



Diane Justine Dugas

June 17, 1944 - October 20, 2025

Diane Justine Dugas, 81, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2025 surrounded by her family.

Diane was born on June 17, 1944 to the late Frank and Elizabeth Saims in Detroit, Michigan. Diane was the oldest of four children and attended St. Brigid Catholic Grade School and Immaculata High School. In 1966, she graduated from the University of Detroit with a Bachelor of Arts in History and English. During that time, she met the love of her life, Milton G. Dugas, Jr. On October 1, 1966, Milt and Diane were united in marriage. They recently celebrated 59 years of marriage. Together, they built a loving family and raised four children: Angela (the late Brian) Hill, Dr. Brian (Stacey) Dugas, Nicole (Matthew) Memmer, and Natalie (Charles) Patanis. In addition to her children, Diane is survived by the most important people in the world to her, her thirteen grandchildren: Alexandria, Allyson, and Vincent Hill; Isabella, Alexander, Sophia, and Jack Dugas; Hannah, Andrew, and Elizabeth Memmer; and Olivia, Adrianna, and Joseph Patanis.

Diane was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother. When her children were young, she was actively involved in their schools, from being a Sunday school teacher and a computer helper at Our Lady of Good Counsel School, to being an active member of the Mothers' Clubs at both Ladywood and Catholic Central High Schools. She was an avid sports mom and later grandmother, best known for her chants of "Get the ball!" and "Take it away!" at many basketball games over the years.

Diane was very sociable. She never missed an opportunity to gather with her large extended family of cousins, nieces, nephews, etc. whom she loved dearly. She also enjoyed telling and listening to good jokes, playing board games (especially Sorry! and Scrabble with her grandkids), getting together with her pinochle, bridge, and bunco groups, and spending afternoons with her beloved CC Mom's group that has been meeting for nearly 40 years. Diane was the true matriarch of the "Dugas Clan" and the keeper of family traditions. She was especially proud of her Polish heritage. She took Paczki orders from her family every Fat Tuesday and stood in long lines to fulfill them. She also taught her grandchildren to love pierogi and fresh kielbasa, and she enjoyed listening and dancing to polka music until the very end. When her frail body could barely move, the "Clarinet Polka" and the "Hokey Pokey" never failed to get a reaction from her head and shoulders.

Her favorite family memories included annual trips to Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, 4th of July parades up north, jumping the waves in Lake Michigan, and especially cooking and baking for her children and grandchildren. Whether it was making waffles for her grandchildren while at "Grandma's Beach House," or hosting family parties in her basement in South Lyon, nothing brought her more joy than the chaos of being surrounded by family. Diane hosted Christmas Eve "Wigilia" for over fifty years, which was most certainly her favorite day of the year.

Diane spent her final six months under the gentle care of her loving aides, Veronica and Emma, at an adult foster care home in Livonia. Diane loved them both dearly, and she will forever be their "angel." While Alzheimer's may have robbed Diane of her memories, it never took away her kindness, gratitude, and ability to love.

Diane is predeceased in death by her son-in-law, Brian Vincent Hill, who fittingly called her "Lady Di."

Diane is also survived by her siblings: Frederick (Patricia) Saims, Gregory (Patricia) Saims and Marceline (Andrew) Schneider, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 23 from 3 PM until 8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (Between Sheldon and Beck at McClumpha) Plymouth. A rosary service will be held at 7 PM.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, October 24 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Road, at the corner of North Territorial and Beck Road. She will lie in state starting at 10AM until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for remembrances to be made in the form of contributions to the New Mary Grotto Project at Detroit Catholic Central High School (<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/71390/donations/new?amt=250.00>) or PB&J Ministries at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. (<https://www.pbjoutreach.org/donate.htm>)

To share a message, please use the Share a Memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Rosary Service

OCT **23**. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Lie in State

OCT **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2852
(734) 453-0326

Funeral Mass

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2852
(734) 453-0326

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Diane Justine Dugas



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - October 22, 2025 at 08:50 PM



What a beautiful video tribute on this website and the visitation, funeral and luncheon were the perfect honor to Diane, Milt and their family legacy. Our love and blessings, Steve & Sherri S.

Sherri Silletti - November 02, 2025 at 10:47 AM



“ Savory Farmhouse Gift Box was purchased for the family of Diane Justine Dugas.



October 27, 2025 at 05:55 PM



“ Dear Natalie and Family,
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
God bless you all.
With love,
Linda Kenger

Linda Kenger - October 27, 2025 at 09:01 AM

ES

“ Elvira S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Justine Dugas.

Elvira S. - October 23, 2025 at 09:56 AM

MP

“ Michael P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Justine Dugas.

Michael P. - October 23, 2025 at 08:11 AM

SA

“ Aunt Diane, it has been many years since we have seen one another but I will always remember you being a bright light and gentle soul. I have many memories with the family over the years and will always cherish them. Your cheerfulness and smile will always be remembered. I always loved getting the family holiday cards to see what everyone was up to. My love to Uncle Milt, Angela, Natalie, Brian and Nicole and all those who cherished you and were lucky enough to know (and love) you earthside. Love, Susie Abraham (Dudek) and family.



Susie Abraham - October 21, 2025 at 08:25 PM

GS

“ *Dearest Aunt Diane. You are now the Lord's Special Angel. May we emulate your beautiful life. Long may we cherish your radiant passion for politics, sports, card games, and Polish food, and your beloved devotion to your family and faith. One spiritual request. Please intercede for us the winning lottery numbers. Hope you're smiling with happy Heavenly tears. Our eternal love, Gerald, Barbara, Michael, and Kristen Sabatini.*

Gerald Sabatini - October 21, 2025 at 05:19 PM

GS

“ *Gerald & Barbara Sabatini purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Diane Justine Dugas.*



Gerald & Barbara Sabatini - October 21, 2025 at 05:10 PM