

Marel L. Staisil, 83, entered the Church Triumphant on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. She was born on May 31, 1941, in Bay City, Michigan, to the late Christian and Marian (Martini) Bolger. Marel graduated from Sebewaing High School in 1959 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree from Michigan State University, as well as a Graduate Specialist degree in education from Eastern Michigan University.

Marel married Howard S. Staisil in 1968, who preceded her in death in 1996. She was also predeceased by her brothers, Donald Bolger (2015) and Barry Bolger (2014). Marel is survived by her children, Michael Staisil, and Michele DeTombeur and her husband Chris; and her beloved grandchildren, Cole Staisil and Alex DeTombeur. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Mary Ackerman and Katherine Bolger; and extended family members: Benjamin and Anil Bolger, Marci and Jeremy Augenstein, Jason Bolger, Lee Ackerman, Gretchen Ackerman, Chrissy Whitby, Gera Feist, Jamie Dobbins, and Jan Brenner.

Marel dedicated over 40 years of her life to educating, teaching, and inspiring children in the Flint Community Schools. She was a pioneer in supporting pregnant teenage girls—teaching home economics and life skills so they could raise their families while continuing their education. She was also a member of the Flint Vis-à-Vis (formerly Flint Junior Women's Club) and was actively involved each year with the Flint Olympian and CANUSA Games. Additionally, Marel was the Chairman and CEO of the most fun and entertaining pool parties and celebrations at her home in Flint, called "Staisil World"!

After retiring, Marel returned to Sebewaing and restored the John C. Martini historical landmark family home. It became her "happy place," where family and friends gathered often and joyfully. Marel was deeply rooted in the Sebewaing community. She served as past President and International Youth Exchange Counselor for the Sebewaing Rotary Club, and as a membership chair of the Sebewaing Historical Society. Marel was a lifelong member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and Ladies Aid. Known for her warmth, creativity, and generosity, Marel was the most gracious host – organizing luncheons, Red Hat events, Sebewaing reunions, and unforgettable family holidays in her treasured landmark home.

One of her greatest joys was being involved in her grandchildren's lives. Marel was incredibly proud of Cole and Alex and absolutely loved cheering them on at their golf matches and swim meets. Affectionately known as "Big Red," Marel was a spirited and devoted Michigan State Spartans football and basketball fan—always ready to sing "On the Banks of the Red Cedar" in support of her team!

Marel will forever be in our hearts and memories. Her incredible love, kindness, generosity, humor, and creative & exciting gift giving, will be forever remembered and deeply missed by all who knew her—especially her beloved friends and family!

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing, Michigan. Burial will be at the Northlawn section of Immanuel Cemetery in Sebewaing.