



## Barbara Ellen May

May 11, 1940 - September 2, 2023

Barbara Ellen May, age 83 of Kankakee, passed away Saturday, September 2, 2023, at Heritage Woods of Manteno. She was born May 11, 1940, in Manteno, the daughter of Edmund and Catherine (Brummet) Smith. Barbara married Norman C. May on June 4, 1966, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Manteno. He preceded her in death on December 13, 2020.

Barbara was a retired realtor for Coldwell Banker. She attended Mount Saint Mary's Academy in St. Charles, IL for 3 years, then graduated from St. Patrick Central High School; and Loretto Heights College in Denver Colorado.

Barbara was a parishioner of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Kankakee.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Ryan M. (Maria) May of Lombard, Greg May of Bozeman, Montana; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Stacie C. May of Phoenix, AZ, Susan M. (Brian) Parsons of Tinley Park, Shannon (Stephen) DeRubertis of Chicago, Elizabeth (David) Smith of Valparaiso, IN; one sister and brother-in-law, Helen (Francesco) Vigo of Heath, OH; and seven grandchildren.

Barbara is preceded in death by her husband, Norman; and her parents, Edmund and Catherine Smith. Also preceding her in death are her Uncle Frank and Aunt Margaret Keigher who raised her after her parent's death.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Manteno. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Kankakee.

The Funeral Mass will be streamed live for those who cannot attend. Please reach out to members of the May Family for instructions.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the Funeral Mass. Inurnment will be held at St. Joseph Cemetery, Manteno at a later date.

Memorials may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kankakee.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

9000 E. Road  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 263-6287

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **14.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
291 N. Main St.  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

SEP **15.** 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
428 S. Indiana  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-6716

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ At one time I had 3 Barbara May ...wife, mother, and sister in law. Of course I cherish many wonderful memories of them all. It's sad to see our generation of family disappearing. Regards my brother Norm's Barb, on the day she died, I took out from storage, the 10-place dining dish set she gave me several years ago. In her memory and in Norm's memory, we now use these dishes as our every day set. May God bless our family and give us happy and healthy lives.

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**Jim May** - September 13, 2023 at 11:15 AM



Good to hear from you Uncle Jim. Mom would have loved you thinking of her like that. Not sure if you were able to stream the mass, but everything was beautiful 💕  
Keep in touch!

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**Stacie May** - September 16, 2023 at 01:00 PM

KM

“ I have fond memories of times spent with Aunt Barb by the pool and on the river with Uncle Norm. I also enjoyed catching up with her in Cheyenne at the family reunion. My earliest memory of Aunt Barb demonstrated her compassion. Our families were spending time together when I got a fever. Aunt Barb stayed by my side and sponged me with cool water. I know she had other things to do, but I was so thankful she chose to help me. It meant a lot.  
Aunt Barb's legacy—and Uncle Norm's— live on in the lives of their children and grandchildren and the generations to come. May family and friends lay hold of the Hope through Christ of a reunion in Heaven one day.

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**Kati Molloy** - September 12, 2023 at 07:01 PM



*Thanks Kati...I didn't remember that memory so thanks for sharing. Mom would get us kids sooo excited when our Colorado Cousins were coming for a visit! She truly loved family and seeing you guys was a Big Event...lots of awesome memories there ❤️  
Miss you guys, hope all is well.  
Stacie*

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**Stacie May** - September 16, 2023 at 01:06 PM



“ *Barbara aka my "feisty red head" will always be missed! I had just seen her 2 days before her passing and we laughed and laughed like usual. She use to nap all the time while I did her hair then pop up like she was awake the whole time. Oh how I will miss all of her encouraging words. She always wanted to know the details in every situation so she could help with her knowledge. The girls and I will always miss and think about you! I still have you in my appointment book for this Wednesday afternoon and I just cant cancel it 😞 I will however see you that morning instead. Love you Barbara May. Fly high beautiful!*

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**JoAnn Leader Prather** - September 11, 2023 at 10:02 PM



*JoAnn, yes, she certainly was feisty! Lol. She looked so beautiful, especially her hair thanks to you!! Mom would have had it no other way!! I was so nice to finally meet you after sharing text messages on Thursday night. Thank you for everything, but most of all for loving my Mom and taking such great care of her like you did, you know she appreciates you ❤️ and so do we, the May family.  
Stacie*

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**Stacie May** - September 16, 2023 at 01:14 PM

SD

*Thanks so much JoAnn. My mom is forever beautiful thanks to you. Her hair looked amazing, exactly how she wanted it.*

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**Shannon DeRubertis** - September 18, 2023 at 11:17 AM

SD

“ Hi Mom. I will forever miss you each and every day. My life was so blessed with you in it and I am so lucky to call you my mom. Thank you for always loving me and guiding me. You always seemed to be two steps ahead of me. Because of you, I am a better mom and a better person. I know you are in heaven so please tell dad hello for me. You will both always be in my heart. I miss you so.

Shannon C DeRubertis - September 10, 2023 at 10:00 PM

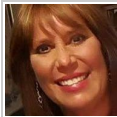


Stacie May - September 16, 2023 at 01:27 PM

LN

“ Wonderful memories come to mind of sunshine, family, and extremely delicious food made by Aunt Barb for a multitude of family gatherings! Uncle Norm and Aunt Barb also always had an open door for me to stop and say hello on the way to/from college days in Champaign, for which I am so thankful. Love & hugs to all of you.

Lori (May) Nixon - September 10, 2023 at 08:26 PM



Lori, thanks for sharing your memories...they bring us such comfort at this time. Wish we could have seen you, but we understand. It was great seeing your Mom, Aunt Bev, and catching up on everyone. Mom and Dad would always be so excited to see you when you stopped for a visit. And thank you also for the beautiful flowers from your family. Love and hugs to all of you too!

Stacie

Stacie May - September 16, 2023 at 01:20 PM

ST

“ Thanks Barbara for our glorious bridge days. Prayers and lit candle at my church for you. Sue Mulvihill Adame.

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**susan Thomas** - September 08, 2023 at 08:35 AM



*Susan, I might have been only knee high, but I vaguely remember those days. I mostly remember I used to like to steal a Brach's chocolate star or some of the mixed nuts Mom would put out for those nights. She certainly loved to entertain! She would be very happy to know you lit a candle at your church in honor of her. Thank you for sharing your memories with our family during this time.  
Barb and Norm's Oldest Daughter,  
Stacie May*

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**Stacie May** - September 16, 2023 at 01:26 PM