make crafts.

She is survived by her children, Jeanne Melfi and her husband, Bill, of Elwood City, Nancy Gangle and her husband, Mike, of McKean, and Jim Distler and his wife, Shari, of Clarion; six grandchildren, Michelle Mazzant and her husband, Amos, of Texas, Bill Melfi, Jr. and his wife, Renee, of Cranberry Township, Mark Melfi and his wife, Melanie, of Ohio, Todd Melfi and his significant other, Christy, of Florida, Michael Gangle, Jr. and his wife, Rebecca, of Kansas, and Shari Roll of Florida; six great-grandchildren, Brandon Melfi, Kaitlyn Mazzant, Alexandra Foster, Hannah Oberle, Caden Melfi, and Ava Gangle; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her sister, Marie Cyphert, and her husband, Don, of Leeper, and several special nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Grace was preceded in death by her sister, Ruth Huefner, and her brothers, Bernard Hartle, George Hartle, and Morris Hartle.

Family and friends will be received from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 10, 2025 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Rev. Jason Feigh presiding.

Interment will follow beside her loving husband in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Grace's honor may be sent to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 720 Liberty Street, Clarion, PA 16214 or to a charity of one's choice.

Cemetery Details

Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery

Clarion, PA

Previous Events

Viewing

NOV 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home
638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-6300
<https://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

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638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
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Tribute Wall

JW

“ *Jeanne, Nancy and Jim,
Please accept my condolences on the passing of your mom. In my
memories of growing up in our neighborhood she was always
present, gracious and kind. Grace enjoyed a long, remarkable life
and will be missed by many.*
Jim Wilshire

Jim Wilshire - November 08, 2025 at 01:46 PM

LD

“ *Linda Dechant lit a candle in memory of
Grace Distler*



Linda Dechant - November 08, 2025 at 12:55 AM

AH

“ *Dear Aunt Grace. I will always remember your kindness, loving and
pleasant demeanor. While the miles have limited how often we
could visit, I always enjoyed when we were able to stop by and visit
with you and you always made us feel so welcome. You will be
missed.*

Al & Kathy Huefner

Al Huefner - November 06, 2025 at 03:03 PM

TB

“ Dear Nancy,
I saw your mother's obituary in the Clarion and wish to extend my sincere condolences to you on her passing. She lived an exceptionally long life, and I hope her last days were peaceful and comfortable. I always admired her courteous disposition and her intelligence. The world needs more people like her. Please take care and express my condolences to your family.
Tim Baum (timbaum46@hotmail.com)

Tim Baum - November 06, 2025 at 11:13 AM

DF

“ Don and Marie and Family purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Grace R. Distler.



Don and Marie and Family - November 05, 2025 at 03:09 PM

TF

“ The George Hartle Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Grace R. Distler.



The George Hartle Family - November 05, 2025 at 02:56 PM

TF

“ The George Hartle Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Grace R. Distler.

The George Hartle Family - November 05, 2025 at 02:56 PM