



# Francis Anthony Baker

JUN 9, 1921 - JUL 9, 2017



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 7



## Francis Anthony Baker

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**M**r. Francis Anthony “Frank” Baker, age 96, the last living member of a well-known Muskegon family, went to be with his Lord on Sunday, July 9, 2017. He was born on June 9, 1921 in Muskegon, Michigan to Gerard and Johanna (Bowhuis) Baker. He was the valedictorian of the 1938 graduating class at St. Joseph High School, and continued his education at Aquinas College. Frank served in the United States Army during WWII, serving two and a half years overseas in the European Theatre Headquarters in London and Paris, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He was a longtime member of the Catholic War Veterans Post #843. He was employed by the Michigan Employment Security Commission for 37 years; he retired as manager of the Muskegon office. Frank was also a part-time sports and news reporter for the Grand Rapids Herald and later the Detroit Free Press. He served on the Board of Directors for Muskegon St. Joseph Federal Credit Union for over 60 years, including 50 plus years as Treasurer and Manager. Frank served as a member of the Muskegon County Veterans Trust Fund for 20 years; 15 years as chairperson. He was also the Muskegon State Employees Representative for United Way for many years, charter member of the Board of Directors for Community Action Against Poverty, and dedicated years on the Board of Directors of the Greater Muskegon Urban League. With the cooperation of Muskegon Public Schools, he originated the plan for a Muskegon Area Skill Training Center and served on its board for many years. Frank was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church until its closing in 2001. He served as a parish council member, lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, altar server at funerals, the Cursillo Movement and Holy Name Society. Frank was presently a member of St. Michael Catholic Church and a former Eucharistic minister at hospitals, nursing homes, and home visits. Frank married the former Madeline Endres in 1946, and she preceded him in death in 1965. He then married the former Caroline Schnitzler in 1975 and she preceded him in death in



## Obituary

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2003. He was also preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Monsignor Raymond H. Baker, Henry Baker and Joseph Baker; two sisters, Catherine Hopka and Sister Marie Raymond Baker; two stepsons, Thomas Baker and Joseph Baker and son-in-law, Phil Fleissner. He is survived by four daughters, Jean (James) Mastee of Spring Lake, Margaret (Allan) Kramer of Grand Haven, Catherine Fleissner of Chattanooga, TN and Mary (Jason) Kleinsorge of Norton Shores; one son, James (Teresa) Baker of Twin Lake; one step-daughter, Mary Chick of Norton Shores; 22 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL will be celebrated 11:00 AM Thursday, July 13, 2017 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church with Rev. Fr. Charles D. Hall presiding. VISITATION will be from 5-8 PM Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., 231-798-1100 with the ROSARY prayed at 5:00 PM. Visitation will also be one hour prior to his Mass at church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider the Muskegon Catholic Education Foundation or St. Michael's Divine Mercy Chapel.



