



Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer

July 15, 1935 - July 3, 2025

Joseph Charles Kirchdoerfer, 89, passed away Thursday, July 3, 2025, at his home on the family farm in Cape Girardeau surrounded by family.

He was born July 15, 1935 to Joseph A. and Mary Heuring Kirchdoerfer. Joe was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary Cathedral in Cape Girardeau.

He and Mildred Kluesner were married April 23, 1960 at Guardian Angel Catholic Church in Oran.

Born and raised on the family farm west of Cape Girardeau, Joe was a third-generation farmer. With his family, Joe owned and managed Jo-Kirch Jerseys, a purebred, registered Jersey dairy herd.

As a dairy breeder, Joe built one of the top herds in the state and nation for milk production and type. He exhibited his Jersey cattle at numerous national, state, and local fairs, including the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Mid-South Fair in Memphis, DuQuoin State Fair in Illinois, and the SEMO District Fair, at which he was a cattle exhibitor for 75 years. With renowned success in both the milk barn and showring, fellow dairy producers throughout the United States have purchased Jo-Kirch Jersey cattle over the years.

As an advocate for agriculture, Joe was affiliated with several organizations, including the Campster 4-H Club, American Jersey Cattle Association, Missouri Jersey Cattle Club, MFA, Farm Service Agency, and Cape Girardeau County Farm Bureau.

As a leader in the dairy industry, Joe received numerous honors, including the Missouri Dairy Hall of Honors Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder Award, Missouri State Fair Stockman's Hall of Fame Induction, Farm Bureau Friend of the Farmer Award, and Honorary State FFA Degree.

A man of few words, Joe was loved by many for his silent actions behind the scenes of helping family, friends, and neighbors in need. He was respected for his profound faith, strong work ethic, unwavering integrity, and sincere kindness.

Joe was a lifelong member of St. Mary Cathedral. He served on various committees, including serving as St. Mary Cemetery Association President since 1974.

Joe is survived by his loving wife and soulmate of 65 years, Mildred; children, Carl Kirchdoerfer of Cape Girardeau, Edward (Amy) Kirchdoerfer of Cape Girardeau, Glenda (Kendall) Hampton of Sikeston, and Julie (Keith) Eftink of Chaffee; seven grandchildren, Tricia (Josh) Walther, Tyler (Logan) Kirchdoerfer, Nathan Hampton, Alex (Drew) Eftink, Katie Hampton, Clayton Kirchdoerfer, and Zach Eftink; four great-grandchildren, Claire, Caleb, Willow, and Wesley; and one sister, Adella Frank.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Anton Kirchdoerfer; two sisters, Stella Ostendorf and Marie James; three brothers-in-law, Fred Ostendorf, Alvin Frank, and Robert James; and dear friend, Rev. Raymond

Kunkel.

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau. Parish prayers will be at 4:00 pm.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at St. Mary Cathedral in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Randy Tochtrop and Rev. Jesse Hiatt officiating.

Burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery in Cape Girardeau following the funeral mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the St. Mary Cemetery Association.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Mass

JUL 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Cathedral
615 William St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Tribute Wall

NS

“ To the Kirchdoerfer family,

Joe was a great man! A strong leader of his family and community. In forty years, I never heard him say anything negative about another human being. He leaves a great legacy through his faith, family and farm to inspire future generations. I have tremendous respect for him and his family.

I life well lived.

May he rest in peace.

Neal Smith

Neal Smith - July 22, 2025 at 03:38 PM

MW

“ I would like to send condolences to Mildred & all the family on your sad loss. Your family was always so thoughtful to all of us. My Dad & Mom loved you all so much & you both were there when we lost them to share your condolences. May God bless you & give you strength. 🙏🙏🙏

Margaret (Huckstep) Wissmann

Margaret Huckstep Wissmann - July 14, 2025 at 12:10 PM

SW

“*Sadly we were out of town and did not get to come to the viewing or funeral. Joe was such a great man! Very respected in our community! Your family has our deepest condolences. Praying for peace.*

Phil & Sharon Propst Wellin

Sharon Wellin - July 11, 2025 at 01:05 PM

DD

“*Mildred, Eddie, Carl, Glenda, Julie and all of your family. I am so sorry for your loss. Joe was a wonderful man, dairyman, friend and fellow Jersey breeder. Lots of good memories from years past. He will be certainly missed. Prayers and peace for you all.*

Dee Ann Dighero - July 10, 2025 at 05:59 PM



“*A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer.*

July 08, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“*Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer.*



July 08, 2025 at 03:36 PM

LF

“ Ben and I are sorry to hear about your father. He was a hell of a man. We are sorry, but we aren't able to come tonight. We are sending our prayers to your family.
Ben and Linda Ferguson

Linda Ferguson - July 08, 2025 at 02:44 PM

MC

“ MFA Chaffee purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer.



MFA Chaffee - July 08, 2025 at 10:28 AM

BW

“ I am so sorry for your loss, I have many good memories of your family. I remember my kids getting to milk cows at the Fair. Joe was such a kind and giving man. You are in my prayers

brad wittenborn - July 07, 2025 at 08:33 PM

SS

“ Sending prayers Carl and family, Joe was a great neighbor.
Sally(Job) and Jeff Schlegel

Sally Schlegel - July 07, 2025 at 07:48 PM

DP

“ *Doug Poindexter purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer.*



Doug Poindexter - July 07, 2025 at 12:30 AM

RR

“ *Ron & Christy Ratliff purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer.*



Ron & Christy Ratliff - July 06, 2025 at 10:40 PM

GK

“ *Carl, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers as proceed through this difficult time.*

Gene Kroenung - July 06, 2025 at 08:02 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer.*



July 06, 2025 at 03:23 PM