



## Mary Ellen Van Dyke

July 15, 1930 - December 30, 2018

Mary Ellen (Van Dyke) McTigue was born on July 15, 1930 to Joseph and Beatrice (Cox) McTigue in Detroit, Michigan. She is predeceased by her brothers Robert and Thomas. She graduated McKenzie High School in 1949. She worked in the dairy department of Tom Boy's grocery store and eventually became the dairy buyer for the chain of grocery stores. An independent woman for her time, she did not marry until she met the love her life, James Bernard Van Dyke. They married on September 7, 1957. Their first child James Joseph (Debra) arrived a year later, followed by Patricia Lynn, Michael Andrew (Andrea), Audrey Ellen (Larry Thayer) and Robert Thomas (Deborah). One of Mary Ellen's great joys was that of being a loving and proud grandmother of Kimberly (Chris), Kevin, Trevor, Samantha and Natalie. Mary Ellen was a devoted wife, mother, and Grandmother. She would do anything for her children and grandchildren. In October of 1997, she successfully fought breast cancer. In January of 1998, she lost her beloved husband. Mary Ellen became involved with Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit for support during her breast cancer battle, and in grieving for her husband. In time, she became a volunteer at Gilda's, helping others deal with cancer and grieving. She found she had a talent for designing necklaces (to the delight of her daughters and daughters-in-law) and began teaching a class on the topic at Gilda's. She also volunteered at St. John's Hospital. Visitation on Friday January 11th from 2-8:00 p.m. (7 pm rosary) at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 49150 Schoenherr Rd., (N. of 22 Mile Rd.) Shelby Twp. Funeral on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at St.

Jane Frances de Chantal Parish. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 11. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Rosary

JAN 11. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate at Church

JAN 12. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances De Chantal  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, Mi

## Funeral Mass

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JAN 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances De Chantal  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, Mi

# Tribute Wall

M(

“ My Aunt Mary was a god send when I was going thru hard times with my Dad, who was my Dad's sister. She and I would talk so many times. Whether she called me or I would call her at all hours. So many times I would be crying because my siblings would be ganging up on me or questioning me of my Dad's treatments, she was there. Aunt Mary was my mother figure!! If it was not for her I would not have survived. I will always have fond memories of and will always hold her in my heart!! Heaven has received another Angel!!

Maggie Lincourt (McTigue) - January 11, 2019 at 09:24 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Van Dyke.



January 11, 2019 at 12:48 PM

ER

“ I met Mary Ellen through the art program at Gilda's Club. She called me her teacher, but it was really she who taught me. We talked for hours every week, she taught me the greatest gift we can ever give one another is time. She shared many stories about her husband, children and grandchildren- I feel like I know all of them! She was strong and smart and feisty and she will be forever in my heart.  
Erin Shahly



Erin - January 08, 2019 at 01:08 PM

JP

“ I first met Mary Ellen at Gilda's a Club in 1998 shortly after the death of her husband. For the first few months I don't think Mary Ellen said a word she just shared her tears. Ever so slowly she began to regain that gentle and caring voice that was always so loving. As the years went by Mary Ellen became a voice of comfort and friendship to many who walked through the red door. As I shared as my cousin Joan's funeral Mary Ellen embodied what is good. What makes us human, kind and compassionate. What a joy it was for me to recently receive e card from Mary Ellen as she will always bring a smile to my face.

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**Joe Perry** - January 03, 2019 at 08:39 PM

ST

“ *Mary Ellen was a long time member, volunteer and friend of Gilda's Club. I saw her weekly for 12 years. We enjoyed many special moments together.*

*She and I talked every week about her family and mine. She was so proud of her children and grandkids. They are so blessed to have had her as a mother and grandmother. I knew them all by name and everything they were up to.*

*She was an amazing women. I am blessed to have spent so much time with her. I have missed her every day since she had to stop coming in. She will always be missed at Gilda's and will always be remembered.*

*I personally will never forget her and will always love her.*

*God Bless everyone who knew her and loved her. She was one of a kind.*

*Sharon Transit  
Gilda's Club Metro Detroit*

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**Sharon Transit** - January 02, 2019 at 02:12 PM

LB

“ *Mary Ellen was one of the first members to greet me when I joined Gilda's Club in 2012. Mary Ellen was just so sweet, kind and caring. As I was getting to know the Gilda's Club community, Mary Ellen exemplified the best of our members and set the tone for how lovely it is when you came inside the Clubhouse.*

*Hoping each day is a little lighter for her friends and family, knowing how special each memory must be.*

*Warmly,*

*Laura Varon Brown*

*Executive Director & CEO of Gilda's Club Metro Detroit*

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**Laura Varon Brown** - January 02, 2019 at 01:48 PM

JA

“ Pat, this poem was shared with my when my mom past last year. I hope it makes you smile and brings a little peace as it did for me and my family. Jason Taplin

*Gods Garden  
by unknown*

*God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face.*

*He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest  
Gods garden must be beautiful  
He always take the Best.*

*He knew that your were weary,  
and He knew that you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
be well on earth again.*

*He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb  
So he closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered "Peace be thine."*

*It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day God Called You Home.*

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Jason - January 02, 2019 at 09:59 AM