



Mary Cathleen "Cathy" Schanzer
January 7, 1952 – June 4, 2025





**Cathy Schanzer
Memorial Services**

Prayers, Music, and Mass

Church of The Epiphany, Sayre, PA



Prayers

Rosary
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Prelude Music

Beau Soir by Debussy
Vocalize by Rachmaninoff
Liebieslied by Kreisler
Clair de Lune by Debussy
Meditation by Glazinnoff
Melodie by Gluck
Song Without Words by Mendelssohn
Contemplation by Brahms

Mass

Opening Song	The God of All Grace
First Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:1-12
Responsorial Psalm	Ps. 23 The Lord is My Shepherd (S. Hart)
Second Reading	Romans 6:3-9
Gospel Acclamation	I am the Resurrection and the Life
Gospel	John 6:37-40
Preparation of Gifts	Divine Mercy Chaplet (1 decade sung)
Communion	Beautiful is Your Love Meditation from Thais by Massenet
Holy Water Blessing of Urn	Ave Maria by Bach-Gounod
Commendation	Go in Peace
Recessional	On Eagle's Wings Contemplation by Brahms Vocalize by Rachmaninoff Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven





**Cathy Schanzer
Memorial Services**



Prayers, Music, and Mass

**Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN
Church of the Holy Spirit, Memphis, TN
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Hitchcock, TX
Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey, Irving, TX
Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Serabu, Sierra Leone**

Readings, Intercessions and music selections for the choir may change at each location. The following music selections apply when Julie Schap is performing solo.

Prelude Music

Clair de Lune by Debussy
Reverie by Debussy
Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven
Somewhere in Time by Barry
Cristofori's Dream by Lanz
Mist by Davis
Simple Prayer, Snow Music by Schocker

Mass

Communion

Holy Water Blessing of Urn

Recessional

Meditation from Thais by Massenet
Ave Maria by Bach-Gounod
Intermezzo #2 & #4 by Brahms
Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven
Meditation by Jobim
Gymnopedie by Satie





Date: March 19, 2023

From: Sister Cathy Galaskiewicz
To: Cathy Schanzer

Subject: A Love Letter to
Cathy Schanzer

Dearest CS,

I write to you this morning in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world, who heals the blind man in today's Gospel. As I see him in praying this Gospel, He seems to ask me to write to you. So as a pencil in His Hand, here goes...



Dearest Cathy,

I have loved you with an everlasting love! I have called you into my service that I may continue to heal the blind and all with eye ailments, through your ministry. I have surrounded you and protected you with Tom who loves you totally and unconditionally, a man of strength and tenderness and talent given for you and for all in the path you walk together. You let me fill you with Me in the Eucharist. You let Me listen and care and heal people with compassion as well as great skill through you. You draw people to Me not seeking the glory for yourself. You are beautiful, attracting all who meet you, and soon they find themselves praying with you—be they Christian, Muslim, people of little faith or those who see themselves without faith. You help them discover their spiritual eyes as well as giving sight to their physical eyes. Well done, beloved Cathy!

I continue to walk the Way with you and Tom as you walk into the unknown future. My love continues to pour into your heart, my strength into your mind and body. In your healing ministry you have known communion with Me.





In your current feelings and suffering you are in communion with Me and all who suffer. In every person who loves you and cares, please see My love and care. You have been carried and will continue to be carried through them by Me. I am with you always... and that means forever.

Peace, beloved one.
With My love and thanks,
Jesus

(This Love Letter was sent to Cathy from her dear friend, Sister Cathy Galaskiewicz of Memphis, TN, a few days after her surgery and diagnosis for Glioblastoma.)





Cathy Schanzer Memorial Services

Readings

Reading #1 Ecclesiastes 3:1-12 A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew, a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.

Reading #2 Romans 6:3-9 A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.



Gospel: John 6:37-40



Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

INTERCESSIONS

The priest begins: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

Reader: In baptism Cathy received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Cathy was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.



Reader: Cathy's children, Daniel, Mary, Brian, Michael, Robert, Angela, Robyn, Patrick, and her husband Tom, along with other family and friends, seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that may come from their grief. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for Cathy. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

The priest then concludes: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb.

Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.





Remembering Mom by Angela Rainey

It's so hard trying to find the words to speak about such a wonderful mom. I will probably never understand why God blessed me by making her my mother. She was just the perfect mix of patience, kindness, forgiveness and unconditional love. I am so grateful to have been a part of her life. If not for God's plan, things could have been very, very different. As I reflect on our journey through life together, I am just so grateful that I got to be her daughter.

