



## Mary Virginia Gray

March 19, 1955 - March 2, 2024

Mary Virginia Gray

March 19, 1955 - March 2, 2024

On Saturday, March 2, Mary Virginia Gray, a devoted daughter, cherished sister, favorite aunt, beloved cousin and steadfast friend passed into eternal life. Mary was known and loved for her gentle spirit, kindness, and sheer joy of living. Born in Lincoln, Nebraska to Edward and Mary Gray, Mary graduated from McAuley High School (Toledo) where she was named "McAuleyan of the Year" and served as senior class president. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (R.N.) from Saint Mary's College in 1977. Her remarkable empathy was a hallmark of her nursing career. She also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1982 and later worked in hospital administration where she championed equitable benefits for all. Additionally, Mary earned a M.A. in Technical Writing and Publications from Bowling Green State University and a professional certificate in hospital benefits from the Philadelphia Institute. She brought integrity and friendliness to all her careers, including her avocation as a docent at the Toledo Museum of Art which combined her love of research, teaching, and meeting new people. Of all her titles, being Aunt Mary to her sixteen nieces and nephews was her greatest source of pride and joy. For them, Mary was a confidant, friend, counselor, unwavering supporter, gifted listener, and instigator of mischief. Mary was the mastermind of favorite games like midnight snacks, Japanese

tea parties, fox hunts, the wedding club, surgical scrub-ins, psychologist's office, the bear choir, and numerous others.

Mary was an individual with many and varied interests. She was an avid tennis player, life-long science fiction enthusiast, curious traveler, and accomplished puzzler. She will be remembered for her practical and insightful gifts. An adventurous cook, Mary orchestrated countless dinners for family and friends and hosted overnights for a revolving and constant stream of guests. Mary was always gracious and welcoming. Spending time with family was her greatest pleasure.

Mary is survived by her mother also Mary Virginia Gray of Maumee, brothers Edward Gray (Jane), Rev. James Gray, Steven Gray (Nancy Grant), sisters Tish Gray Varraveto (Dominic), Jean Gray Napoli (Chaz), Margaret Gray (Danny Spina) and Kate Gray Barrera (Patricio), adored nieces and nephews: Elizabeth Gray (Rob Shellito), Reilly Gray, Hannah Gray, Caroline Gray, Patricia Varraveto, Katherine Varraveto, Ginny Varraveto (Jon Thormann), Michael Varraveto (Colleen Thibeault), Ellen Napoli, Abby Napoli, Jack Napoli, Bridget Napoli, Jimmy Napoli, Frances Barrera, Margot Barrera, and Audrey Barrera, grandnephew and grandniece: Hunter and Hailey Shellito. Mary is preceded in death by her father Edward W. Gray and infant sister Mary Immaculate Gray.

A special person and a "beacon of light" for the way she lived a faith-filled life, Mary, a devout Catholic, was a founding member and active parishioner at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Toledo. She loved her parish and the people in it. Honor Mary by showing kindness to others.

A Visitation will be held on Sunday, March 10 from 12 - 6 pm at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, OH 43614, where a Rosary Service will take place at 5:00 pm. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on

Monday, March 11 at St. Joan of Arc Church, 5856 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614, at 11:00 am, where the family will begin greeting guests at 10:00 am. Interment will be private.

Memorial donations can be made to St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church or Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Please view Mary's video tribute and sign the online guest registry at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints

480 W. Highland Rd  
Northfield, OH 44067

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Rosary

MAR 10. 5:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Visitation

MAR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joan Of Arc  
5856 Heatherdowns Blvd  
Toledo, OH

## Funeral Ceremony

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MAR 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joan Of Arc  
5856 Heatherdowns Blvd  
Toledo, OH

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary was such a terrific friend and SMC classmate. She was always very special, caring and just a wonderful person. Just read the Avenue and found out today - what a sad day. My prayers are with all of her family*

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**JoAnn Reed** - September 30, 2024 at 06:58 PM

SC

“ *Mary and I were friends in college at Saint Mary's. We were in science classes together and I especially remember our Biology classes freshman year. She was so much smarter at Biology than I was! She was one of the nicest people I met. I didn't know anyone when I came to Saint Mary's and we became friends. She always had a smile and was so much fun to be around. I will miss her. My deepest sympathies to all her family. The world has lost someone special. Sue (Greco) Chambers*

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**Sue Chambers** - March 18, 2024 at 12:05 AM

EH

“ *Ed, Jane, Reilly, Liz, Rob, Hunter, Hailey purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.*



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**Ed, Jane, Reilly, Liz, Rob, Hunter, Hailey** - March 08, 2024 at 09:31 PM

VR

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Virginia M Reilly - March 08, 2024 at 05:51 PM

LH

“ Love, Paul and Cheryl Harbinson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.

