



## Mary Katherine "Katie" Spurgeon

September 22, 1948 - November 28, 2023

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Mary Katherine Merrill "Katie" Spurgeon, aged 75, on November 28, 2023, at her home in Lake City, Michigan. Katie, a beloved educator, devoted family member, and a beacon of faith in her community, was born on September 22, 1948, in Saginaw, Michigan to William and Gertrude (Phander) Merrill.

Raised in Saginaw, Katie attended St. Stephen grade school and St. Peter and Paul High School. Her love for education guided her to Western Michigan University, where she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education. She furthered her academic pursuits at the University of Michigan, receiving a M.A. in Reading Education, and later at Wayne State University for a M.A. in Library Science.

Katie's 33-year tenure with the Van Dyke Public Schools was a testament to her passion for teaching. For 25 years, she illuminated the lives of elementary students before concluding her career as a Media Specialist in Middle School. Katie's dedication to fostering a love for reading, especially in students who found the subject challenging, was a cornerstone of her educational philosophy.

Her personal life was equally rich and fulfilling. Katie married William Spurgeon on July 14, 1973, at St. Stephen Church. Together, they built a life

founded on love, faith, and mutual support. As a spouse and mother, Katie's selfless and nurturing nature was a source of comfort and strength for her family.

She is survived by her husband, William; children, Will (Maggie) Spurgeon, Paul Spurgeon, and Colleen (Justin) Davis; and grandchildren, Maizey and Lucy Spurgeon. Katie's legacy is also marked by the loss of her parents and sister, Ann Michalski.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 6 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (four blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. (9:30 visitation) at The National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, 2100 Twelve Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Burial will follow at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. The Young-Holdship Funeral Home served the family in Lake City.

In remembrance of Katie's life, memorial contributions may be made to the Ardis Missaukee District Library, 210 S. Canal St, PO Box 340, Lake City, MI 49651. Her commitment to education and reading will continue to inspire through these contributions.

Memories and words of comfort may be shared on Katie's tribute wall at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com) as we celebrate her remarkable life. Katie's spirit and legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all those she touched.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 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 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Just seeing this, almost a year after Katie's passing. I remember her so fondly. We were at LMS together for many years. We spent a couple of years car pooling together. One year there were four of us and our last year it was just Katie and I. She was such a sweetheart and we had a great time talking about school and life. After she and Bill sold their Royal Oak home and moved up to their Lake City cottage, we lost touch. I tried to call, but her number had been changed, I assume. I know that she loved her craft, and was the library "Queen". She is dearly missed. My sympathies to all her family.

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**John Maggetti** - November 07, 2024 at 10:55 PM

TP

“ *Bill and family*  
*It's in time of sorrow that we remember times of happy memories.*  
*Growing up with Katie and Ann will always be memories I cherish.*  
*Thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers*  
*Tom and Missy Pfander*

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**Tom Pfander** - December 06, 2023 at 12:02 PM

MW

“ *Katie was an amazing woman . She will be missed by so many. May she rest in peace in her loving Gods arms.*  
*Marilyn and Rick Wahlstrom*

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**Marilyn Wahlstrom** - December 05, 2023 at 07:44 AM

MF

“ Doug and I are so very sorry to hear of Katie’s passing! We were neighbors on Trafford in Royal Oak with Bill and Katie and their precious family!  
We will hold all the Spurgeon family in our hearts and prayers. Our faith tells us she is healthy, whole and happy with Our Lord!  
Our love and prayers,  
Mary and Doug Fry

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**Mary Fry** - December 04, 2023 at 09:26 PM

SP

“ Noel and I offer our sincere condolences to Bill and his family. She was a truly remarkable lady.

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**Steve R Poissant** - December 03, 2023 at 02:29 PM

CP

“ My deepest sympathy to Bill, Colleen, Paul and Will. I have many fond memories of pursuing our Library Science degrees on the many drives to WSU and hours in libraries, and our years as colleagues. She loved you all so very much. RIP Katie!

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**Cindy Panza** - December 03, 2023 at 10:33 AM

JT

“ Katy Spurgeon was a very close friend of mine. We taught together at Lincoln Middle School and shared many happy days there. For years we ate lunch together and discussed our students and families. Katy was very proud of all three of her children and was delighted when she became a grandmother. Although, I never met Bill her husband I felt like I knew him. Katy had expressed many kind words about him. I will miss Katy’s friendship deeply. Someday we will meet again under different circumstances till then Katy God Bless. Much Love, Jo Anne Thompson

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**Jo Anne Thompson** - December 02, 2023 at 05:01 PM

RL

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Katie as a personal friend rather than in the academic field. Although she was a dedicated educator, her love and passion for education came second to her love for her husband, Bill and their children, Colleen, Will, Paul, and the granddaughters.

*With a mutual friend, I visited with Katie in the summer months for many years. She was funny, fun, adventurous, caring, and a truly lovely person. I grieve the loss of my Northern friend.*

*My deepest condolences to Bill, Colleen, Will, and Paul. She is at peace now.*

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**Rosemary Leveneda** - December 02, 2023 at 12:19 PM

KH

“ I was blessed to work with Katie at Lincoln Middle School. She was such a caring and kind teacher. Her gift was being that special school librarian. My 8th grade students loved their library time especiall her scavenger hunts, book fairs and most of all her guest authors. 🌸 Wishing her family and friends comfort and peace.

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**Kathy Heikkinen** - December 02, 2023 at 05:16 AM

JM

“ In memory of a wonderful person & genuine caring soul. I worked with Katie at LMS. She was always helpful to the students & staff. She always had a smile & loved to share her joy of reading with you. My condolences to her family. Treasure your fond memories & keep her in your heart.

*Judy A. Maloney*

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**Judy A. Maloney** - December 01, 2023 at 01:06 PM

AJ

“ I student taught at Lincoln Middle School when Katie (I feel like I always thought of her as Mrs. Spurgeon) was a Media Specialist there. She wasn't my mentor teacher, but I was big into hanging out in the Library when I had spare time because she was so welcoming. I always appreciated the wisdom she gave me. I'm so sorry for your loss.

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**Abigail Johnson** - December 01, 2023 at 12:28 PM

WS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**will spurgeon** - November 30, 2023 at 05:19 PM