



## Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam

January 4, 1944 - June 11, 2025

Mary Linda Ekenstam, born January 4, 1944 in Orange, California to Richard and Velma Foster.

passed into the larger life on June 11, 2025.. She lived with the family in Midway City,

California until her graduation with a B.A. from California State University-Long Beach and her

marriage in 1965 to John Goshert. She earned an MA in Library Science from California State

University-Fullerton and worked in the public libraries of Pomona,CA and Gilroy, CA. She and

husband John had two sons, John Charles and Michael James.

Mary was called to the Episcopal ministry and entered the Church Divinity School of the Pacific

in Berkeley, earned the degree of MDiv and was ordained to the ministry on February 2, 1980.

After three years as Assistant Priest at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Davis, CA and the

death of husband John, she was called as Rector to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Benicia, CA.

She subsequently served parishes in Morgan Hill, Long Beach, Santa Maria, and Claremont, all

in California. In retirement after 2011, she served several churches as a Priest

in Charge or as  
a Sunday Supply priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.  
Mary had enrolled in the seminary before the national Episcopal church had  
approved the  
ordination of women to the priesthood. This policy changed during her third  
year in seminary.  
Her call to serve as Rector at St. Paul's in Benicia gave her the distinction of  
being first ordained  
woman to lead an Episcopal congregation in the Western United States. Her  
work as a priest  
was marked by empathetic leadership, deep scholarship, and compassion for  
all people.  
She is survived by her sister, Jackie Reicks, brother Richard Foster and wife  
Sandy Foster,  
sons John Goshert and wife Cindy Goshert, Michael Goshert and wife  
Danielle Goshert and  
their children Ruby Goshert and Vaughn Goshert and her husband of 14  
years, Gene  
Ekenstam. She had five nephews and nieces; Gene's three children and four  
grandchildren  
complete her extended family. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on  
Saturday, June 21 at  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Benicia..

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUN **21**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
120 East J Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ Mark W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

Mark W. - June 21, 2025 at 10:54 AM

KW

“ Kerry W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

Kerry W. - June 20, 2025 at 11:51 PM

E<

“ Erin, Phil, Nathaniel & Chloe <3 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

Erin, Phil, Nathaniel & Chloe <3 - June 20, 2025 at 02:50 PM

E<

“ Erin, Phil, Nathaniel & Chloe <3 purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.



Erin, Phil, Nathaniel & Chloe <3 - June 20, 2025 at 02:50 PM

GO

“ Georgina and Nail Ozboya planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

Georgina and Nail Ozboya - June 20, 2025 at 02:35 PM

GO

“ Georgina and Nail Ozboya purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.



Georgina and Nail Ozboya - June 20, 2025 at 02:35 PM

EN

“ Sweet Pastor Mary welcomed my John and I to St. Luke's in 2015. Her open heart and loving soul made us feel as if we knew her a lifetime. Always positive, loving and empathetic we were very blest to have such an extraordinary reverent pastor. Her sermons were unique always embellished with poignant thoughts and passion. My John passed away in 2016-it was a very difficult time for our children and me, yet knowing that Mary was close by-only a phone call away was reassuring. Pastor Mary served at John's memorial so having known him the service was more personal with Mary giving testimony about John. Dear Mary will be sorely missed.  
Elaine Nepsha

Elaine Regina Nepsha - June 20, 2025 at 01:08 AM

TF

“ The Allen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

The Allen Family - June 19, 2025 at 11:34 PM

TF

“ The Allen Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.



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The Allen Family - June 19, 2025 at 11:34 PM

KK

“ Kari K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

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Kari K. - June 19, 2025 at 06:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.

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June 19, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Mary Linda Goshert-Ekenstam.



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June 19, 2025 at 05:36 PM