Love, Paul and Cheryl Harbinson - March 08, 2024 at 04:22 PM

LH

“ Love, Paul and Cheryl Harbinson purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.



Love, Paul and Cheryl Harbinson - March 08, 2024 at 04:22 PM

SC

“ Susan C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.

Susan C. - March 08, 2024 at 03:02 PM

OL

“ Olszak/Wassermanns planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.

Olszak/Wassermanns - March 08, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.



March 08, 2024 at 01:15 PM

LA

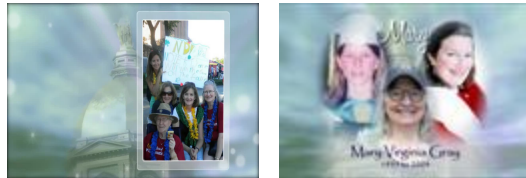
“ Love, Terri, Pete, Hannah, & Kate Allman purchased the *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.



Love, Terri, Pete, Hannah, & Kate Allman - March 08, 2024 at 12:55 PM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - March 08, 2024 at 09:27 AM

EK

“ When Irish Eyes are Smiling....” Mary’s eyes didn’t just smile....they twinkled and sparkled ...especially when she was planning her next adventure. With her dad’s passing, Mary inherited the role of my “ Secret”Pal. Actually her brother, Father Jim ,volunteered her. She rose to the occasion ,accepted the challenge and thus began many happy years exchanging eclectic Christmas “gifts” which appeared mysteriously on our doorsteps. She brought so much joy to my life and to the lives of others whose paths she crossed! May she now rest in the arms of her Lord whom she so faithfully served in this life!

*Eileen Kennedy*

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**Eileen Kennedy** - March 08, 2024 at 08:27 AM

VR

“ Weeks ago, I visited my lovely cousin Mary for the last time, and joked that the best part of dying was that she wouldn't have to go to any more funerals. She let out a hearty laugh.

*Sorry, Mary, but as of this writing, you still have to go to one more.*

*Mary was the most loving, kind, generous, patient and joyful spirit all the days of her life. In 2018, she joined me for a two week art-focused tour to Russia. She was a wonderful traveling companion, and took in the masterful Russian artworks with such enthusiasm.*

*Less than a year after the Russia trip, she was diagnosed with uterine cancer, and handled the subsequent vicissitudes with grace and dignity, never evincing an ounce of self-pity. She passed as she lived, surrounded by the immense love and support of her family.*

*May the memory of this beautiful soul be not just a blessing, but an example to all of a life well-lived. She was so beloved, and those of us lucky to have known her will miss her forever.*

*As the song goes, "There is no end to grief. That's how I know there is no end to love."*

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**Virginia M. Reilly** - March 07, 2024 at 03:42 PM

CS

“ I met Mary and some of her family members through St. Joan of Arc Parish a few years ago. I will say you cannot find a nicer, friendlier and funnier person than our Mary. She was delightful in every way. I will miss her so much.

*With fond thoughts to Mary Sr. and all her siblings.*

*Carol Spaulding*

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**Carol Spaulding** - March 07, 2024 at 09:29 AM

BH

“ From Barb Holdcroft-  
To Mary, my neighbor of thirty-two years.  
Remembering laughter, the talks and the tears.  
You were there when we were often in need  
Of a friend for Katie, or to share a good read.  
You also stepped up to take care of our pets-  
Your friendship and fun was as food as it gets.  
I'm sorry you didn't make it down here to NC,  
But where you are now is the BEST place to be.  
HUGS - Barb, Kirk, Kent & Katie Holdcroft  
(and Sparkle, Flash, Gipper, Bubba, Derby, & Layla)

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**Barb Holdcroft** - March 06, 2024 at 07:09 PM

HB

“ Mary was such a presence. Her warm smile matched her sense of humor. She was my flower girl for our wedding. We shared many serious conversations and visits in summer time at Kate's home. Faith and family guided her life. Missed and never forgotten. Aunt Margaret and Uncle Hugh

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**Hugh Burns** - March 06, 2024 at 01:59 PM

MT

“ Mark and Diane Tomasik planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.

