



## Mrs. Teresa Gaja

December 12, 1922 - March 8, 2018

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, Teresa Gaja (Mastel) in High River at the age of 95. She is survived by her sons George (Sandy) Parkson and Alan (Nicole) Gaja; her daughter Anita (Mike) Nenadovich; grandchildren Dana, Riley (Cheree), Tara, Jared, Connor and Sherrie; great-grandchildren Brett, Ashley, Jesse, Domynic; her sister Rose (Mike) Thome, brother Joe (Geri) Mastel and sister-in-law Florence Mastel. She is predeceased by her husband John in 1998 and her son Walter in 2015, her brother George Mastel and sister-in-law Julia, brother Walter Mastel, and sister Molly Mastel.

The second of six children, Teresa was born in Mendham, Saskatchewan (parents John and Mary Mastel) at a time when money and food was scarce and the winters were long and harsh. With an ill mother, along with the hardships of the “dirty thirties”, it meant Teresa had to quit middle school to help care for the family of eight. At the age of 20 she ventured out on her own to Medicine Hat where she met John Gaja. They married on November 21, 1944 and their life together began on a small farm with a two-room shack near Tilley, Alberta. Again, rough conditions while starting a family was a challenge however the strong will and persistence of both Teresa and John allowed them to purchase their new farm at the famous Gladys Ridge near High River in 1955 where they continued to work hard, live life and raise their four children. They retired to the town of High River in 1993. Those who were

close to Teresa will remember her reminiscences of not only the struggles but also the many joys that comprised her long life. She will be dearly missed. Our family wishes to thank the compassionate and caring staff at the Seasons Retirement Community in High River, as well as the many years of care by Dr. Brian Jensen.

A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, March 14th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in High River (206 – 9 Avenue SW, High River, AB T1V 1A4).

To send condolences and view Teresa's Tribute Page please visit [www.lylereeves.com](http://www.lylereeves.com) . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Cemetery Details

## Highwood Cemetery

High River, AB (CA)

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

MAR **14**. 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

206 - 9th Ave. W.

High River, AB T1V 1B5 (CA)

(403) 652-2203

[francisdesales@shaw.ca](mailto:francisdesales@shaw.ca)

<http://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com>

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ I have fond memories of spending time on the Gaja family farm while visiting my friend Anita and remembering, even as a child, what a hard working, salt of the earth person, Teresa was. The Gajas were great neighbors.

*Sandy Rogers-Gordon*

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**Sandy Gordon** - April 09, 2018 at 01:04 PM

YJ

“ Yousra Jomha lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja



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**Yousra Jomha** - March 23, 2018 at 07:15 PM

NH

“ Al, Nicole, and the Gaja family: We're so sorry to have missed the service honouring Teresa. Gladys Ridge was blessed to have had her in it's community. Teresa was a hard working farm woman but was always so laid back and humble and gracious. She must have been an awesome Mom and Grandma. Sincerely, Bruce and Norma

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**Norma Humfrey** - March 19, 2018 at 03:00 PM

LL

“ I got to know Teresa waiting behind Joe Clark school for Connor and my son to come out. We always found something to chat about. She was great lady. Thinking of you at this time. Lynne and Paul Lair

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**Lynne Lair** - March 16, 2018 at 05:49 PM

DC

“ *Donna Cooper lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



Donna Cooper - March 16, 2018 at 03:58 PM

ME

“ *Mark Egeland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



Mark Egeland - March 15, 2018 at 11:27 AM

DM

“ *Sorry to hear of the passing of Teresa. She was a long time friend and I wasn't aware of her passing until after the service. My thoughts and prayers are with your. Sincerely Mary Langenhoff and family*



Delilah MILLER - March 15, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ *Gordon & Sharon Wagner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



Gordon & Sharon Wagner - March 15, 2018 at 11:14 AM

JK

“ Dear Al, Sherrie and Family,

*Thoughts and prays going your way. May the light your mom and grandmom brought to you lessen your sorrow.*