There are so many good memories, so many moments that I treasure. When I was in grade school, she made a deal with me that if I made the honor roll, she would take me horseback riding. Well I did my part and off we went. I remember being scared to death yet so excited! The trail leader put me on a very docile sweet horse named Peaches and for some reason decided to put mom on a crazy horse named Thundersocks. I'll never forget the sight of that horse taking off and a big trail of dust being kicked up as he carried her off down the trail a bit. She held on for dear life until the trail leader got everything under control. Here she was doing this really sweet thing and she had to ride on the crazy horse. It's one of my most favorite memories with her. I still laugh when I think about it, There are a lot of really sweet memories, countless ways she gave so much of herself for me and for our family. I can remember when she was studying for her boards and she would be taking us to school and flipping through those note cards at every red light. WE all remember the crock pot years..!! She made and decorated all of our birthday cakes. She was our barber and stylist. She made all of our Christmas and Easter clothes and was so clever and inventive making our Halloween costumes. I can still see her sitting at the table with fabric and patterns spread out all over it as she sewed. She gave so much of herself, her time and she poured a lot of love into our family.





While I was blessed with such a wonderful mother, she was blessed with a mess of a kid. She and I went through a lot of growing pains. As an adult I ended up working side by side with her. She taught me so much, not just about eyeballs, but about life, love, sacrifice and faith. When you're a child and mom can't be at the class party or has to leave early from a game or recital. You cannot understand why. When you get to see the other side, you see how the work she did affected other people's lives. You can see how the work she did made a difference. She had faith that God worked through her hands to restore sight. She worked tirelessly to help as many people as she could. She rarely turned down difficult cases. She would scour the literature, watch surgical videos and pray. Then she would go into that case as prepared as she could be and spend as much time as needed to get the best possible results. She didn't do it for fame or glory. She did it because she knew God brought that person to her for a reason. When patients would thank her, she would always say, "Give God the Glory!" She was so humble and she believed in doing God's work!





I think what I will miss the most about her is her unconditional love. Nobody loves you like your mom does. No matter what happened through my rough teenage years or through my rough adult years, she never ran out of patience or forgiveness. She told me all that time that she prayed for me every day. Just knowing that she did that was like having a warm security blanket wrapped around me. During difficult times, I would often just remind myself that everything was going to be ok because Mom was already praying about it. It taught me to trust God's plan and just give it over to him. She also told me that when you are dealing with difficult people, just choose to see the face of Christ and love people as Christ loves them. It's hard to be angry at people when you see Christ's face. She truly loved everyone. She lived her faith and it was such an honor to be able to witness that.

As sad as I am that she is gone from me, I am happy she is with Christ. I thank God that I was so blessed to have her in my life. Her memory will live on in all of us that were lucky enough to have known her.

1 John 4:8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

With Love and Appreciation,
Angie (Standing behind Mom)





Cathy Schanzer Memorial Services

Participants at CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, Sayre, PA

Rosary

1st Decade

Leah Reid*

2nd Decade

Elizabeth Reid*

3rd Decade

Shannon Craig*

4th Decade

Matthew Rossettie

5th Decade

Nico Rossettie

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Leah & Elizabeth Reid

*Leah, Elizabeth & Shannon were Mission Student Volunteers, joining Cathy Schanzer & Tom Lewis in Serabu during June 2023 & June 2024.

Prelude Music

Julie Schap (piano) & Andy Yu (violin)

Julie & Andy, from Memphis TN, have played numerous benefit concerts to support the mission work of Cathy Schanzer & Tom Lewis in Serabu Sierra Leone. Julie will participate in all USA Memorial Services.

Mass

Celebrant

Fr. Daniel Toomey

Organist

Larry Hoey

Cantor

Karen Garman

Sacristan

Stewart Rae

Gift Bearers

Damian & Pia Rossetti

Eucharistic Server

Deb Zurn

Eulogist

Tom Lewis

Usher

John Dugan

Livestream Technician

Rich Coveleskie

Opening Song

Church Choir

First Reading

Cindy Holdridge

Responsorial Psalm

Church Choir

Second Reading

Maureen Wright

Gospel Acclamation

Church Choir

Intercessions

John & Cathy Moliski

Preparation of Gifts

Karen Garman

Communion

Church Choir

Julie Schap & Andy Yu

Holy Water Blessing of Urn

Julie Schap & Andy Yu

Commendation
Recessional

Church Choir
Church Choir
Julie Schap & Andy Yu
Bill Hillyard

Reception Coordinator

Participants at DOMINICAN SISTERS OF ST. CECILIA, Nashville, TN
Contact Sister Mary Diana Dreger, OP

Participants at CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Memphis, TN

Celebrant	Fr. Mathew Panackachira
Prelude Music, 2 nd Communion, Blessing of Urn & 2 nd recessional	Julie Schap (piano) & Marcin Arendt (violin)
First Reading	Sister Cathy Galaskiewicz
Second Reading	Rick Alsobrook, OD
Intercessions	Deacon Werner & Provie Rose
Gift Bears	Pat & Barbara Caesar
Eulogist	Tom Lewis
Reception Coordinator	Beverly Kiestler