# Events

**Francis Anthony Baker**

JUN 9, 1921 - JUL 9, 2017

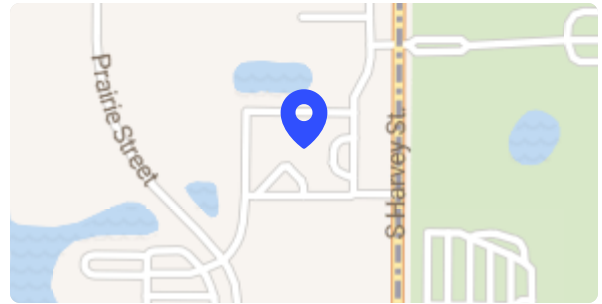
## Rosary Service

**Wednesday**, July 12, 2017

5:00 PM ET

**Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



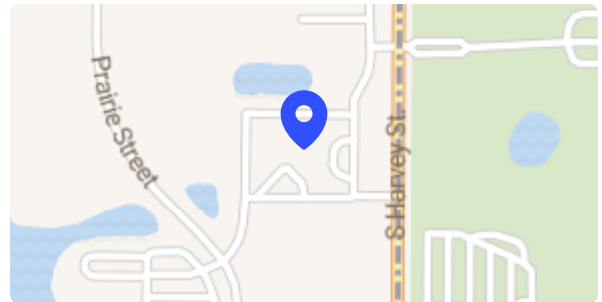
## Visitation

**Wednesday**, July 12, 2017

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

**Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



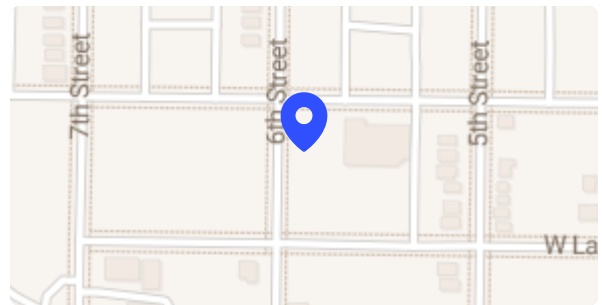
## Visitation

**Thursday**, July 13, 2017

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

**St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church**

1716 Sixth Street, Muskegon MI 49441



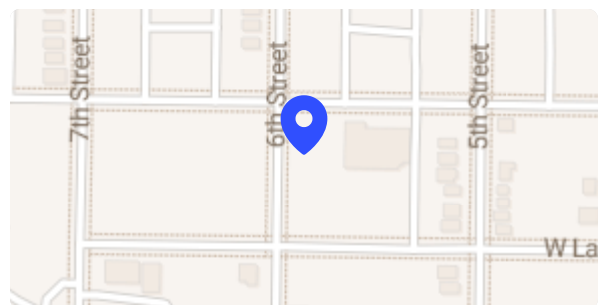
## Mass of Christian Burial

**Thursday**, July 13, 2017

11:00 AM ET

**St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church**

1716 Sixth Street, Muskegon MI 49441





## Events

**Francis Anthony Baker**

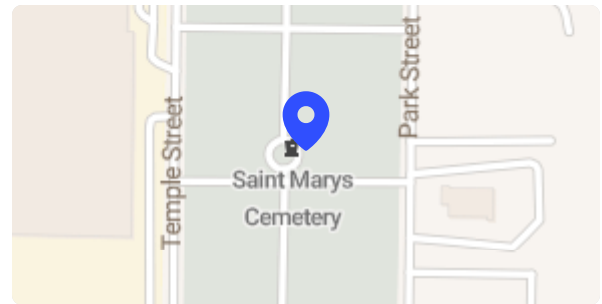
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### Cemetery Details



**St. Mary's Cemetery**

1915 Park St., Muskegon MI 49441





## Tribute Wall

**Francis Anthony Baker**

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DH

**David Hewitt** posted:

Frank Baker is as much a part of my fondest childhood memories at St. Joe's as Father Stratz. He was a kind, gentle soul, connected to everything in his unassuming way - a steady hand at the credit union, a quiet presence in church - just the friendliest of men. I was always impressed that he always called me by name and shook my hand, reaching out to the littlest even with so many big people around. A very, very fine man. David Hewitt

July 17 at 5:13 AM

GF

**Greene Family** posted:

Please accept my family's heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. May you find comfort and peace in fond memories of them, and The Almighty God's promise in The Bible to restore those asleep in death to perfect life on a paradise Earth, and to "swallow up death forever". (Isaiah 25:8)

July 16 at 8:10 AM

MK

**Michelle Kemp** posted:

Our family moved in across the street from Mr. Baker in 2003. We'll always remember him as the bike-riding octogenarian and more recently, as the man who wouldn't give up. We're pretty sure he was out there walking around our cul-de-sac until his last day at home. Peace to the family. Bob and Michelle Kemp

July 12 at 12:33 PM

SC

**Sarah, Marv And Bonnie Cadwell** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Baker family.



July 12 at 12:01 PM

JG

**Jodie Galosy** posted:

Thoughts and prayers to the Baker family, especially Cathy, as you celebrate Mr. Baker's life. I have very fond memories of him. Our family relied on St. Joe's Credit Union and Mr. Baker was always welcoming and kind to everyone. Jodie (Bell) Galosy

July 12 at 11:30 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Monica Sawyn** posted:

"Mr. Baker," as I always thought of him when I was a kid. He helped me start my first account, at St. Joe's Credit Union. And I remember him as a lector at Mass. Always such a kind, gentle man. He'll be missed here on earth, but he's taking his well-earned place in heaven, waiting for all the rest of his family to join him someday. Blessings to all of you, and prayers for you and for him.--Monica Krause Sawyn

July 12 at 9:37 AM



**Lou Ann Portincasa** posted:

Your father was a wonderful man, so many great memories of all of us kids growing up together on Glade Street in Muskegon, MI. Dad Baker will be missed,he has completed the journey we are still trying to complete. He is now w/your mom & the angels in heaven having a grand time Hugs to all of you, Lou Ann Portincasa :)

July 11 at 6:50 PM



**Lou Ann Portincasa** lit a candle in honor of Francis.



July 11 at 6:42 PM



**Lou Ann Portincasa** July 11 at 6:43 PM  
Should read Lou Ann Portincasa not Lou.



**Barb (Endres) Curtis** posted:

Thinking of you all dear cousins during this sad and difficult time. Although we weren't able to see one another for so many years, I cherish the times we recently shared. Wishing Mom and I could be with this week, but thinking of you often and sending our love.Your dad was one of the best!! Rest In Peace, Uncle Frankie.

