



## Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic

January 9, 1945 - May 13, 2025

Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic, age 80, of Dassel, died Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Cokato Manor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Darwin. Interment will be held at St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Darwin following the service.

There will be a visitation on Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at St. John's Catholic Church in Darwin.

The Marelic family wishes to express their sincere thanks to the nurses and staff at the Cokato Manor for the kind and loving care that they gave Lena.

Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic, the daughter of Ciro D'Acunto and Carmela Coscia was born on January 9, 1945, in Salerno, Italy. Her youth was in post-World War II. Lena worked helping her parents sell fresh vegetables in the market and worked as a doctor's assistant in a clinic. This is probably where she got her love of helping others.

Lena met the love of her life Ante "Tony" Marelic in Salerno, Italy while they were both in the movie "The Four Days of Naples." They were married on June 20th, 1964, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Salerno, Italy. Lena was not allowed to enter the United States of America as the quota for Italian citizens to enter the United States of America was full. With the help of Franz Guhl who was the Mayor of Dassel and Vice President Hubert H. Humphry,

Lena was able to come to the United States of America and settled in Dassel, Minnesota.

Lena was employed at the Dassel Nursing Home for many years before being employed at Fabri-Tech in Cokato for 37 years where she eventually became the Lead Supervisor. She worked as a cook in the Dassel Elementary School. She then was employed at the Litchfield Clinic and the Meeker Memorial Hospital in Litchfield for many years before she retired. Lena was a caring person who loved to walk around town visiting and exercising. She was a wonderful cook and made amazing Italian dishes. She was famous for making homemade Pizza from scratch. At family holiday meals she rarely sat down and made sure everyone had what they needed to eat or drink. If urged to sit down, she would say "Mind Your Own Business." Lena always loved to tell Tony "To Go Jump in a Lake". Lena was always willing to lend a hand. She once was the coordinator for the spaghetti feed for a Boy Scout fundraiser and made all the Spaghetti Sauce. She would pray the Rosary for others, help tailor clothing for family and nursing home residents. She enjoyed crocheting and knitting and making beautiful cakes for weddings and birthdays and other events. Lena was loved by many and will be missed deeply by her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Ante "Tony" Marelic of Dassel, sons, Jack (Jo Anne) Marelic of Crystal, Rene (Cheri) Marelic of Dassel, four grandchildren, Mason (Madi) Marelic, Mariah (Ross) Halonen, Tate Marelic and Ava Marelic, two great grandchildren, Nova Marelic and Blaine Halonen, Siblings, Rita D'Acunto of Salerno, Italy, Gaetana D'Acunto of Salerno, Italy, Vincenzo D'Acunto of Salerno, Italy, Domenico D'Acunto of Salerno, Italy, Matteo D'Acunto of Salerno, Italy and Carmine D'Acunto of Salerno, Italy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ciro D'Acunto and Carmela Coscia, one brother and five sisters.

# Cemetery Details

## St. John's Catholic Cemetery

Darwin, MN 55324

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson Funeral Home  
PO Box 1 611 N 2nd Street  
Dassel, MN 55325  
(320) 275-3381  
jfhdassel@spectrum.net

## Mass Of Christian Burial

MAY 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John'S Catholic Church  
106 N 4th St  
Darwin, MN 55324

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ I'll always carry in my heart the fond memories I had of Lena in my childhood. I loved her, will never forget her laugh and smile. Sending hugs from afar to Jack, Rene and Ante.

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**Darka Smith** - May 20, 2025 at 08:59 PM

DB

“ Dennis Berglund I am sorry to hear of Lenas passing I am in Colorado so I can't make it to her funeral 😞 but you have my Sympathy.

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**Dennis Berglund** - May 18, 2025 at 09:10 PM

TM

“ My heart goes out to the whole Marelic family. Tony and Lena were great neighbors when we lived in Dassel...we loved them. Lena was my Lead for many years at Cokato Fabri-Tek..a stong Lead, but, with compassion to us all that worked under her direction. Many good memories of Lena. Decorating her office and the room next to her office at Christmas while humming the "Silver Bells" song. Lena friendship and stories were so fun...and the love she shared about Tony and her family. I will miss her walking around Dassel and waving with a big warm smile. Rest in peace, dear Lena. Tina McStotts

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**Tina McStotts** - May 16, 2025 at 05:48 PM

TB

“ Tom & Pilar Blitvich purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic.



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Tom & Pilar Blitvich - May 16, 2025 at 02:55 PM

TB

“ Tom & Pilar Blitvich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic.

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Tom & Pilar Blitvich - May 16, 2025 at 02:55 PM

AS

“ What a beautiful obituary. I am the daughter to Ron and Mary Lou Brandel and granddaughter to Dorothy and Laurel Brandel. I often heard of Lena. My deepest sympathies to the family.

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Amy Sluis - May 16, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic.



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May 16, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic.

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May 16, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic.



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May 16, 2025 at 10:05 AM

LZ

“ *What a beautiful tribute to Lena, it brought back so many memories. One of my first was thinking my "uncle Tony" had married Sophie Lauren and we just called her Lena for short. She did resemble her in both beauty and spirit.*

*My next memory was not long after she had moved here. This was at a time when we didn't have the freeways and highways we now do. Many didn't even venture from St. Paul to Mpls.*

*Our doorbell rang, there was Lena. She had taken and passed her drivers test in record time, even better she drove to "the cities" to celebrate it. Such a strong and courageous woman! Such spirit.*

*I cherish the childhood memories spent with our cousins. The pizza parties we had together. Her and Tony's kindness to my grandmother, and my father who could always count on her to help him interpret written correspondence. I don't believe his written italian was that good.*

*Most of all the memories of her love for her beloved husband, son's, daughters in and her grandchildren. She was so proud of all of you and proclaimed it!*

*My sincerest sympathies.  
Lori Zamberletti*

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**Lori Zamberletti** - May 15, 2025 at 05:02 PM

JL

“ *From rides to CCD, to many other conversations Lena was always willing to make you feel important. Blessings to Tony and the boys.*

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**Jerome Lindquist** - May 15, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic.*



May 14, 2025 at 11:09 PM



“ *Karen And Bruce Schramm lit a candle in memory of Raffaelina "Lena" Vincenza Marelic*



**Karen and Bruce Schramm** - May 14, 2025 at 03:34 PM



*Our sincere sympathy to the Marelic family on the death of Lena. She will be missed greatly by her family and friends.*

**Karen and Bruce Schramm** - May 14, 2025 at 03:38 PM



*Jack and JoAnne and family we are sorry for your loss loss.*

**Karen and Bruce Schramm** - May 14, 2025 at 03:40 PM



*Tony, Jack and Renee and familys  
So sorry to hear about Lena. Many fond memories when we were neighbors. Always great to visit when we would see Tony in Cashwise.  
May peace be with you.  
Janeen Linden (Nelson)*

**Janeen Linden** - May 14, 2025 at 08:32 PM