



## Jean Marie Kennedy

January 13, 1928 - September 6, 2022

Jean (christened Genevieve) Marie (Lucas) Kennedy died peacefully in her sleep on the early morning of September 6, 2022 at her home at Waltonwood Lakeside, Sterling Heights, MI. Born on Friday, January 13, 1928 in Youngstown, OH to Lithuanian immigrants Eva Marie (Radzevicius; abbreviated Rade; 1886-1971) and Michael Lucas (abbreviated from Lukasevicius; 1885-1960), Jean was the youngest of six children (all US born): Anne (1909-80), Rose Mary (1911-2006), Gusty (1913-87), Victor (1915-2007), and Helen (1918-2018). Raised in the family home on South Ave., Jean was remembered by her early peers as a gregarious, feisty youngster. Even after 80 years, nephew Walter Andrews, son of sister Anne, but nearly the same age as Jean, remembered calling her, albeit lovingly, “Meany Jeany” for her bossy ways.

Jean graduated Woodrow Wilson High School in June, 1946 and spent that summer with her sister Rose Mary in Saginaw, MI sorting rocks for her geologist brother-in-law Edward Baltrusiatas in the hope of finding oil in MI (he never did). Meanwhile, she caught the eye of a young soldier, just back from the War, whose parents lived next door. Jean returned home, but her suitor was soon making the trip back and forth to see her every weekend. The romance continued long distance until her marriage with Harold “Gus” Kennedy on June 26, 1948 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Youngstown.

Jean and Gus settled in Saginaw where she bore three boys, Michael Harold (b.1949), William Patrick (b.1951), and Richard James (b.1954). In 1950 the couple purchased the same home on Court St. where their courtship began next door to the Kennedy grandparents to the great delight of the grandchildren. In January, 1956 Gus was promoted by his lifelong employer, Michigan Bell Telephone, to an engineering position in Detroit, MI and subsequently moved the family to Royal Oak, MI where daughters Ann Marie (b.1957) and Susan Jean (b.1961) were born and raised lovingly along with their brothers.

Jean was a firm, but caring mother, fiercely protective of her children and known to chase down bullies on a borrowed bicycle if necessary to their defense. She regularly volunteered her time and energies to the local Catholic parish and school, Shrine of the Little Flower, and was beloved by the resident priests/teachers/nuns for her attentions and willingness to assist at a moment's notice. She was also loved by her Woodland Ave. neighbors and was often visited by neighbor children for her kind attention and always full cookie jar.

After the children had left home, in 1983 Jean and Gus moved the family home to Hatherly Pl. in Sterling Heights, MI, conveniently around the corner from daughter Ann. There, she continued to host gatherings of her tight-knit family, which had added spouses: Mike (Ellen Jane), Bill (Jeanne Dietsch), Rick (Deborah), Ann (Leon Niebrzydowski) and Sue (Raymond Hlavaty) followed by 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Birthday celebrations always included Jean's famous angel food cakes with strawberry whipped cream frosting. She baked hundreds over the years, given the number of her descendants. Her grandchildren also attest that they anxiously awaited her delicious, numerous, lovingly baked, and varied Christmas cookies every year.

Jean and Gus moved into the Waltonwood Independent Living community in 2014. Gus passed away in November of 2019 after 71 years of marriage to his sweetheart. Jean was a faithful wife, loving and caring mother, and doting grand- and great grand-mother. Our prayers go with you, Jean. Rest in peace.

Visitation Sunday, September 11th from 3-8pm with a 7:30pm Scripture service at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile). Instate Monday, September 12th from 9am until time of 9:30am Mass at St. Blase Catholic Church, 12115 15 Mile Rd. (E. of Dodge Park), Sterling Hts. Interment, White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. In Lieu of Flowers, memorial contributions to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, or Alzheimer's Association are appreciated. Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 11. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling  
36900 SCHOENHERR RD  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

## Scripture Service

SEP 11. 7:30 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling  
36900 SCHOENHERR RD  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

## Instate / Funeral Mass

SEP 12. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Blase Church  
12151 15 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

# Tribute Wall



“ *Our deepest sympathy to all the Kennedy family. I know she will be deeply missed. Loved talking to her at the family reunions.*

Susan Andrews Pasku - September 11, 2022 at 05:43 PM

MK

“ *You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I know your Dad, Larry, and Larry's parents have welcomed her home with open arms. XXOO*

Mary Kennedy - September 11, 2022 at 10:07 AM

PN

“ *So very sorry for your loss.  
Mrs. Kennedy was a delight to spend time with and share a laugh or two. I enjoyed visiting with her at Patrick and Christina's party this summer.  
God bless...*

Pam Niebrzydowski - September 09, 2022 at 01:38 PM

BC

“ *On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Jean. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of her life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Kennedy family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Jean.*

Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin - September 09, 2022 at 11:38 AM

PF

“ 12 files added to the album *Jean Kennedy at the Lithuanian Reunions*



Patti Foltz - September 08, 2022 at 05:16 PM

AL

“ *I agree with Bill that she was protective of her offspring. I ran afoul of that one time! And with Patti that she spoke her mind. She seemed to have a strong sense of who she was, and she knew how things should be! She and Uncle Gus took a road trip with my parents out to extreme west Texas to see Big Bend National Park. They had lunch at a nice restaurant-- must have been the park's lodge --and of course Jean ordered a cup of hot tea. She was indignant that the help had never served tea hot! Apparently they did not even have any tea bags! Now, had she been at a national park in British Columbia, there would have been no difficulty. I pray the family will have many warm memories, in honor of her legacy of strong family ties.*



Andrea L Ladrach - September 08, 2022 at 01:49 PM

AL

“ *Andrea L Ladrach sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Marie Kennedy*



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**Andrea L Ladrach** - September 08, 2022 at 12:59 PM

TF

“ *The Gretsinger and Foltz Families purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jean Marie Kennedy.*



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**The Gretsinger and Foltz Families** - September 08, 2022 at 12:00 PM