



Cathryn E. Parker

May 6, 1956 - July 17, 2024

Cathryn (“Cathy”) Eleanor Parker passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family on July 17, 2024. She was the heart of our family: the cherished wife of Barry Manning, loving mother of her “bunnies,” Mari and Chelsea, and devoted Grammy to her five fur-children.

Cathryn was born on May 6, 1956 in Detroit to Carole Eleanor Parker and William Edward Parker. Having grown up alongside her younger brother, Jerry, and sister, Caryn, she also had loving relationships with her half-sisters, Jill and Christy.

As a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Cathryn’s faith was at the core of what made her who she was. It grounded her and allowed her a remarkable peace and strength through decades of health struggles, raising twins who somehow managed to wreak havoc in most of their waking moments, and finally during her brief bout with cancer.

The legacy Cathryn leaves with us is the unconditional love she had for her friends & family. A caretaker and helper, she always showed up in times of need, provided a mother’s love to so many more than just her own children, and lived a life of service, both personally and professionally. She cared so deeply for all of us, and the imprint of her love will never be forgotten.

The life she lived was bigger than these words could possibly contain. Her career as a therapist, her ongoing work with Youth Living Center (now Starfish Family Services), her hit (and sometimes miss!) baking skills, her absolute love of reading, her soft spot for animals (even allowing a deformed chicken to share the family home in the summer of 2003), the handmade Halloween costumes she made every year... she was simply magic.

Her kindness, subtle humor, calming nature, and everything about her will be tremendously and endlessly missed.

Visitation will be at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home (46401 Ann Arbor Road West) on Friday, July 26th from 2-8 PM.

A funeral service for Cathryn will be held at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, on Saturday, July 27th at 10:30 AM. Entombment will be at Glen Eden Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, we encourage memorial donations to Starfish Family Services. Donations are accepted via the following link: <https://www.starfishfamilyservices.org/make-a-donation/> or may be mailed to Atten: Development Department, 3000 Hiveley Street, Inkster, MI 48141.

We would love any memories of Cathryn you're willing to share in the "share a memory" tab on this webpage

Cemetery Details

Glen Eden Memorial Park

35667 Eight Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

JUL 27. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Cathryn E. Parker



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - July 27, 2024 at 02:24 PM



“ Cathryn was a childhood friend, high school classmate. Always very polite and friendly. We lost touch over the years but thankfully through social media we reconnected the past few years mainly commenting on each others posts. Very shocking to here she has passed. Prayers that she did not suffer even in the brief bought of cancer. Cathryn you are now one of Gods angels. May you rest in peace. Comfort and prayers to your family and friends. Grateful to have known you. Kathy Smith

Kathy Smith - August 07, 2024 at 07:02 PM



“ And Especially, Cathy and I threw Chelsea's & Christy's fun wedding shower with Cathy's & Mari's creative touches!! After a long wait due to the pandemic, we were all able to celebrate their wonderful wedding — yes, Cathy and all of us danced!!!

Janine McGraw - July 27, 2024 at 11:45 AM

JM

“ *Blessed to share many fun times with Cathy and the girls and/or our blended family members including Holiday Home tours in Detroit, Jonathan’s local wedding, Monarch Butterfly release event, schooner ride on the Detroit River, Christmas cookie making, lunches at Stage Deli, and others...all made so bright by her light!!*



Janine McGraw - July 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM

JM

And, Especially— We threw Chelsea’s and Christy’s fun Wedding Shower with her and Mari’s creative touches!! After a long wait due the pandemic, we all celebrated their wedding— yes, Cathy and all of us danced!!!

Janine McGraw - July 27, 2024 at 10:11 AM

SB

“ *I have so many wonderful memories of spending time with Kathy at Glennie and downstate. When we did Young Living together & Many thanksgivings, which meant the world to me as a single mom without much family. She always welcomed us, as if we were family. Her Glennie family will have such a void. My favorite memory was probably when we went and picked sunflowers a couple years ago...just the girls. I shall miss her so much. Hugs to you all.*

sara Barnhill - July 26, 2024 at 04:15 PM

SB

“ So many memories over the years. One of my favorites is the girls day to pick sunflowers. I always loved spending time with Cathy and the girl. Whether in Glennie or downstate. So many happy Thanksgiving memories too.



