



Mary Kelly

February 28, 1922 - December 25, 2020

Mary (Spoto) Kelly, 98, passed away peacefully early Christmas morning at her home near Mount Vernon, Virginia. Mary was a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the daughter of Antonino and Salvatrice Spoto. She graduated from Council Bluffs' Abraham Lincoln High School in 1940. Throughout WWII, she served as a government civilian in the Army's 7th Service Command. During the Cold War, she supported the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, where she met her husband, Major Dennis P. Kelly, Jr. They were married in 1951 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Council Bluffs. Mary accompanied her husband on his assignments in Omaha, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, England, and Washington, D.C. The family settled in Mount Vernon in June of 1964.

A founding member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Mary was actively involved with various church programs including the Funeral Reception Committee, Prayers and Squares, and Altar Linen Ministry. Mary supported her children's schools volunteering at Saint Mary's School and Bishop Ireton High School, where she assisted with the music department for 28 years, including as chaperone for numerous Wind Ensemble trips to Europe. She volunteered over 1000 hours at George Washington's Mount Vernon. She shared her artistic skills through quilting and needlework with Woodlawn Plantation's Nelly's Needlers, flower arranging with Riverside Estates Garden Club, and her many baking creations for various events. Most of all, Mary is

remembered for her faith that guided her through life, and her humble example of generosity and kindness.

Mary was preceded in death in 1974 by her husband of 22 years, Col. Dennis P. Kelly, Jr., and three infant children, John, and twins Kevin and Catherine. Her surviving children are Dennis Kelly (Ruth), Ann Moore (Tom), Patty Kelly, Claire Kelly, and Phil Kelly (Joy), each of Alexandria, Virginia, Ed Kelly (Debbie) of Herndon, Virginia, and daughter-in-law, Mary B. Kelly. She leaves ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren as well as numerous extended family members.

Visitation will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA, 22309 on Friday, January 15, 2021 from 9:45 to 11:00 am, followed immediately by Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am (EST). COVID restrictions apply. A livestream link to the service will be available at <https://youtu.be/doJN8uFP1j8>. Interment will take place on a later date at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Good Shepherd Catholic Church, or Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 9:45 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
8710 Mount Vernon Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
<https://www.gs-cc.org/>

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
8710 Mount Vernon Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
<https://www.gs-cc.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Kelly



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 08, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ Mary Kelly

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ I have such fond memories of Mary. We were friends from Nelly's Needlers. I think she must have done dozens of "A rosey twine for thee " book marks to sell in the shop. And the day the dish washer broke at Woodlawn I was ready to panic until I found sweet Mary just standing calmly at the sink washing dishes by hand. She continued to help during March in the kitchen for so many years , an inspiration to us all.

Please accept my deep condolences. Her's was a life well led.

Yours

Mimi Barnaby

Mimi Barnaby - January 14, 2021 at 10:55 PM

DD

“ *Diane Durham lit a candle in memory of Mary Kelly*



Diane Durham - January 14, 2021 at 05:19 PM

DD

Ann and Family, So very sorry to hear of the passing of your lovely mother. I remember so fondly visiting your home while we were in college together. May your wonderful memories bring you peace and comfort as you go through this difficult loss. Thinking of you and extending my deepest sympathy, (Susan) Diane Durham

Diane Durham - January 14, 2021 at 05:22 PM



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



January 12, 2021 at 06:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.*



January 11, 2021 at 07:44 PM

CM

“ Charlie, Mary and Tom Meldrum purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mary Kelly.



Charlie, Mary and Tom Meldrum - January 11, 2021 at 03:53 PM

AH

“ Ann Herbert purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Kelly.



Ann Herbert - January 11, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.



January 09, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.



January 08, 2021 at 08:44 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.*



January 08, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to Ann, Patty, Claire, and family at the loss of their beautiful mother. She was an amazing woman - so much energy, love, and creativity packed into such a small frame. She will be missed by so many.*

Susan Bauer Clubb and family

susan Clubb - January 08, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ *Patty, Claire and family,
I am very sorry to hear about your mother's passing. Prayers for her eternal rest, you and the rest of your family.*

Berta Molina

Berta Molina - January 07, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the Kelly family, especially to my high school classmate Ann.*

Angelita (Lita) Martinez Flint

Angelita M Flint - January 05, 2021 at 10:56 PM

JM

“ I am deeply saddened by the passing of your dear mother, Mary Kelly. She was such a pillar of strength and family. Please accept my deepest sympathies to you all. She was a grand lady! Love you all.

James Morrison - January 05, 2021 at 09:58 PM

KZ

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. As a member of Nelly's Needlers, I always enjoyed her quiet presence and stitching knowledge at our Monday quilt meetings. My life is better having had Mary as a friend. My prayers and sympathy to all her family.
Kathy Zahaczewsky

Kathy Zahaczewsky - January 05, 2021 at 09:23 PM

JD

“ Mrs. Kelly was such a wonderful mom. I remember her calm and loving presence when we were in high school. Sending love and hugs to the whole family. Jayne Seminare (Docherty).

Jayne Docherty - January 05, 2021 at 08:48 PM

SB

“ To the Kelly family,
I have wonderful memories of your kind mom, from high school and seeing her at Mass at Good Shepherd. Patty and I graduated together and Anne graduated with my sister Kathy. God bless her and your families. I will be keeping you in my prayers.
Love Suzy Buenaventura

Suzy Buenaventura - January 05, 2021 at 06:42 PM

SB

“ *Suzy Buenaventura lit a candle in memory of Mary Kelly*



Suzy Buenaventura - January 05, 2021 at 06:40 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.*



January 05, 2021 at 03:34 PM

TM

“ *Patty, Claire and family,
My deepest sympathies for the loss of your mother. I pray that you all find comfort in knowing she is at peace with our dear Lord, whom she loved and served so well.*

Terri Mazzarella - January 05, 2021 at 03:33 PM

NG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear. My condolences to Claire and her family. May her mother's memory be for a blessing.*

Nancy Gomez - January 05, 2021 at 03:17 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.*



January 04, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Kelly.*



January 03, 2021 at 10:59 AM



“ *Love, sympathy, and prayers for peace and comfort to all of Mary's friends, of whom we are honored to be counted; and to all of her family. Sharon and Roger Plummer*



Sharon D Plummer - January 03, 2021 at 09:53 AM