**Participants at OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH,
Hitchcock, TX**

Celebrant	Fr. Larry Wilson
Sacristan	Don LeCompte
Prelude Music, 2 nd Communion, Blessing of Urn & 2 nd recessional	Julie Schap
First Reading	Barbara Schanzer
Second Reading	Chris Wooley
Intercessions	Kathy Schanzer
Gift Bears	Tommy Schanzer & Johnny Schanzer
Server	Korbin Faulkner
Eulogist	Tom Lewis
Reception Coordinators	Tommy Schanzer & Barbara Schanzer



Participants at OUR LADY OF DALLAS CISTERCIAN ABBEY, Irving, TX

Celebrant	Abbot; Fr. Peter Verhalen, O. Cist.
Prelude Music, 2 nd Communion, Blessing of Urn & 2 nd recessional	Julie Schap
First Reading	Zachary Fernandes (Mission Student Volunteer to Serabu, 2024)
Second Reading	Juan Muldoon (Mission Student Volunteer to Serabu, 2005)
Intercessions	Fr. Paul McCormick, O. Cist.
Gift Bearers	Burk & Elise Murchison (Mission Volunteers to Serabu 2010)
Eulogist	Tom Lewis
Reception Sponsors	Burk & Elise Murchison

Participants at SUBIACO ABBEY, COURTY HOUSE, Subiaco, AR

Celebrant	Fr. Jerome Kodell
Prelude Music, 2 nd Communion, Blessing of Urn & 2 nd recessional	Julie Schap
First Reading	Cecilia Lewis
Second Reading	Leslie Ray Lewis
Intercessions	Nell Mazoch & Anne Henne
Gift Bears	Kathleen Fleming, Regina Lewis, & Rosemare Saldivar
Eucharistic Server	Michael Lewis
Eulogist	Tom Lewis
Facilitator	Linda Freeman

**Participants at SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH,
Serabu Sierra Leone**

Celebrant	Bishop Charles Campbell
Music	Sacred Heart Catholic Church Choir
First Reading	Mary Macarthy
Second Reading	Julius Simba
Intercessions	Mohamed Rogers
Gift Bears	Southern Eye Clinic Employees
Eulogist	Tom Lewis





In Memoriam: Dr. Cathy Schanzer

**David Paton Lecture
Presented By
Dr. Brenton Finklea, Director
Center for Academic Global Ophthalmology (CAGO)
Wills Eye Hospital
June 10, 2025**



I'd like to take a few minutes now to remember and honor the life of Dr. Cathy Schanzer — an exceptional ophthalmologist, a tireless humanitarian, and a beloved colleague, mentor, and friend. Over the past 10 years, Cathy has been close to many of the members of CAGO, and has touched the lives of nearly all the CAGO fellows.

Cathy devoted her life not only to the art and science of restoring sight but to the greater calling of restoring dignity, hope, and possibility. She traveled the world for years with a number of organizations, sharing her skills with those in need, until finding her second home in Sierra Leone where she was the co-founder of Southern Eye Institute in Serabu. Over the course of more than two decades, she helped build more than a hospital—she built a community and a family. Thousands received the gift of sight because of her unwavering commitment. But just as profound was her commitment to being present, to listening, and to walking alongside the people she served.

Cathy was not only a healer but a builder of people. She mentored countless young surgeons—many in this room—teaching not only surgical skill but what it means to serve with humility, joy, and grace. Fellows, Medical students, and volunteers who traveled to Serabu returned transformed. She made each person feel that their contributions mattered and that they, too, could be part of something larger than themselves.





What set Cathy apart was her rare combination of surgical excellence and deep compassion. She didn't just bring care to Sierra Leone—she became part of the community. She danced in village celebrations. She held hands in the clinic and prayed with her patients. She was not a visitor. She was family.

None of this would have been possible without her husband, Tom, by her side—her partner in every sense. Their bond was a testament to mutual devotion, rooted in shared purpose and faith. Together, they built bridges—between nations and between people.

Cathy's faith was her guiding light. In moments of joy and challenge, she lived by a quiet but unshakable belief in service, in mercy, and in the dignity of every person. Her faith shaped her work, her love, and her legacy.

Dr. Cathy Schanzer left this world far too soon, but she leaves behind a light that will continue to shine—in the patients who now see, in the students she inspired, and in all of us who were lucky enough to spend time with her. May her memory continue to guide our hands, soften our hearts, and strengthen our resolve to serve.

Thank you, Cathy. You will be dearly missed.





