



Joanne Marie Hacala

July 19, 1935 - August 28, 2024

Joanne Marie Burke Hacala passed away to be with Our Lord on August 28th, 2024. She was 89 years old. She is survived by her three daughters, Maria (Nickolas) Zizzi, Teresa Hacala, and Carmela (Douglas) Wilder. She has two grandsons, Matthew Edward Drake and Martin Wilder. She is survived by her dear sister in law, Rosemary Rubino Burke, many cousins and great nieces and nephews.

Her family members that passed before her are her father, Matthew M. Burke Sr. (1964), her brother, Matthew Burke (1970) and her mother, Carmela Grimaldi Burke (1994), her nephew Matthew Burke (1989) and her nephew Samuel William Burke (1999). Her beloved husband Gerald "Jerry" Hacala "Hac", passed away in 2012. Joanne and Jerry were married for 51 years.

Joanne Marie Burke was born in Detroit, Michigan, on July 19, 1935. She attended Holy Name

Catholic grade school, and St. Anthony High School in Detroit. She excelled at secretarial skills, and worked for an advertising agency and then for General Motors. She loved doing shorthand. As we were growing up, she would have steno books at the house and would write in a language that neither her three girls, nor her husband, could interpret.

Joanne met Gerald Hacala at a dance, and that theme carried throughout their life together.

They married on April 22, 1961 at Holy Name Parish on Van Dyke in Detroit.

They bought a

bungalow on the east side, and raised their family there for 30 years. She stayed home for

several years to raise the girls, then went on to become a "Kelly Girl", doing temporary jobs.

She later worked for the Stroh Brewery Co. and Comerica bank, making many good friends

along the way.

Jerry and Joanne loved to dance together and they were a popular pair at the local church

dances. The floor would clear for them when they when they got going.

Dancing in the living

room, with the record player on, was a favored activity at the house with the girls.

Joanne loved her family, loved her friends and loved her church and the Holy Family. She gave

many hours of prayer, devotion, and attending at Adoration. Joanne was practical. She

believed in the faith that works. She volunteered for years at the MCREST shelter, helping those less fortunate. Her helping hand was always extended to those in need. Her quiet works of mercy go beyond words.

Her home was welcoming and accepting. She served her guests with good food, strong coffee, love, compassion and laughter. The doors and windows would probably be open, so bring a sweater.

She loved her garden. She loved the sunshine. She loved being outside. When Jerry was sick and she neglected her garden, she would say, "Oh, the Blessed Mother is taking care of it". Her flowers flourished.

Joanne was happy. As age does what it does, she continued to be happy, always thinking of how she could be helpful to others. At her last apartment, they called her "Miss Giggles". She was a joy to be with. If you knew her, then you experienced her joy, her love of life, her gratitude for the small things, and her steadfast faith. You have been blessed by Joanne.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Queen of Creation Catholic Church, on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 10:00 am, 50931 Maria St. New Baltimore, MI 48047.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen at cskdetroit.org.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP 21. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Queen of Creation Church
50931 Maria Street
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Memorial Mass

SEP 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Queen of Creation Church
50931 Maria Street
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Tribute Wall

PZ

“ Aunt Joanne you will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure to know you. Growing up we always enjoyed coming over to your house to visit. You were always so welcoming, and the house was always filled with laughter, family stories, and great food. Prayers and blessings to the families of Maria, Theresa and Carmella.

Paul Zelenak - September 21, 2024 at 04:13 PM

JJ

“ I had the blessing of knowing ‘Gramma Joanne’ for many years. She was a beautiful soul. She always made me laugh. She would send me homemade cookies and love notes, which still grace my refrigerator. The only thing I loved more than her radiant personality and her love of God was her sage advice, always delivered with calm, kindness and love. I will never forget this beautiful woman. Her spirit will live on in our memories and the life lessons she passed on.

Julie Jax - September 21, 2024 at 07:53 AM

DH

“ Dahnell & Michael Hazlewood purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joanne Marie Hacala.



Dahnell & Michael Hazlewood - September 18, 2024 at 11:09 AM

SA

“ Joanne's kitchen table - with windows open - was my second home for decades. Through high school, whenever I came home from college for holidays or weekends, even after I moved to Texas. Eventually she became Grandma Joanne to my daughter. She was always quick to offer a hug, a sandwich, "I love you," and wise, compassionate advice. I'm so grateful she was with us, at my parents' house on Myrna Court, for the last Father's Day with my dad. We should all be so lucky as to have a Joanne in our lives.

Sue A - September 15, 2024 at 12:31 PM

LA

Mrs "Hac" was the best to say the least. As soon as school would let out I walked home changed out of my uniform and pedaled to the Hacala house. There was always good food to eat and a kitchen table full of friends and neighbors. The best years of my life were growing up in Detroit with the St. Brendans family. My kids grew to know Joanne as grandma Joanne. She will be missed immensely by me and my family 🌸❤️

Lisa Longo Asaro - September 17, 2024 at 08:38 PM