



Sandra Jean Kotcher

August 7, 1939 - January 12, 2026

Sandra Jean Kotcher, age 86, of Canton, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Monday morning, January 12, 2026. She was born on August 7, 1939, in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of the late Frederick Bernhardt and the late Charlotte Zarzycki Bernhardt. She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Darryl Kotcher, and her brother, Gordon Bernhardt (Sandy).

Sandra met Ray Kotcher at St. Francis de Sales High School in Detroit. When Ray's family later moved to Florida, the two stayed in touch, nurturing a connection that grew into a remarkable, loving partnership spanning 64 years of marriage. Sandra worked as a secretary at Burroughs, Inc. until 1962, when she chose to devote herself fully to raising her family.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Ray; her sons, Kevin Kotcher (Larry) and Vincent Kotcher (Jahna); her cherished grandchildren, Christopher Kotcher, Cory Kotcher (Paige), and Kaitlyn Kotcher; and her sisters, Christine Zalewski (Mitchell) and Doreen Lalka (Patrick). She was also aunt and great-aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Sandra will be remembered for her playful sense of humor, quick smile, and engaging laugh. She enjoyed friendly competition and took great delight in games of cards, Scrabble, Yahtzee, and bingo—always playing to win, but always having fun. She also found quiet pleasure in reading and tackling crossword puzzles. Above all, Sandra cherished her family. She treasured family camping trips and loved holiday gatherings. She took great joy in decorating her home for the season and lovingly upheld traditions such as

decorating Christmas cookies and coloring Easter eggs with her grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Sandra's honor to the American Cancer Society.

Please join us in remembering and celebrating Sandra's life.

Visitation Sunday, January 18th 2-8 PM with a 7 PM Rosary at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth.

In state Monday, Jan 19th 10:30 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Mass at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton, MI 48187

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 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

Rosary

JAN 18. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

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

In state

JAN 19. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
44800 Warren Road
Canton, MI 48187

Funeral Mass

JAN **19**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
44800 Warren Road
Canton, MI 48187

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Sandy, my wonderful sister-in-law, was married to my brother Ray for 64 years! What an incredible journey they shared with love, laughter, and beautiful memories!

I loved when Sandy would tell a story and started to giggle before she finished it! Her laughter could light up a room!

I have many fond memories of their visits to Chicago with my nephews! I was always included in their adventures going to museums and Honey Bear farm in Wisconsin!

Sandy was a beautiful person and we miss her already! Rest in peace now Sandy! You now will be with your son Darryl! Love Cheryl & Harry Walker and Family

Cheryl and Harry Walker and Family - January 17 at 11:04 AM

TW

“ Aunt Sandy was one of my favorites. She was the most caring and sweetest person and always so much fun. I have so many great memories doing things with her, whether it was camping or just staying over long weekends. I miss those days and I will miss her very much.

Love you Aunt Sandy! ☐

Tracy A Wilson - January 15 at 01:23 PM

CZ

“ Sandra and I were not only sisters, we were also best friends. We played games together, we shopped together, we camped together, we laughed together, we cried together. I will dearly miss her.💕💕

Christine Zalewski - January 14 at 09:26 PM