sara Barnhill - July 26, 2024 at 04:09 PM

LS

“ Years ago from Murphy Junior high, through Redford high School ,,Cathy and I became pretty good friends, pretty darn close friends. Over the years with life's happenings and relocations we did lose contact for years, but had the opportunity to have a few phone calls, to make plans to meet again, which sadly didn't happen. But as I read these wonderful memories I know she remained the same wonderful beautiful soul that I always knew. I am so sorry for your loss, she will always remain in your hearts and in your memories, she knows she's at home. Blessings to you all 🙏

laura standen - July 26, 2024 at 01:42 PM

KR

“ It is impossible for me to fully express my thoughts and feelings at this time, because any words I might use to describe Cathy’s many wonderful qualities would be entirely inadequate. Her friendship has been an integral part of my growth and development since we first met more than 45 years ago. I cannot begin to describe the profound impact her friendship has had on my life, on my emotional growth, and on my family. She was a rare and wonderful person, and a most beautiful soul. Although the missing of her amazing spirit and joyous smile will not go away, I will always carry her love in my heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family, friends and loved ones, but most especially to Barry and her “bunnies”.

Kevin Reilly - July 26, 2024 at 01:15 PM

CP

“ Caryn P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Caryn P. - July 26, 2024 at 09:22 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



July 25, 2024 at 08:11 PM

TO

“ Team Ossoff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Team Ossoff - July 25, 2024 at 08:11 PM

TE

“ Theo L. Morson, Esq. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



Theo L. Morson, Esq. - July 25, 2024 at 07:59 PM

TE

“ Theo L. Morson, Esq. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Theo L. Morson, Esq. - July 25, 2024 at 07:59 PM

MB

“ Mary Burke purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



Mary Burke - July 25, 2024 at 04:15 PM

TS

“ The Virginia Sommervilles purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



The Virginia Sommervilles - July 25, 2024 at 02:46 PM

TS

“ The Virginia Sommervilles planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

The Virginia Sommervilles - July 25, 2024 at 02:46 PM

JW

“ Cathryn was a wonderful woman with a great love of God and for her Catholic faith. I've known Cathryn for many years as a Religious Education Catechist at Sacred Heart Parish in Dearborn. Cathryn loved teaching the younger children about their Catholic faith and was a part of our Fall through Spring programming as well as our two-week long Summer Religious Education during the Summers for the few years that we offered it. She loved rewarding the children with stickers for whenever they recalled aspects of the lessons she was teaching. Cathryn will be missed from among the Sacred Heart Catechist lineup this coming year but I know that she is praising our Lord in Heaven and is in pain no more. --Julie Wieleba-Milkie

Julie Wieleba-Milkie - July 25, 2024 at 01:45 PM

DI

“ Dawn I. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Dawn I. - July 25, 2024 at 10:35 AM

BB

“ Bernadette B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Bernadette B. - July 24, 2024 at 09:48 PM

VF

“ Viva Foster purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



Viva Foster - July 24, 2024 at 05:40 PM

VF

“ Viva Foster planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Viva Foster - July 24, 2024 at 05:40 PM

PS

“ My sincere condolences to Barry, Chelsea, Mari and the rest of the family. Cathy and I met in college and became roommates (with Valerie) and shared many whacky fun times. When she met Barry-her soul mate - she was so in awe of how smart and kind he was. Her heart was happy. Then came her beautiful daughters and she was fulfilled. She led a life filled with love and wisdom. May God bless her entire family. 💔

Patricia Seago - July 24, 2024 at 11:53 AM

ML

“ Mike, Cindy and Rachel Lenardon purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



Mike, Cindy and Rachel Lenardon - July 23, 2024 at 08:19 PM

ML

“ Mike, Cindy and Rachel Lenardon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Mike, Cindy and Rachel Lenardon - July 23, 2024 at 08:19 PM

KS

“ Kerry S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Kerry S. - July 23, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



July 23, 2024 at 10:12 AM

JD

“ Your mother had so many amazing layers to her soul. She was always appropriate and a truly loving person but she could also have the most impish laugh and was the perfect partner in crime as a friend. She absolutely adored her "bunnies" without question and you both made her so proud. She will be missed.



