



## Regina Clare Leininger

March 26, 1928 - February 6, 2023

Sutton, NE resident Regina Clare (Sheridan) Leininger, 94, was welcomed with open arms by her heavenly Father Monday, February 6, 2023, at Legacy Square in Henderson, NE.

A Rosary will be prayed at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 9, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 10, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton, NE with Father Michael Zimmer officiating. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Sutton, NE. Visitation will be Thursday, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Services will be live-streamed from [www.stmaryssutton.org](http://www.stmaryssutton.org).

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated later.

She was born at the family home in Sutton on March 26th, 1928, to Margaret (Hogan) and William Sheridan. Regina graduated from Sutton High in 1946. She continued her education at Fontbonne College and Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri where she earned her B.S. degree in Education in 1950. She taught first grade in Lincoln for one year. She returned to Sutton where she and Max were married in 1951 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The newlyweds moved onto a farm given to them by Regina's father. Ten years

later they picked up the two-story farmhouse and moved it four miles closer to Sutton where they raised their six children. Entertainment and laughter were Regina's passions. This was evident as she and Max started a duo and traveled the state playing the organ and singing. At the age of 60 she changed her tune and off she went to the Barnum and Bailey Clown Camp in Wisconsin where she transformed herself into Mar-Mer the Clown. She joined the Nebraska Arts Council and cruised to schools throughout the state performing as a clown, storyteller and puppeteer. Mom loved St. Mary's and received all the sacraments there. At 15 she became the church organist. When she retired at the age of 90 her unique style of playing had inspired the parishioners and priests for 75 years. Regina was very proud of her Catholic faith, her family and her Irish heritage. She thanked God daily for the beautiful and loving family that God had blessed her with.

She was preceded in death by husband, Max Leininger; infant daughter, Mary Clare; parents, William and Margaret Sheridan; father and mother-in-law, Fred and Etta Leininger; three brothers, Roger; William and Thomas; great son-in-law, Blake Smith and numerous other beloved family members.

She is survived by her brother, John (Barbara) Sheridan; two sisters, Ellie Tershy and Peggy O'Connell; six children, Terry Leininger; Cathy (Gary) Mohnike; Cindy (Bruce) Mau; Rita (Dave) Nelson; Cecilia (Jim) Van Kirk and Tom (DiAna) Leininger; in-laws, Alyce Leininger; Ann Leininger; Joanne Rasby; Steve (Marcia) Leininger and Donitta Sheridan. Her legacy of joy will live on through her 24 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren. May she rest in peace!

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **9**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Sutton Memorial Chapel  
804 S. Saunders, Ave.  
PO Box 612  
Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4100  
suttonmemorial@windstream.net  
<http://www.suttonmemorial.com/>

## Rosary

FEB **9**. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
312 S. Saunders Ave.  
Sutton, NE 68979

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
312 S. Saunders Ave.  
Sutton, NE 68979

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Mar-mer the clown was my mother, Mary Oenbrink’s close friend since attending Fontbonne College. I met her years ago when she performed at a family reunion and we all loved her. My own dear mother passed away one day after Ms Regina on February 7, 2023. What a wonderful reunion they are having now ❤️.*

**Beth Bosserman** - February 20, 2023 at 06:58 PM

PW

“ *I had the privilege of meeting Regina when we were both Artists-in-Residence for the Nebraska Arts Council. Our paths crossed frequently and I always enjoyed her company. She was a very talented puppeteer, in addition to being a successful clown! And she had a lovely sense of humor. I can only say I am so glad to have known her. And I will miss her.*

**Pippa White** - February 11, 2023 at 07:16 PM

KJ

“ *Kathy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Regina Clare Leininger*



**Kathy Johnson** - February 10, 2023 at 11:56 PM

KJ

*Regina’s zest for life was uplifting and infectious.*

**Kathy Johnson** - February 10, 2023 at 11:57 PM

CP

*May her legacy continue on with her family. She was a delightful person to know. Connie Plettner*

**Connie Plettner** - February 11, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ 41 files added to the album *Flowers*



**Sutton Memorial Chapel and McLaughlin Funeral Chapel** - February 10, 2023 at 01:03 PM

DM

“ *What an awesome Catholic lady! So glad we enjoyed your performances and got to have you in our lives!....Dorothy & Harold Moravec*

**Dorothy Moravec** - February 10, 2023 at 11:39 AM

TC

“ *Tricia Chapman lit a candle in memory of Regina Clare Leininger*



**Tricia Chapman** - February 09, 2023 at 01:58 PM

TC

*I enjoyed taking care of Regina very much. She had such faith and determination. Loved her sense of humor. My sympathies to her family*

**Tricia Chapman** - February 09, 2023 at 01:59 PM

SF

*A great memory of Regina, was at her granddaughter's (Heidi) wedding dancing! Regina had an energy and spirit when she hit the dance floor to celebrate. Which seems to have been passed down through her daughters and granddaughters! What an amazing lady!!!*

**Shannon Fellenz** - February 10, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Regina Clare Leininger.*



February 09, 2023 at 08:25 AM

 Arlene Softley

“ *Arlene Softley lit a candle in memory of Regina Clare Leininger*



**Arlene Softley** - February 08, 2023 at 08:37 PM

 Arlene Softley

*I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. She was a great lady! The Grafton School children and teachers were always happy to see Mar-Mer the clown perform and also enjoyed her storytelling. She will be missed by all who knew her.*

**Arlene Softley** - February 08, 2023 at 08:41 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Regina Clare Leininger.*



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February 08, 2023 at 06:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Regina Clare Leininger.*



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February 08, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Regina Clare Leininger.*



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February 07, 2023 at 08:34 PM