



Mary R. Wendling

June 26, 1951 - April 6, 2025

Mary R. Wendling, age 73, of Kankakee passed away Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Elmhurst Hospital. She was born June 26, 1951 in Chicago, the daughter of Frank & Bernice (Kohner) Vogel. Mary married William Wendling on November 14, 1980 in Park Forest.

Mary was an Elementary Assistant for Kankakee School District 111 and a part time babysitter. She enjoyed bowling, reading, and loved to travel. She always supported her husband coaching, going to all his games. She was always doing for others. Most of all, Mary loved spending time with her family, friends, and grandchildren.

She was a parishioner of St. John Paul II, formerly St. Martin of Tours.

Surviving are her husband of nearly 45 years, William Wendling of Kankakee; one son, Frank (Ingrid) Wendling of Bolingbrook; one daughter, Julie (Brandon) Baker of Villa Park; one brother, Frank Vogel of Park Forest; and two grandchildren, Natalie Baker and Georgina Wendling. Mary is preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at St. John Paul II-West Campus.

Interment will follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Steger.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Steger, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

APR 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

TG

“ Tracy G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary R. Wendling.

Tracy G. - April 17, 2025 at 05:34 PM

MT

“ Bill and family, I was so very sorry to read of your loss. May God hold you close and may your fond memories bring smiles. Hugs and prayers are with you.

Mary Thomson - April 17, 2025 at 03:47 PM

LF

“ I was so blessed to have had you as my dear friend since our early days in Grammer school at St. Irenaeus. You, me. Mary Delehanty, Patty Motchman and Paula Moratz. Not many can say they have friends that long. I will always hold so many found memories. I miss you terribly. Mary Rose. Till we meet again in heaven. Love you, Lynn.

Lynn Francesconi Fuentes - April 16, 2025 at 11:46 AM

KK

“ To Bill, Julie, Frank, Brandon, Ingrid, Natalie, Georgina-

I am so sorry this beautiful woman left way to soon. I will miss chatting with her in front of Julie and Brandon's, watching her chat with every adult and child passing by, seeing her on my Ring camera enjoying the porch with Huck, seeing (and hearing) her walking Huck whenever she's visiting, receiving bags of corn on the cob from her every summer, her loving my kids like bonus grandkids, her telling me she loves me in person and on text...

I can't imagine how many lives she has touched in little and big ways. I hope you can find comfort in knowing she made so many hearts happy and that she loved you all more than anything in this world.

*Big Hugs,
Kristin Kirchwehm*

Kristin Kirchwehm - April 10, 2025 at 11:52 AM

CV

“ *Mary and Bill's daughter, Julie, was one of the "Fab Four" while the girls were journeying through grade school and junior high together. There was rarely a day that Julie, Lauren, Dani, and Kelly were not together practicing new dance moves, riding bikes, and or just hanging out. Mary and "we moms" sat together to cheer on our daughters, laugh about their antics, and welcomed them into our homes. Mary was always cheerful, helpful, and truly wanted to know what was going on in others' lives. She is fondly remembered by my daughter and me for the love and support she gave.*

Cynth Veronda - April 10, 2025 at 11:34 AM

JJ

“ *Jolinda Jones lit a candle in memory of Mary
R. Wendling*



Jolinda Jones - April 10, 2025 at 06:01 AM

AW

“ Dear Bill, Frank, Julie, and Families,

We were heartbroken to hear of Mary’s passing. For more than a decade, she was a cherished part of our family’s life. Mary was so much more than a trusted babysitter or a generous spoiler of children and dogs—she was family.

She loved our children as if they were her own. I can still hear her voice, often thick with emotion, saying, “Enjoy them while they’re young, Amy, because it all goes so fast.” Those words have stayed with me through the years.

Just as our kids were growing out of the stage where they needed a babysitter, Mary stepped into the joyful role of grandmother. She was absolutely thrilled about the arrival of Natalie and Georgina. I remember how proudly she shared stories and photos, lighting up whenever she spoke about them. She often told me how proud she was of Julie and Frank for being such loving, attentive parents.

Though we hadn’t seen Mary and Bill as frequently in recent years, Mary never missed a beat. She always remembered Izzy and Brady’s birthdays and would send thoughtful, encouraging messages that meant more than she probably ever knew.

Mary touched our lives deeply and will always hold a very special place in our hearts.

*With all our love and deepest sympathy,
Amy & Jason Wendinger*

amy wendinger - April 09, 2025 at 09:22 PM

JS

“ *John & Debi Schultz lit a candle in memory of Mary R. Wendling*



John & Debi Schultz - April 09, 2025 at 07:05 PM

GM

“ *Bill, Julie, and Frank,
Rose and I would like to express our deepest condolences to you all on the passing of Mary. There wasn't a time that Mary wasn't the sweetest, kindest, and most thoughtful in her words or actions. Her passing has left both of us in complete shock. We loved her dearly and will miss our dear friend. She has left behind two great children to carry on her kindness.
Gary and Rose Mitchell*

Gary T Mitchell - April 09, 2025 at 02:09 PM

MD

“ *RIP Mary you are the kindness and most thoughtful person Debbie and I have ever known we will miss you!!! 🙏🙏🙏*

Merten Daniel - April 09, 2025 at 12:02 PM