



Joan Marie Taylor

December 9, 1951 - November 15, 2025

Joan Marie Taylor, age 73, of Royal Oak, passed away on November 15, 2025. She was born in Detroit on December 9, 1951 to Alfred and Barbara Schmidt.

Joan grew up in Royal Oak, where she attended St. Mary's and Shrine schools. From an early age, she carried with her a strong sense of family, faith, and creativity-qualities that would shape her entire life.

A devoted homemaker for many years, Joan poured her heart into caring for her family. She also discovered a love for painting ceramics, creating beautiful pieces that she proudly sold at local craft shows. As her children grew older, Joan began a new chapter working as a receptionist in the medical field, where her warmth, humor, and quick wit left a lasting impression. Before her retirement, she most recently served at New Millennium Surgery Center, greeting patients and coworkers with kindness and a smile.

Joan had a deep love for the magic of Christmas, and especially liked collecting Christmas antiques that she displayed with pride throughout the year. At Christmastime, her house was extra magical with multiple fully decorated trees, garland, and lights everywhere. "Everything in excess" was one of her decorating mottos. She was equally enchanted by all things Disney and cherished her trips to Disney World with her family and friends. She also

delighted in fireworks, always looking forward to their brilliant colors lighting up the night sky.

Joan was known for her creativity, her laughter, and her quick wit. She always had the whole room laughing at the ridiculous things she would say. Now reunited with her husband, Dave, she leaves behind here a legacy of love, joy, and treasured memories.

Joan will be remembered as the beloved wife of the late David. Loving mother of Heidi Ponagai, Amy (the late Patrick) McClain, and Karen (Andrew) Hensley; and step-mother of David (Monique) Taylor. Cherished daughter of Barbara Schmidt. Proud grandmother of Elijah, Leo, Abel, Phoenix, David, Jackie, and Michael. Dear sister of Michael (Celeste), Mary (the late Tim), Charles (Laurie), Barbie (Ron), Peggy (Terry), Patricia, Fran, Christine (Rich), Beverly, and the late Peter (survived by Shannon) and Gerald (survived by Debbie).

A funeral Mass for Joan will be held on Friday, November 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (visitation 9:30 a.m.) at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 Twelve Mile Rd., Royal Oak.

The family kindly requests no flowers. If you would like to make a memorial contribution in memory of Joan, please consider a contribution to the American Heart Association.

Share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

NOV **21**. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall

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“Joan was always pleasant and smiling. I remember working with her on many Shrine Grade School and Ladies Guild projects. Peace to Joan and her family. Paula O’Halloran Edson

Paula Edson - November 20, 2025 at 07:31 PM