



## Simona "Sam" Cruz

December 30, 1951 - January 19, 2026

Simona "Sam" Cruz, age 74 of Manteno passed away on Monday, January 19, 2026, at her home. She was born on December 30, 1951, in Chicago, the daughter of Roberto and Paula (Ortiz) Salaz. Simona married Jacinto Cruz on May 21 in Chicago.

Simona was a Medical Assistant working primarily in hospitals on the south side of Chicago.

Simona was a participating member and avid supporter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She had been battling the disease since the late 1980's. She and her family were strong supporters and donors to the various museums in Chicago. Brookfield Zoo and the Museum of Science and Industry being special favorites.

Simona enjoyed helping neighbors and those in her community and going to the movies. Most of all, Simona loved her family, especially her grandchildren. Simona was a devout Christian and a member of the Manteno United Methodist Church.

Surviving is her husband of nearly 50 years, Jacinto; two sons, Jason Cruz of Long Beach, CA, Anthony (Andrea) Cruz of Chesterton, IN; two brothers, Mike (Rachel) Cuadrado of Chicago, Albert Jr. "Jr" (Carmen) Salaz of Kissimmee, FL; five grandchildren, Quinn Cruz, Jacob Ramirez, Anthony Cruz, Mark Kamstra, Angelina Kamstra; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Simona is preceded in death by her parents; and one son, Joseph Ramirez. Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial gathering will take place

from 12-1:30 p.m. on March 7, 2026 at Manteno United Methodist Church in Manteno.

Memorials may be made to the National MS Society, Manteno United Methodist Church, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Manteno United Methodist Church  
255 W. Second Street  
Manteno, IL

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *MR MRS lit a candle in memory of Simona "Sam" Cruz*



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**MR MRS** - January 23 at 07:47 AM

ME

“ *Maribel E Eckberg lit a candle in memory of Simona "Sam" Cruz*



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**Maribel E Eckberg** - January 22 at 04:56 PM