



Mary Ann Kristopik

April 2, 1937 - December 11, 2020

Mary Ann Chowning Kristopik, age 83, passed away on December 11, 2020, peacefully at home surrounded by her family. She leaves behind her devoted husband of over 61 years, Robert, her children Theresa (predeceased), Timothy, Thomas, Robert, Mary Monica, Katherine and Gregory, her grandchildren Kelly and Anna, her great granddaughter Kyrsten, as well as her sister Joan Jones, brothers Patrick and Rev. Michael Chowning and many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. She is predeceased by her siblings Jack, Jim, Jerry, Paul, Claire, and loving parents John and Mary Chowning.

Mary Ann was born into the Chowning family of Detroit on April 2, 1937. The beautiful baby girl was blessed to have been born to an already well established family of seven. Amidst a bunch of raucous brothers, Mary Ann grew up always looking up to her role model, her only sister Joan and she found great pride in her little brother Michael's vocational accomplishment as a Franciscan priest. Life with such a spirited family would give her the skills to eventually grow a large family of her own.

Mary Ann attended Shrine Catholic High School where she would meet Robert "Bob" Kristopik. They were married in 1959 at St. Dennis Church in Madison Heights, Michigan. Eventually, they would settle in Royal Oak, become parishioners of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic

Church and form a family of their own. They went on to have seven children over the span of twenty years. Though Mary Ann was outwardly relatively quiet and petite, her inner strength and endless faith made her stronger than most and would see her accomplish what was most important to her, making every single one of her children feel valued and loved.

Christmas was one of Mary Ann's favorite times of the year, seeing her children experience great joy at gifts received. She sacrificed so much to see that others didn't go without and created many magical moments: Laura and the Yellow Curtains book, Rockem Sockem robots, Chester the chimp dolls, Fruity Patootie clowns, Cabbage Patch dolls, and floppy headed stuffed puppies. Mary Ann exemplified the Christmas spirit with her selflessness and love.

To many, Mary Ann was known simply as Mrs. K. The ultimate hockey mom, she was a regular fixture at the John Lindell Ice Arena and Memorial Park. She eventually became the concessions manager for the city of Royal Oak all while enduring 5 AM hockey practices in below zero weather at the outdoor rink behind the house. Ice shows, volleyball and baseball games, school plays, art shows, she did it all and did it well. Even homemade Halloween costumes that bested all. She balanced her two jobs with gusto, never letting anyone see her sweat at either. Coffee chats after a long shift with good friends meant so much to her. At home and at work, she made lifelong friends like the McNeil family. Households and ice rinks meant kids and adults constantly coming and going yet Mary Ann never seemed to mind.

Summers were spent at the Grayling cottage built by Robert and the boys. While steering clear of a worksite, she had to wrangle seven kids and keep them entertained and out of trouble. Every trip was an adventure with rock collecting, porta potty treks in the woods, minnow catching in the Au Sable River, large campfire family dinners, and waving to low flying National Guard

helicopters. We will forever cherish the image of her sitting in her lawn chair with an occasional beer in hand and voraciously reading books.

Mary Ann always looked forward to setting up camp with her boys at the annual Woodward Dream Cruise. How she loved reminiscing about the old cars and sharing stories from the good old days, waving and smiling to all the classic cruisers all the while.

Her home was always welcome to visitors. Her weekly Sunday dinners were a mainstay throughout all her life, even as her children aged. Never wanting anyone to go without, she was always sure to know her kids were loved by keeping their bellies full with hot meals and snacks.

To some she was Mrs. K, mom, "GG" to her grandkids or great grandkids but she was a dear friend to all. Her unbelievable humble and kind heart was a light to so many. The faith she had was so strong and true. Her wishes were never for wealth or fame, though she could scratch an instant ticket like nobody's business.

Her wish was that we never stop striving to know the love and grace of God. She often shared a story from her childhood. She recounted having to walk through an empty church to leave after school when she was young. She would stop and pray. She said she would be moved to tears every time. Her heart was so heavy thinking that Jesus was alone in his own home. She was bewildered how everyone could go and leave Him all alone. She never wanted to leave. It's that innocence and love that made Mary Ann who she was. Her reverence and devotion was pure.

Jesus knew that little Mary Ann had noticed Him and He is not alone. He has called her home, to be with Him always. His church isn't empty anymore.

Time might feel long, but in God's eternal presence, life is a blink of an eye. Mary Ann's life was an exceptional one, a home filled with children laughter and love. Now, a well-earned rest. Our hearts are broken and we already miss her quiet but steady presence, but we are filled with gratitude and kindness too. Thank you for making our house a home, for making our days brighter and our small world a better place. Please wait for us and know that we will come home to you again!

With an outpouring of love and appreciation, Rest In Peace Mom...Mary Ann...GG...Mrs. K!

Visitation Monday from 4 - 8 pm at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Mile Road, Royal Oak. In state Tuesday 9:30 am until time of Mass 10:00 am at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak. For those who cannot attend, the Mass will be livestreamed at:
<https://www.shrinechurch.com/mass-livestream>.

Memorial contributions to the Capuchins, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Donor's Choice appreciated. Share your memories at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Roseland Park Cemetery

29001 Woodward Avenue
(NW corner of 12 Mile and Woodward)
Berkley, MI 48072

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 14. 4:00 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/>

Funeral Mass

DEC 15. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Kristopik.*



December 16, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ *Mrs K was the mother of all hockey and skating kids . Prayers for the family and God bless Mrs.K*

Scott MacKinnon - December 14, 2020 at 02:25 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Kristopik.*



December 14, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ *Without a doubt, THE most beautifully written and perfectly wrapping up the greatness of this woman. I always looked up to Mrs. K. Until this read, I never realized just how much more there was to her being. What an inspiration! She was an angel. My deepest condolences to Katie and all of the family. I know that she will forever be with you and hope that you (quickly) find peace In that.*

Kary Pasanen (McGory) - December 14, 2020 at 10:32 AM

JM

“ *The prayers and love at Shrine Catholic High School and Academy go out to the entire Kristopik family in their their time of loss. A lovely photo chosen for a lovely woman, so giving to her family and her faith. Please take comfort in the holiday season, and know she is in his safe arms, thinking of all of you. God bless, James Mio*

James Mio - December 14, 2020 at 07:18 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Kristopik.*



December 13, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ *Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Kristopik.*



December 13, 2020 at 07:46 PM

DK

“ Bob and the Kristopik family I am of heavy heart upon hearing of the passing of Mary Ann.

She always had a smile for me when ever we crossed paths which was most of the time at the hockey rink. Looking back in time I never witnessed a moment that she sat down, she was always in motion. Still remember the times you and Mary Ann invited all of us directors of the Hockey Association for an weekend, always a great time.

She and you are in my PRAYERS.

Dave Krueger

David Krueger - December 13, 2020 at 06:01 PM

JS

“ Bob, I'm so sorry to hear about Mary Ann. The ROHA family will always hold a very special place in my heart. As a matter of fact, Lil (Tom) Hall is the one who sent me the obituary.

Janet Shepard

Janet Shepard - December 13, 2020 at 03:42 PM