



## Gertrude Fabiano

July 28, 1929 - January 30, 2023

Gertrude Delores (Schwager) Fabiano, born in Royal Oak, Michigan on July 28, 1929. Aged 93.

Beloved Mother and Mother-in-law of Jean (Jim) Gardziola, Grandmother to Paige and Mariah (Zoe) Gardziola, soon to be Great-Grandmother, Sister-in-law to Rosemary Schwager, Aunt, Great-Aunt, Great-Great Aunt to more than 160 beloved nieces and nephews and her adopted McCabe family who all remember Aunt Gert's laughter and spirit of fun.

Pre-deceased by her husband of 59 years Samuel Fabiano, parents Henry and Agnes (Sweier) Schwager and siblings George (Shirley and Carol) Schwager, Henry (Dorothy) Schwager, Elizabeth (Paul) Janness, Ralph (Peg) Schwager, Robert (Kay) Schwager (Louisville, KY), Eleanor (Robert) Raylea (Orchard Park, NY) Bernadette (Charles) Lowe, Virginia Schwager, Rev Edmund Schwager and Raymond Schwager.

Gertrude was born in the upstairs bedroom of their family home on 4th street in Royal Oak, Michigan in 1929. While working as a draftsman at Michigan Bell she was introduced to her beloved husband Sam Fabiano who asked her to marry him two weeks later. They were married January 31, 1959 and she moved to his house in Clawson, Michigan. Soon they upgraded their house with a fully equipped space to entertain and large pool. Their home was the go-

to Schwager get together spot where many a family party took place.

Gertrude was happiest when surrounded by her sisters, brothers, and their families. She took her role as an aunt very seriously and loved to spend time with her nieces and nephews. Gertrude nurtured her friendships and actively wrote letters to family and friends. Letters turned to emails and eventually her granddaughters taught her the joys of Facebook so she could keep up to date on her great nieces and nephews. She loved every email and card she received. Gertrude remained sharp throughout her life and inquired about all her friends and family until the end of her life.

Together Gertrude and Sam created an active, interesting life. They never missed a vacation, meeting friends in every new place they traveled, never losing touch, and would often write to and meet for lunch. They created a set of Florida friends who they continued to correspond with long after they could no longer travel. They would often have a local adventure in form of a Sunday drive-taking the road less traveled and would often find a nice little bar for a lunch (and a beer).

She was an active and engaged Mother and Grandmother. She was the Mom and Grandmother that everyone knew and was recognized as "Jean's Mom" and "Paige and Mariah's Grandmother" long after we left school and girls left Michigan. She loved her granddaughters and rarely missed an event in their lives. Proud is an understatement. All of their teachers, coaches and friends knew her and called her Nani. She wore her "spirit wear" in support of her grandchildren throughout their lives, just changing her T-shirt to match the new interest. She was their biggest fan.

Her laughter, smile, and hugs will be forever missed.

The family would like to thank Gertrude's care team, Gabe, Lidia, Elvira, Rita

and Latonya for the wonderful care, thoughtfulness and love that they gave her during her illness.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations in Gertrude's name to the Pope Francis Center in Detroit, whose good work she supported.  
<https://popefranciscenter.org>

Visitation will take place on Thursday, February 2, from 3 - 8 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (four blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral service will be held on Friday, February 3 at 11 a.m. (10:00 visitation) at the funeral home.

Share a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Visitation

FEB 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Service

FEB 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ We loved seeing and talking to Gert and Sam at church. We loved going to lunch with them at Renshaws. We are so sorry for your loss. Gert and Sam are finally together again.

*Dave and Bev Swanson*

**Dave and Beverly Swandon** - February 01, 2023 at 08:14 PM

LM

“ Love, Joe, Chris and MaryAnne purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Gertrude Fabiano.

**Love, Joe, Chris and MaryAnne** - February 01, 2023 at 01:36 PM

LM

“ Love you forever, Joe,Chris and MaryAnne purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Gertrude Fabiano.



**Love you forever, Joe,Chris and MaryAnne** - February 01, 2023 at 01:23 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Gertrude Fabiano.



February 01, 2023 at 01:06 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gertrude Fabiano.*



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January 31, 2023 at 07:03 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Gertrude Fabiano.*



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January 31, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Gert, you are a wonderful woman, we've thought of you often. You leave us for the glories of heaven and to be with the loves of your life Sam & God. But the memories of you will be be with every single person you have ever known. I for one can say you had the soul of an Angel.*



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**Gerald & Joyce Noffert** - January 31, 2023 at 12:56 PM