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**Mark and Diane Tomasik** - March 06, 2024 at 01:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.*



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March 06, 2024 at 01:32 PM



“ *Mary was a fellow student in high school with me and was always very helpful in anything she did. She also did a lot for our class of 1973 in the Alumni Association. I am very sorry for your loss.*

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**Patricia Sychala** - March 05, 2024 at 11:03 PM



“ *The Baumann family in Tucson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.*

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**The Baumann family in Tucson** - March 05, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ *The Baumann family in Tucson purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.*



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**The Baumann family in Tucson** - March 05, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ *Alex M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.*

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**Alex M.** - March 05, 2024 at 08:26 PM

HS

“ I knew Mary at McAuley High School and always admired her dedication to her studies, dancing to her own drummer and her determination. She was kind to everyone and was great fun to be around. As a fellow nurse, I am in awe of all her accomplishments. My prayers to the family.

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**Holly Streb** - March 05, 2024 at 06:37 PM

CM

“ Dear Gray family, I am so sad to learn of Mary's passing. She was a special friend to me and many at McAuley. I'm happy to have met this wonderful woman. May she Rest In Peace in Heaven surrounded with the angels. God bless her and your family. Love, Charlene Savin McDermott

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**Charlene McDermott** - March 05, 2024 at 06:07 PM

DM

“ Dear Gray Clan:  
The McGuires were so sad to hear of Mary's passing. She was a genuinely kind soul, a rarity in this world. I am sure her Dad, my Dad and Uncle Jack and Aunt Theresa were all there to greet her. May she rest in peace.  
Love, Dyan and Maggie

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**Dyan McGuire** - March 05, 2024 at 03:30 PM

LA

“ Mary, my sincerest condolences to you and family. Your daughter, a beautiful person is now in the arms of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I think of you often and I have many fond memories with Dick, you, Ed and the St. John's Mothers Club gang at the many social, fun events . And especially when we attended James ' beautiful ordination ceremony.

*Thanks for the memories.*

*Louise Arman, Family*

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**Louise Arman** - March 05, 2024 at 03:07 PM

TM

“ Having moved into the neighborhood during the summer of 1969 when I was 5 years old, I have such precious childhood memories of Mary. She had a great sense of humor and was always kind and considerate. I know you'll miss her so much and please accept my heartfelt sympathies for your loss.

*Tom McGrady & Family*

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**Thomas J McGrady** - March 05, 2024 at 11:32 AM

HC

“ Helen Marlais and Arthur Campbell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.

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**Helen Marlais and Arthur Campbell** - March 05, 2024 at 11:27 AM

HC

“ *Helen Marlais and Arthur Campbell purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.*



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**Helen Marlais and Arthur Campbell** - March 05, 2024 at 11:27 AM

BN

“ *Barb, Tony, Savannah, Brandon and Nonna purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.*



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**Barb, Tony, Savannah, Brandon and Nonna** - March 05, 2024 at 10:02 AM

BN

“ *Barb, Tony, Savannah, Brandon and Nonna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Virginia Gray.*

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**Barb, Tony, Savannah, Brandon and Nonna** - March 05, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Virginia Gray.*



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March 04, 2024 at 10:53 PM

ES

“ I was four-years-old when I met Mary. (I was the pesky neighbor down the street who played with her sisters, Margaret and Kate. ) The first time I ever saw her, Mary was curled up with a book on an arm chair in the family room with her black and white dog, Sam, at her feet. I took a step toward Mary to ask if Marg and Kate could play, but her growling dog stopped me in my tracks. "Sam, NO!" she commanded, and the dog obeyed. "Don't come near me if the dog is around." She smiled at me then went back to her book. Now, to a small child who thought she was going to be eaten alive, that was impressive! "Who was this lady who commanded animals?!" From that brief encounter I was able to surmise certain truths about Mary that have held steadfast. Mary was beautiful. She had crinkly eyes that twinkled with shenanigans and fun when she'd flash that big smile, and her blonde hair added to her bight spirit. She also shared her father's sense of humor. She was beautiful on the inside, for Mary had a deepness about her that was pure kindness. I always felt safe around Mary. She was trustworthy and a confidant. Mary was very intelligent and thirsty for knowledge. She was always learning something new and full of enthusiasm. Furthermore, Mary was a teacher of life, sharing her wisdom with her siblings and their friends (like it or not).

Over the 54 years we've known each other, Mary became more than just my friends' sister. She was like my sister too. She was my neighbor, my babysitter, my teacher, my example, my friend. May God Bless and keep you.

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**Eileen Shade** - March 04, 2024 at 10:05 PM

RH

“*Mary and I were in the same class to become docents at the Toledo Museum of Art we enjoyed everything through the 18 months of study. We always sat around and went over our tour that we had just done. Our class was like a family. Mary had such a wonderful smile and always helped other docents if needed. When ever I called her I never new if it was Mary or her mom they sounded so much alike. She was a very special lady and will be missed. Rose Hampton*

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**Rosemary Hampton** - March 04, 2024 at 06:32 PM