Janet Delsener - July 23, 2024 at 01:39 AM

SU

“ Suzanne lit a candle in memory of Cathryn E. Parker



Suzanne - July 23, 2024 at 01:35 AM

“ Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

Cathy was not only blessed – but a blessing to all who knew her... she was the embodiment of unconditional love. No matter what crossed her path in this life, be it joys or trials and tribulations – she faced it all with unwavering faith and a peaceful spirit.

The beautifully written obituary pretty much sums it up – I was blessed when Cathy (and Barry) gave me the opportunity/privilege to share in all their lives as the nanny for their two beautiful daughters: Mari and Chelsea – a whirlwind of adventures that lasted from months old, through to their teenage years – to this day. I may not have been related by blood through family lines, yet I was always made to feel as 'family'... I was invited to be integral in/at most every family event: Holiday and birthday celebrations, holiday baking sprees, 'Sunday dinner at the Mannings' - I still can recall the joyful exuberance when she learned she was pregnant! - the combined fun and occasional(?) chaos of their formative years - the twins dance recitals and equestrian training enabled and encouraged by their mother/father - the imaginative and talented sewing and makeup skills that created the twins Halloween costumes and her husbands Hogwarts 'wizard' costume – Cathy's love for antiques and decorating the family home for every holiday was unparalleled.

When the time came, Cathy entrusted me with sharing in the caregiving of her mother during Carole's hospice care and final days. When my own mother passed, Cathy took me under her wing physically, mentally and emotionally and made certain I was always ok - the list is endless... a span of over 40 years sharing with Cathy and family – Cathy at the core. Always humble, always kind and considerate above and beyond, always sharing in numerous ways, always reaching out when she intuitively knew I needed it.

A consistent loving heart, hand and soul. We could all take a lesson in a life lived to it's fullest from the personal and professional life that

Cathy shared with all she encountered.

It is with the deepest love and gratitude I thank her for accepting me into her and her family's life.

It is with the deepest heartfelt love and compassion I grieve with/for her husband and daughters, sister and brother, extended family and the multitude of friends/colleagues whom Cathy touched in extraordinary ways throughout her life.

May she be in the glory of God's eternal love - free - soaring with the angels and looking out for us all from heaven – until we all may join her in peace everlasting.

All my love Cathy... always in all ways.

Suzanne

Suzanne - July 23, 2024 at 01:20 AM

CL

Amen. Beautiful tribute to a beautiful woman

Cindy Lenardon - July 23, 2024 at 09:58 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.*



July 22, 2024 at 05:53 PM

CP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



caryn parker - July 22, 2024 at 05:31 PM

CP

“ Sunshine, I gave her this name in my early teens; a name which gave a small glimpse into the Beautiful Soul within. A name to describe her Warmth, Caring, Enlightening and Nurturing ways. My Sister, My Hero. I'm am so very grateful to have had her as my Sister and Friend. I am all the better for it.

I Love You, Sunshine and I will miss you everyday, till I see you again.

Peace and Blessings to you and all our relations.



caryn parker - July 22, 2024 at 05:18 PM

CL

I second that Caryn. Cathy was the ultimate lady of grace, beauty and love. A truly beautiful soul. Memories of the house on Fenton playing 45's and Cathy putting up with us. She'll always be with us.

Cindy Lenardon - July 23, 2024 at 08:49 PM

AS

“ Alisha S. purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Cathryn E. Parker.



Alisha S. - July 22, 2024 at 01:43 PM

AS

“ Alisha S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cathryn E. Parker.

Alisha S. - July 22, 2024 at 01:43 PM

ND

“ Noreen Dinwieddie lit a candle in memory of Cathryn E. Parker



Noreen Dinwieddie - July 22, 2024 at 12:54 PM

ND

“ I lost a remarkable person on May 17th—my dear friend, former boss, confidant, mentor, and life coach, Cathy Parker. Cathy gave me my start at Starfish Family Services back in 1993, entrusting me with my first job out of college. She saw potential in me that I hadn't yet recognized, instilling the confidence I so desperately needed. Cathy was a master at identifying teachable moments, offering grace, and guiding me to step back and reflect during tumultuous times. Her wisdom profoundly shaped my personal and professional life; without her belief in me, I wouldn't be who I am today. I will deeply miss her, and as I continue to share my journey at Starfish, it will always begin with my cherished friend, Cathy Parker. Rest in paradise, Cathy—you truly earned your wings! With all my love, Noreen Dinwieddie Xo

Noreen Dinwieddie - July 22, 2024 at 12:52 PM