July 11 at 5:53 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Basket of Memories to the Baker family.



July 11 at 7:38 AM



**Edward Weessies** posted:

Frank will be sorely missed by many. His Christian thoughts for helping those in need was without a peer. I so miss our trips to his daughter Cathy's. We solved all the problems of the world. He made me feel like a brother and a friend. A great man!Ed Weessies

July 11 at 4:52 AM



**Diane Lapinski** posted:

My thoughts and prayers go out to you Jim and Jean and all the Baker family. Your dad was an inspiration to all. Always with a smile on his face.Diane Lapinski

July 11 at 2:41 AM



**Eddie B. Jenkins Jr.** posted:

My condolences and prayers go out to all of the family of Frank. He was a great role model and sincerely cared for others. It was an honor to know Mr. Baker as he truly inspired me as a young man. Thank you Jesus for his life and legacy. Eddie B. Jenkins Jr.

July 10 at 11:59 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Baker family.



July 10 at 6:03 PM



**Marti Cornwell** posted:

Thoughts and prayers to all of the Baker family. Your dad was a very friendly and kind man. The stories Cathy has told us is that he never met a stranger and we were fortunate enough to witness that on a few occasions. Peace Be With you all.

July 10 at 3:36 PM



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**Donna Gardner** posted:

My thoughts are with the Baker family especially Mary. Thank You Mr. Baker for all your help, conversations, encouragement and sometimes a little bit stern direction when I needed it at the St. Joes credit union. Donna Gardner

July 10 at 3:30 PM



**Victoria Nelson** posted:

So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to the entire Baker family~Vicky Nelson, Lexi, Gabi and Nathaniel Reihanian

July 10 at 3:21 PM



**Ted Sander** posted:

Countless Muskegon families who were helped by his Saint Joseph Credit Union service lost a friend today. A man of character, commitment and faith, Mr. Baker showed all of us a how to live a life of compassion and dignity. Just a tremendous loss for all of Muskegon. Gods speed, Mr. Baker and THANK YOU.

July 10 at 2:09 PM



**Kellie Mcarthur** July 11 at 6:04 AM

My condolences to the baker family (Mary) Mr Baker was such a wonderful man, his life will be celebrated by all because of the great man he was, God has gained an arc angel... ❤️❤️



**Lynnette Fillips** July 10 at 3:08 PM

Mary, I am so sorry for your loss. Your father was a great soul and even though he didn't "know me," he always took the time to say hello and ask who I was at the credit union. May perpetual light shine upon him.



**Cheryl Sladick** posted:

I have also been thinking of all the great times we had with the Baker/ Friday families summer outings. The picnics at Twin Lake. The summer cottages on West Lake. I'm so blessed to have been at his birthday party a few weeks ago. I love you all, my cousins and my heart goes out to you.

July 10 at 1:39 PM



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DD

**Dee Boertman Dwight** lit a candle in honor of Francis.

My favorite memory of Mr. Baker is that he IS the beloved father of my very dear friend, Jean Baker Mastee. I can't help but believe that his love and role as a father were very much responsible for the awesome adults he leaves behind. Such an awesome tribute to his life. Godspeed, Mr. B. We'll all be checking in with you again!!



July 10 at 1:36 PM

RF

**Ronald Friday** posted:

So many memories! Breakfast picnics at McGraft Park, picnic dinners and swimming at Twin Lake Park with the Baker and Friday families. Uncle Frank and Dad watching the Friday Night Fights with tuna fish salad sandwiches on rye bread with caraway seeds. Uncle Frank and Dad playing cards /babysitting when Aunt Snooki and Mom would go places. Wonderful man, wonderful memories. Like I told him many times he was my favorite uncle still alive in the whole world. I'm going to miss you Uncle Frank!

July 10 at 12:47 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Francis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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