



Mary Michaella (Finn) Olisky

June 12, 1928 - January 3, 2025

Mary Michaella (Finn) Olisky, 96, of Sayre, PA died on the morning of January 3, 2025, surrounded by her children. Mickey, as she was affectionately known, was born at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre on June 12, 1928. She was the second of three children born to Michael and Mary Margaret Drislane Finn. She attended Epiphany School and was a graduate of the Athens High School class of 1946. Upon graduation, Mary worked in the office of the Blue Swan in Sayre. She then worked for the General Telephone Company as the secretary to the manager. It was there that she met her future husband, John Olisky. They were married on May 7, 1955, at Saint James Church in Waverly, NY.

Mary is survived by her five children; John, Bridget, Margaret (John Ayers), Catherine, and Thomas. She is also survived by nephews, nieces, cousins, and many friends. Besides her husband and her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Richard J. Finn, and sister Anne McCarthy.

Mary was a communicant of the Church of the Epiphany and a member of the choir for over 60 years. Music was a special part of her life. She was blessed with a beautiful soprano voice; a gift she shared with others on many occasions. Mary never had a voice lesson, and she taught herself to read music. She sang her first solo, "Jesus Thou Art Coming" when she was ten years old at her sister Anne's first communion. After high school, Father Joseph McCarthy of Waverly, arranged for her to have an audition with the

Metropolitan Opera through a friend who sat on the board. The auditioning panel recommended her for admission to The Juilliard School in NYC. At this time, Mary made a difficult decision to return to the Valley to support her family and her sister Anne, in the care of their mother.

For next 70 years she sang at hundreds of weddings, funerals, Christmas, and Easter services along with other community events. She sang in the choirs at St Joseph's, St James' and at Epiphany where she was the principal soloist.

Mary worked tirelessly on behalf of individuals with intellectual disabilities. She was a pioneer in her advocacy for the inclusion of children and adults into their schools and communities. Mary, along with other mothers, established the local chapter for Bradford County's ARC. She served for over 50 years on the boards of MH-MR and S.E.R.V.E. She was instrumental in ensuring that educational, recreational and community services were made available for individuals and their families.

Mary had a quick wit and a sharp sense of humor which she attributed to her Irish heritage. She would say "if you're lucky enough to be Irish, you're lucky enough." She took pride in being a lifelong Democrat and for many years served the community as the judge of elections for Sayre's 1st ward. Mary was beloved by all who knew her.

At Mary's request, there will be no wake nor a receiving line at the church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Epiphany Church, Sayre, PA on Saturday, February 1 at 10 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in Mary's memory to S.E.R.V.E. Inc., 22 Chiola Lane, Monroeton, PA 18832. S.E.R.V.E. is an organization that provides services to people with disabilities.

Mary's son, Tommy, attended S.E.R.V.E. for many years. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com .

Cemetery Details

Ascension of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery

Athens Township, PA

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Epiphany
304 S Elmer Ave
Sayre, PA 18840

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Raupers Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.



Raupers Family - February 05, 2025 at 01:33 PM

RF

“ Raupers Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.

Raupers Family - February 05, 2025 at 01:33 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.



January 31, 2025 at 09:09 AM

NH

“ Nancy & Gary Hill purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.



Nancy & Gary Hill - January 30, 2025 at 11:29 AM

NH

“ Nancy & Gary Hill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.

Nancy & Gary Hill - January 30, 2025 at 11:29 AM

AH

“ Dearest Mr. Olisky and family,
I was very saddened to hear of your dear mother's death. What a home-grown and home-stayed musician she was! Please know that my mother and I will keep you and your siblings in our prayers, and I will offer a Novena for your Mother, as well. May Perpetual Light shine on her. With His love, April (Frazier) Hulslander

April Hulslander - January 26, 2025 at 04:44 PM

DC

“ Darryl C. purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.



Darryl C. - January 26, 2025 at 10:16 AM

DC

“ Darryl C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Michaela (Finn) Olisky.

Darryl C. - January 26, 2025 at 10:16 AM

AB

“ Your mom was a legend in our community... and in our neighborhood. Please accept our sympathies. Sincerely, Alice and Jim Bennett.

alice bennett - January 24, 2025 at 09:59 AM

KP

“ To John, Tommy and family. Your mother was always such a special person, as was your entire family. She lived a very long and blessed life.

Kim Parigoris - January 24, 2025 at 09:27 AM

JA

“ Kitty and family. So sorry for your loss of your dear mother. Her voice will live on. God Bless You all. Jackie Alexander Abbott

Jacqueline Abbott - January 23, 2025 at 12:00 PM

JO

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Olisky. I can remember her from my earliest years as a small child from down the street. Playing in her back yard with the rest of the neighborhood kids in the garage, playhouse and under the willow trees. She was always so kind and sweet to everyone. I was blessed to have known her and all of the family. Rest in peace!

Jim Osborn - January 23, 2025 at 10:04 AM

RF

“ Her voice sings on in Heaven. R.I.P.



Ron Fiorello - January 23, 2025 at 09:53 AM

MB

“ Sorry for your loss your mom was strong loving person hugs and prayers to the family

Marlene Brown - January 22, 2025 at 10:19 PM

KB

“ John and Bridget so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for you both and your family.

Kim Bentley - January 22, 2025 at 04:02 PM

LW

“ Mary sang at my wedding! I cared for Tommy in the Future group home for many years! She was such a caring person and had so much love to show! My mom and Dad were friends with them for many years! My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time ! They are all together again and at peace!!

Linda Kenrick wright - January 21, 2025 at 01:35 PM

LM

“ Much love and memories. I love you all. Aunt Mickey you are one of your favorite memories always 🤔❤️

Leslie A McCarthy - January 20, 2025 at 03:11 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences and love. Nancy & Gary Hill*

Nancy Hill - January 20, 2025 at 02:35 PM