



Pauline "Chris" Biernacki

November 19, 1934 - December 24, 2025

Pauline "Chris" Biernacki, age 91, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2025. Born on November 19, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio, Pauline was a lifelong Toledoan whose faith, devotion to family, and commitment to education and community defined her life.

Pauline was the beloved daughter of Vlassios Christopoulos, born in Pitsa, Corinth, Greece in 1896 and later a longtime resident of Toledo until his passing in 1980, and Georgia (Liabotis) Christopoulos, born in Psili Vrisi, Tripoli, Greece in 1911. She was also preceded in death by her beloved Theio (uncle), Peter Kaskaras, her father's cousin, who lived with Pauline's family and was an integral and cherished part of her upbringing.

Pauline married the love of her life, Gerald "Jerry" Biernacki, and together they shared a remarkable 70 years of marriage rooted in love, faith, humor, and mutual respect. Their union blended Greek and Polish heritage into a home filled with warmth, tradition, and hospitality.

A dedicated educator, Pauline devoted 30 years to Toledo Public Schools, where she inspired generations of students as a 7th-grade English and History teacher. Her passion for literature, learning, and young people left a lasting impression on students and colleagues alike.

Pauline's faith was central to her life. She was deeply involved at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Toledo, where she served with tireless dedication. She was President of both the Philoptochos Society and the Daughters of Penelope, and alongside her husband helped establish and lead numerous parish and community initiatives, including Cathedral 100, the Holy Trinity Kitchen, annual Christmas parties, and summer luncheons. She also played a significant role in organizing and supporting community outreach efforts, including events benefiting Toledo Children's Hospital.

Pauline is survived by her loving husband, Gerald Biernacki; her children, Gregory (Pamela) Biernacki and Andrea Sweet (Jon); her grandchildren, Katherine Junes (John), Christopher Biernacki (Ashley), Julie Biernacki (Haley Johnston), Alexis Sweet, and Megan Roberts (Wayne); and her five treasured great-grandchildren, Georgia and Elli Junes, Jacqueline Biernacki, Vivian and Wayne Roberts.

Visitation, funeral services, and interment will be held on Friday, January 2nd, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Toledo, Ohio, with Makaria (luncheon) to follow. A memorial service in Williamsburg, Virginia, where Pauline and Jerry resided in later years, will be held on February 7th, with location to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice House of Williamsburg.

Pauline will be remembered for her gracious spirit, leadership, unwavering faith, and deep love for her family and community. Her legacy lives on in the generations she nurtured and the many lives she touched.

Cemetery Details

Toledo Memorial Park

6382 Monroe Street
Sylvania, OH 43560

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
740 N. Superior St
Toledo, OH 43604

Memorial Service

JAN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
740 N. Superior St
Toledo, OH 43604

Tribute Wall

CR

“ My name is Stella Rumpf , my husband David and I worked the Greek Orthodox Festival with Mr. and Mrs Bernacki, it was such a treat for the two of us getting to know one another. My deepest sympathy to the family
May her memory be eternal, God bless all of you .

Chris Rumpf - January 18 at 08:04 PM

JB

“ My sympathy to the Biernacki family on the passing of Pauline. She was a very hard worker for the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in addition to being a wife, mother and grandmother and a full time teacher. She will be remembered for all of her good deeds and being a fine person. May her memory be eternal.

John Bellas - December 30, 2025 at 04:01 PM

AN

My deepest sympathy to the Biernacki family on the passing of Pauline .sending hugs and prayers to all the family may God give you strength and courage in this difficult time!!!We have many great memories together gathering at Cafe Donuts with lots of stories and laughs!!
May her memory be eternal!! 🙏🙏🙏

Angie - December 30, 2025 at 09:24 PM

BF

PHave missed seeing Chris at Brandywine pool or the Holly and Ivy style show. Loved this classy lady from the moment I met her at St vincent hospital - so many years ago. Gerry, and family, I am so sorry for your loss.

Barbe Fisher - January 02 at 10:41 AM

SS

My sympathies to the family. I have nice memories of helping Mrs Biernacki setting tables at many church luncheons. May her memory be eternal. Sophie Stathopoulos

Sophia Stathopoulos - January 02 at 09:09 PM