



Barbara E. (O'Hara) Vanderkelen

June 14, 1928 - June 16, 2021

Barbara (O'Hara) Vanderkelen, 93, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2021, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 14, 1928, to Florence and John O'Hara. Barbara was born at home and was proud to say she was born in the shadow of the U of M stadium. She attended Mercy College in Adrian, Michigan, and graduated as an RN. Her claim to fame was that she and another nurse drove across the country and ended up in Colorado working at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in the TB unit. She drove across the country four other times. Her work history includes Mercywood Psychiatric Hospital near Ann Arbor (most likely helpful in dealing with five children in six years). While working at Mercywood, Barbara met and married Robert Vanderkelen in 1955. When her youngest was nine, she returned to work as an industrial nurse in Toledo at Allied Chemical and then General Mills. She was the quintessential room mom, girl scout and cub scout leader. Barbara enjoyed playing golf, bridge and traveling. She was proud of the fact that she was involved in the Harvard nurse's study which tracked health trends over the decades.

Barbara volunteered at Christ the King, and Mercy St. Anne Hospital at the front desk. She enjoyed the family cottage at Big Star Lake in Baldwin, Michigan and family reunions.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Robert in 2002; her parents; brothers and sister and infant son, Bruce. She is survived by sons, Brian

(Debbie) Vanderkelen and Barry (Jennifer) VanderKelen; daughters, Anne (Kevin) Kwiatkowski and Joan (Bruce) Bruggemann; grandchildren, Megan (Charles) Rittenhouse, Kelly Kwiatkowski, Erin and Amy Bruggemann, Reilly Van Aller, and Matthew VanderKelen; and great-grandchildren, Annabelle, Peter, and Celeste Rittenhouse.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 11 a.m., at Christ the King Catholic Church, 4100 Harvest Lane, until the memorial mass at 12 noon. Interment will be private. Contributions in memory of Barbara may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church, Building Fund or Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Ansberg-West Funeral Home, (419) 472-7633.

Previous Events

Gathering

JUN 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Christ the King Catholic Church
4100 Harvest Ln
Toledo, OH 43623

Memorial Mass

JUN 21. 12:00 PM (ET)

Christ the King Catholic Church
4100 Harvest Ln
Toledo, OH 43623

Tribute Wall

AS

“ Dear Brian, Barry, Anne. and Joan, We were saddened to read of your Mom's passing in the Sunday paper and regret than we could not be with you for the memorial service. Your parents were both wonderful neighbors for the short time we lived next door on Monac, and we always enjoyed getting together over the years. Your mom was a great friend when I needed her and I will always be thankful that I knew her. I know she will be missed. Love to you and your families. Alice and Joe Strieter

Alice Strieter - June 22, 2021 at 06:04 PM

KD

“ Anne, Joan ,and boys your mom was a very much loved lady who I loved doing her hair! She adored her kids and grandkids and was always happy! You did a great job caring for her. No regrets. So sorry for your loss Kathie

Kathie Donahue - June 21, 2021 at 08:57 AM

MG

“ Dear Anne, Kevin and girls,
I am so sorry to read of the loss your Mother. I know how hard it is.
My thoughts and prayers are with you!
Love and God Bless,
Marilyn A. Gerathy

Marilyn A. Gerathy - June 20, 2021 at 04:13 PM