**Cathy Schanzer
Memorial Services**

Prayers, Music, and Mass

Sayre, Pennsylvania

June 24th 6 PM

Rosary and Reception
Lowery-Urban Funeral Home
225 S. Main St., Athens, PA 18810 | 570.888.2368
Funeral Director: Paul J. Urban

June 25th 2 PM

Memorial Service and Reception
Church of the Epiphany
304 S. Elmer Ave., Sayre, PA 18840 | 570.888.9641
Pastor: Fr. Daniel Toomey

Nashville, Tennessee

July 1st 6:45 AM

Community Mass
Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia
801 Dominican Dr., Nashville, TN 37228
615.256.5486
Contact: Sister Mary Diana Dreger, OP

Memphis, Tennessee

July 11th 10 AM

Memorial Service and Reception
Church of the Holy Spirit
2300 Hickory Crest Dr., Memphis, TN 38119
901.754.7146
Pastor: Fr. Matthew Panackachira, MCBS

Hitchcock, Texas

July 18th 10 AM

Memorial Service and Reception
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
10114 Highway 6, Hitchcock, TX 77563 | 409.925.3579
Pastor: Fr. Larry Wilson



Dallas, Texas

July 22nd 2 PM

Memorial Service and Reception
Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey
3550 Cistercian Rd., Irving, TX 75039 | 972.438.2044
Abbot: Fr. Peter Verhalen, O. Cist.

Subiaco, Arkansas

August 1st 10 AM

Memorial Service, Burial, and Reception
Subiaco Abbey, Courty House
405 N. Subiaco Ave., Subiaco, AR 72865
479.934.1001
Abbot: Fr. Elijah Owens, OSB

Serabu Sierra Leone

October 11th 11 AM

Memorial Service and Reception
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Next to Southern Eye Clinic, Serabu via Bo
232.76.502846
Bishop Charles Campbell
Preceded by two days of village activities





In Memory of Cathy Schanzer By Tom Lewis



Dr. Mary Cathleen “Cathy” Schanzer, age 73, of Athens, PA, died Wednesday evening, June 4, 2025, at home, in the arms of her husband, Tom Lewis, after a 27-month battle with Glioblastoma. Cathy is survived by her husband Tom, their eight children Patrick, Robyn, Angie, Robert, Michael, Brian, Mary and Daniel, and their families including 21 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Cathy was the third of eight children born to Luke and Ernestine Schanzer of Hitchcock, Texas.

Cathy loved life and loved being a wife, a mother, a doctor and a friend. She had a brilliant forty-year career as an ophthalmologist, performing many thousands of eye surgeries in Houston, TX; Memphis, TN; and Sayre, PA. She also had an extraordinary passion for mission work in Africa, where she performed over 10,000 eye operations and established a permanent charity eye clinic in the remote village of Serabu, Sierra Leone. Cathy’s mission work expanded beyond eye care to provide food, water, education, and community activities for culture, sports and faith sharing, to underserved, poverty-stricken people of West Africa. Cathy’s dream of mission work in Africa began when she was in the third grade and became a reality with her first mission expedition in 1988. During her 37 years of mission work, millions of lives have been impacted and Southern Eye Clinic of Serabu continues to be one of the busiest eye clinics in West Africa.

Cathy’s driving force for her zest of life was her love of God and her desire to be the serving arms of Jesus Christ. Cathy received numerous national and international humanitarian recognition awards for her mission work, including Catholic Doctor of the Year in 2024. She had a strong and studied faith, and maintained an active presence in the Catholic Church as a daily communicant, a Dame of Magisterial Grace of the Sovereign Order of Malta,





a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, a Third Order Dominican Associate, a member of numerous leadership committees for her church diocese and her church parish, and served as a Eucharistic Minister for Church of the Epiphany at Sunday Mass and their Hospital Ministry. She suffered greatly during her bout with brain cancer and offered all of her suffering as a prayer intention for her family and friends, that they may grow closer to Jesus Christ and His Church.

Cathy will be buried at Subiaco Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in Arkansas. Memorial Services for Cathy in Sayre PA include a community Rosary service on June 24th at 6 PM at Lowery-Urban Funeral Home (225 S. Main St., Athens, PA), followed by prayers and Mass on June 25th, beginning at 2 PM at Church of the Epiphany (304 S. Elmer Ave., Sayre, PA). Additional Memorial Services will be held in Nashville, TN; Memphis, TN; Hitchcock, TX; Irving, TX; Subiaco, AR; and Serabu Sierra Leone. For more information consult the website: Serabu.com.

Cathy's family requests mission donations in lieu of flowers. Please send donations to: Southern Eye Institute, P.O. Box 771317, Memphis, TN 38177. Southern Eye Institute is a 501C3 Charity Organization.









My happy thought
for any day...
is you!

I love you madly
I was in the bookstore getting
a card for Barb's birthday
& couldn't resist getting one
for you.
Take Care
All My Love,
Pat

1403 Mission #4
Houston, TX 77006



Tom Lewis
8509 San Fernando Way
Dallas, TX 75218