



## Betty Mae Gerard

January 5, 1941 - March 17, 2022

Betty Mae Gerard died fortified by the last sacraments of the Catholic Church on March 17, 2022. A wake will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee on Monday, March 21, 2022 concluding with the Rosary. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at St. Rose of Lima Chapel, Kankakee, followed by burial at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

The former Betty Mae Robbins was born near Clifton, Iroquois County, on January 5, 1941, the sixth of 16 children born to Joseph C. Robbins and Letha M. Dwyer. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Gerard was predeceased by two sisters and five brothers.

Mrs. Gerard was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother — loving, faithful, selfless and generous. Mrs. Gerard began a career with local movie theaters while in high school, at the Luna theater, and eventually managed the Town Cinema, Paramount and Meadowview theaters. She was always ready and eager to lend a helping hand, especially at the former St. Teresa School, when it was attended by her children, including stints as a girls basketball coach and Cub Scouts den mother. She had also served Father Scaria Thoppil, C.M.I. as a housekeeper at St. Rose Rectory. Her home cooking was treasured by her family, especially her fried chicken and pies.

The late Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I. once said, “The only thing we take with us when we die is what we have given away.” We know that Betty

took with her a great deal when the Lord called her to himself. Although Betty's sufferings in life were many, she always placed others before herself. Betty led her life with a servant's heart. While her entire family experienced her love and care, she was especially dedicated to her mother-in-law Mrs. Sarah Gerard, longtime neighbor Miss Mary Taylor, and her grandsons. Mrs. Gerard graduated from Kankakee High School in 1959. She was baptized on May 7, 1960 at the former Immaculate Conception Church in Kankakee. There, on June, 11, 1960, she was united in matrimony to John E. Gerard, who preceded her in death on July 6, 2021. The couple had four children: Robin E. Gerard (deceased), David J. Gerard of Kankakee, Debra A. (Robert) Heinlein of Crown Point, Ind. and John M. (Cindy) Gerard of Fort Myers, Fla. Mrs. Gerard is also survived by two grandsons: Michael R. (Gretchen) Heinlein of Fort Wayne, Ind., and John E. Gerard of Fort Myers, Fla.; three great-grandchildren: Joseph G. Heinlein and Anne T. Heinlein of Fort Wayne, Ind, and a baby due in May.; 6 sisters: Joan Mullen of Hideaway, Texas, Millie Blanchette and Margie Tofte Bourbonnais, Barbara Giardina of Bradley, Letha Hamilton of Buckley and Brenda Weiss of Donovan; 2 brothers: Gerald Robbins of Bourbonnais and Maurice Robbins of Channahon; many nieces and nephews and former colleagues and friends. Memorials may be made for the celebration of Masses for the repose of her soul. May she rest in the peace of Christ. Please pray for her.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary

2000 E. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL

# Previous Events

## Wake

MAR 21. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 22. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Chapel  
486 W. Merchant  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ To Betty's family and friends, I am so sorry for your loss. Unfortunately Rich and I did not see the notice about her passing in time to attend the services. We were so blessed with the friendship of Betty and John, and of their family, especially John Jr., Cindy, and Robin. I myself knew Betty's family the Robbins side and Wilcox side. Sending our love and deepest sympathies, Rich and Charmaine (Courville) Sims.

Charmaine Sims - March 27, 2022 at 08:15 AM

PR

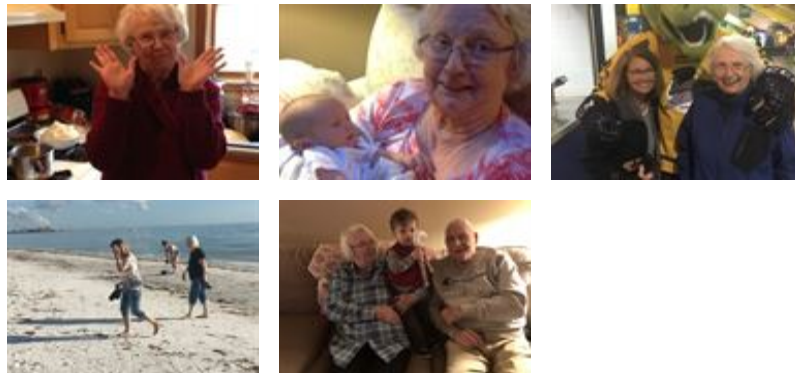
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paula Robbins - March 21, 2022 at 06:30 PM



“ 117 files added to the album Life Tributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - March 21, 2022 at 01:43 PM

LT

“ So sorry to hear about Betty. Sending our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to all the Family. I remember her brother Tommy saying that Betty was always reading a book growing up with her. I'm so glad that she and John had a chance to visit us in Las Vegas. I will always remember the happy times we shared together. We will miss You. May you rest in peace. Brother Tommy's wife Lani, daughter Tiffany and Family



Lani & Tiffy - March 19, 2022 at 02:28 PM

JG

“ Jerry Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Betty Mae Gerard



Jerry Giacchino - March 19, 2022 at 01:03 PM

VD

“ Virginia R Dominick lit a candle in memory of Betty Mae Gerard



Virginia R Dominick - March 19, 2022 at 10:54 AM

JM

“ My sweet sister was always a Blessing to me. She loved others with a pure heart . In 2011 she and my other sisters came To Branson To surprise me on my Birthday. We had a wonderful time. Michael and Betty visited us in 💕 2008 went to Dallas. She always was there for me. Rest In Peace dear Sister. I love ❤️ you

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joan mullen - March 18, 2022 at 02:12 PM