



## Karen Altenthal

June 20, 1958 - December 18, 2022

Karen Sue Altenthal, 64, of Cape Girardeau died Sunday, December 18, 2022 at her home after a two year battle with ALS.

She was born June 20, 1958 in Cape Girardeau to John J. and Dorothy S. Ladd East.

She and Brad Altenthal were married June 4, 1977 at Cape Girardeau.

Karen was a 1976 graduate of Cape Girardeau Central High School. She received a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University in 1994.

She taught Family and Consumer Science at Notre Dame High School for 5 years and Cape Girardeau Central High School for 20 years. She loved teaching and rarely met a former student that didn't tell her that she was their favorite teacher.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jackson and formerly St. Vincent de Paul Church in Cape Girardeau for many years.

She loved being at the beach with her grandkids, being near the water in the warm sun.

Survivors include her husband, Brad Altenthal of Jackson; son, Lance (Taylor Fuwell) Altenthal of Jackson; two daughters, Jennifer (Billy) Thompson of Jackson, Melissa Winkler of Cape Girardeau; three brothers, John J. (Debbie) East of Jackson, Rick (Becky) East of Cape Girardeau and Stephen (Becky) East of St. Charles, Missouri; two sisters, Barbara Glueck of Kelso, Missouri and Mary (Keith) Boeller of Cape Girardeau; sister-in-law, Pam East of Cape Girardeau; eight grandchildren, Emma, Aiden, Brynn and Tate Winkler, Collin and Chase Havill and Nash Thompson and Parker Altenthal.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, William "Bill," Roger and David East.

Friends may call 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday, December 26, 2022 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau with parish prayers at 7 pm.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 am Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Rick Jones officiating.

Burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to The ALS Association St. Louis Regional Chapter.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **26**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Parish Prayers

DEC **26**. 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Mass

DEC **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
1919 Ritter Dr.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701



# Tribute Wall

BY

“ I am so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. I hadn't seen her in many years, so it was good to connect with her again through Facebook. She shared so many beautiful family pictures. I know she will be missed greatly.

**Beth Blankenship Younce** - January 13, 2023 at 09:52 AM

JF

“ Karen will always hold a special place in our hearts. She was always a smile we looked forward to seeing, a voice we looked forward to hearing and warm hug we looked forward to receiving. Our prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

**Jim & Rose Fox** - December 27, 2022 at 10:20 AM

BA

Thank you Jim and Rose, she really enjoyed your classes Rose and Jim, she was happy you were our dentist but would rather take Roses classes than your dental chair :-)

**baltenthal** - December 29, 2022 at 07:59 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.



December 27, 2022 at 10:17 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.*



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December 26, 2022 at 11:33 PM



“ *Brad and Family,*

*My heart goes out to all of you. Karen was such a wonderful and caring person. My many thoughts and prayers are with you. May God's loving arms surround you all and give you everlasting peace. I pray His angels will watch over you. i am sorry that I am unable to be with all of you during this time, but i will be with you all in Spirit,*

*Love In Christ,*

*Karen Webb-McClendon*

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**KAREN WEBB-MCCLENDON** - December 26, 2022 at 09:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.*



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December 26, 2022 at 04:19 PM

CN

“ Our heartfelt prayers are with Brad and family today and in the days to come. So sad. Joel and Cindy (Eifert) Neely

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**Cindy Neely** - December 26, 2022 at 03:23 PM

GR

“ What a sudden rush of sadness came over me as I just read of Karen’s passing. What a beautiful person, not just physically but in all that encompassed her personality and character. It was my pleasure to teach Karen, Brad, and several siblings in my early days of teaching in Cape. Then later, I enjoyed our many contacts during her years as a teacher also. I read comments of how many of her students shared she was their favorite teacher. That is easy to understand as she was one of my favorite students. Always full of energy, never bashful, always smiling. Although sadness exists here on Earth for her family and many friends and admirers, there must be much rejoicing in Heaven as she is welcomed by Jesus and is reunited with her family and friends. I look forward to seeing you again Karen, receiving another hug and basking in your smile. “Mr. R” (Gerald Richards

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**Gerald Richards** - December 26, 2022 at 01:50 PM

SR

“ Karen was a sweetheart and will always be close to my heart. ❤️ May God give you comfort and peace as you continues to live out the many happy memories of her in your lives. 🕊️

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**Susie Reed** - December 26, 2022 at 07:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.



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December 26, 2022 at 03:46 AM



“ *Cousin, Diane Gaither-West & Family purchased the Love's Journey* for the family of Karen Altenthal.



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**Cousin, Diane Gaither-West & Family** - December 25, 2022 at 05:16 PM



“ *Bill & I send sincere sympathy to Karen's family & friends. Karen was a favorite student & friend.*  
*Georganne Syler*

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**Georganne Syler** - December 23, 2022 at 07:29 PM



“ *Jim, Kim, Blake, Paige & Vicki purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of Karen Altenthal.



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**Jim, Kim, Blake, Paige & Vicki** - December 23, 2022 at 01:31 PM

HG

“ *My sincere condolences to your family. I had the pleasure of working with Karen at CHS and she was a wonderful person and teacher.*

Helen Gibbar - December 22, 2022 at 08:48 PM

CJ

“ *Condolences to Karen's family. Karen would be among the pleasant memories of good people I had the chance to meet & work with during my tenure at CHS. She always was helpful and always made me feel welcome, always had a beautiful smile on her face day in and day out. Karen you will be sorely missed by all!*

Coach Lawrence Brookins, Jr. - December 22, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.*



December 22, 2022 at 03:50 PM

EP

“ *To Karen's family,  
Please accept my condolences. I'm so sorry for your loss.  
Ellen Parker*

Ellen Parker - December 22, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.*



December 22, 2022 at 10:04 AM



“ *Gary Pind purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karen Altenthal.*



**Gary Pind** - December 21, 2022 at 09:41 PM



“ *Dear family,*

*I am so sad and sorry to hear of Karen's passing. Please know I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers.....*



**Susie O'Connell** - December 21, 2022 at 08:06 PM



“ *Karen, you will be missed. You added such a spark to our CHS lunch time. Quick to smile and laugh! You always had a smile and a word of encouragement. Prayers for your family.*

**Judith Crenshaw** - December 21, 2022 at 09:56 AM



“ Karen was always so peppy and cheerful, quick to smile. She was an encouragement to her fellow teachers and a blessing to her students. Prayers for her family. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Shamira Ulrich - December 20, 2022 at 10:41 PM



“ Karen was a wonderful CHS A-hallway colleague and friend, a truly lovely human being. Prayers for her family for comfort and peace.

Crystal Cerny - December 20, 2022 at 04:38 PM



Karen was one such a beautiful person inside and out...she will be missed. My condolences to her family 🙏

Elaine Beussink - December 20, 2022 at 05:52 PM



Bill and I send sincere sympathy to all of Karen's beloved family. Karen was a favorite student and friend.  
Georganne Syler

Georganne Syler - December 21, 2022 at 02:57 PM



The Bittle family will always and forever be a fan of Karen and the Altenthal family. Sending you our deepest sympathy for the loss of someone so special to so many,

carla ann bittle - December 22, 2022 at 01:31 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Karen Altenthal.



December 20, 2022 at 02:38 PM