



Mary Esther Richter

March 23, 1938 - May 11, 2025

Funeral services for Mary Richter are scheduled on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pin Oak, Texas with Father Javier Toscano officiating. Burial will follow in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. A Rosary will be held before the service at 10:00 a.m.

Mary Esther Richter, age 87, passed away on Sunday, May 11, 2025, at Crossroads Senior Living in Conroe, Texas. She received the ultimate Mother's Day gift when the Lord called her home that morning, surrounded by family.

Mary was born on March 23, 1938, in Brenham, Texas, the fifth of seven children to Ignac and Frances (Miller) Wozniak. Growing up, Mary was a tomboy who liked to ride bikes, roller skate, and climb trees. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Brenham through the eighth grade, and then Brenham High School for grades 9-12. In high school, Mary was active in Future Homemakers of America, choir, and the pep squad, graduating in 1956.

At church, Mary was very active in the CYO, playing softball and volleyball against other churches in the area. At a CYO gathering in Wallis, Texas, in 1956, Mary met the love of her life, Emil Gustav Richter, Jr. She was a senior in high school, and he a freshman at Blinn College, and it was love at first

sight. They married on February 15, 1958, at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Giddings, Texas.

After high school, Mary attended Massey Business College in Dallas, Texas, working at a bank there until her marriage. She then moved to Houston, working at First City National Bank until 1959 when she and Emil started their family. As the family grew, they moved to Freeport, Texas, in 1966.

Mary was a devoted wife and loving mother to her four children, taking pride in their activities and encouraging them with love and prayers as a stay-at-home mom. When her children were grown, Mary returned to work in retail for many years, finally retiring from Wal-Mart as the department manager of electronics. In retirement, Mary and Emil moved into their beautiful country home on 27 acres of land outside of Smithville, Texas. During those years she was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pin Oak, enjoying time with family and friends, country life, cooking, and watching the Astros.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Ignac and Frances Wozniak, brothers Msgr. Louis Wozniak and Arthur Lee Wozniak, sister Jan (Wozniak) Hennigar and her husband Mike, sister-in-law Camie (Bouchard) Wozniak.

Mary is survived by her husband of 67 years, Emil; sons Jim Richter and wife Janis of Phoenix, Greg Richter and wife Debbie of Austin, Steve Richter and wife Marisa of Lake Jackson, and daughter Kim VanDevender and husband Eric of Magnolia. Grandchildren: Lauren Strutz and husband Jason, Kristen Nelson and husband Ryan, Kate Duran and husband Jonathan, Beth DiRico and husband Anthony, Steven Richter and wife Sarah, Kevin Richter and wife Catie, Jason Richter, Kyle VanDevender, Kelly Young and husband Gabriel, Ivan VanDevender, Marta VanDevender, Misha VanDevender. Great grandchildren: Travis Duran, David Duran, Leonardo DiRico, Margot DiRico, Eli Richter, Evan Richter, Jason Richter, Paige Richter, Ellen Young. Brothers

Ike Wozniak, Mike Wozniak and wife Linda, sister Emily Pawlak and husband Gene, sister-in-law Rosalie Wozniak. She also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, and many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery- Pin Oak

732 FM 2104
Smithville, TX 78957

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY 21. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Pin Oak
732 FM 2104
Smithville, TX 78957

Funeral Service

MAY 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Pin Oak
732 FM 2104
Smithville, TX 78957

Tribute Wall

CW

“*Mary was a strong lady. I met her while caring for her after a hip surgery. We sat up a lot at night talking or snoozing. She was always up early with Emil ready for coffee. She would get Emil lined out for the daily task. She reminded me of the strength my grandmother had. My thoughts are with Emil and the family.*”



Christina Williams

Christina R Williams - June 20, 2025 at 01:10 AM



“*Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Esther Richter.*”



May 18, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“*A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Esther Richter.*”

May 18, 2025 at 07:55 PM