*Jo Ellen K*

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**Jo Ellen Krchnak** - March 15, 2018 at 01:27 AM



MK

“ Al & Nicole & family

*We are so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a sweet, kind lady who will be remembered in the hearts of many.*  
*Mike & Cathy Kendal*

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**Mike & Cathy Kendal** - March 14, 2018 at 06:29 PM

VC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all



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**Vern and Lynda Coate** - March 14, 2018 at 02:16 AM

KN

“ Kathy Niemans lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
*Teresa Gaja*



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**kathy Niemans** - March 13, 2018 at 11:26 PM

LW

“ *Teresa, with her quiet, gentle nature and lovely smile continued to reach out to her friends with compassion and prayer even in this last year. Teresa was a loving role model for all of us. May her family come to know comfort, solace and peace in their time of grief.*

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**Luella Wojcik** - March 13, 2018 at 07:49 PM

VH

“ *Al & Nicole & family*

*Sending you our deepest condolences on the loss of your mother*

*Vern & Diane Hambling*



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**Vern Hambling** - March 13, 2018 at 05:02 PM

RH

“ *Please accept our sincere condolences and hugs to you all. We have fond memories of your mom and dad coming over to the farm and with their involvement in Unifarm. Also Teresa's involvement with Farm Women . Great People!*

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**Ross & Roberta Hazen** - March 13, 2018 at 03:03 PM

JA

“ *To Al, Nic and family. Sincere condolences on the passing of your mom. Hold her memories close.*

*Julie Allan & Dave Gregory*



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**Julie Allan** - March 13, 2018 at 12:23 PM

CC

“ *Cathy Couey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



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**Cathy Couey** - March 13, 2018 at 10:12 AM

JH

“ *Our condolences to the family. Teresa was always so positive and kind; she saw the good in everyone. We will remember her as a terrific neighbor and friend who had a beautiful smile.*

*Jess & Cindy Hudson*

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**Jess & Cindy Hudson** - March 12, 2018 at 08:30 PM



“ *Stacey McLaren lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



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**Stacey McLaren** - March 12, 2018 at 06:21 PM

CS

“ *Al & Nicole & family  
Sending you our sincere condolences on the passing of your Mom*



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**Craig and Debbie Schmuland** - March 12, 2018 at 02:04 PM

MN

“ *Our thoughts are with you at this time, Anita - please accept our deepest sympathies in the loss of your Mom.*

*Steve, Maria, Mike and Andrew*

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**Maria Nenadovich** - March 12, 2018 at 11:51 AM

KN

“ *Kathy Niemans lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



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**kathy Niemans** - March 12, 2018 at 02:39 AM

JC

“ *Callahan Family*



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**Jeff callahan** - March 11, 2018 at 09:35 PM

JB

“ *What a blessing it was to have known Teresa (Mrs. Gaja). She was truly kind and caring, and had the loveliest smile! She was always sure to tell me that Connor was doing well and loved all of you so much. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Joyce*

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**Joyce Barton** - March 11, 2018 at 05:09 PM

IM

“ *Irene Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



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**Irene Montgomery** - March 10, 2018 at 03:27 PM

JP

“ *So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers to Al, Nicole and the rest of the Gaja family.*

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**Jackie Pope** - March 10, 2018 at 01:00 PM

JR

“ *Jane And Joe Russell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



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**Jane and Joe Russell** - March 10, 2018 at 09:46 AM

BM

“ *My deepest condolences, to Al & Nicole, Connor & Sherri, & all of the Gaja family. Theresa will always be remembered for hearty spirit &, her wonderful smile, to welcome whoever had come to see her. All the best to everyone, Bert Montgomery*

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**Bert Montgomery** - March 10, 2018 at 07:20 AM

RD

“ *Rosemary Derbecker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Teresa Gaja*



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**rosemary derbecker** - March 09, 2018 at 11:38 PM