



Kathleen Eve Garbowsky

October 15, 1943 - October 17, 2024

Kathleen Eve (Strank) Garbowsky, 81, of Irwin, passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 17, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Born on October 15, 1943, in Johnstown, she was the daughter of the late Michael T. and R. Camille (Kearns) Strank. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her infant son, Michael Garbowsky.

Known affectionately as “Saint Kathleen” by those who knew her, she was renowned for her unmatched kindness, care, and compassion. Kathy had a special gift for going above and beyond to care for others, always putting the needs of her family, friends, and even strangers before her own. Her loving and gentle spirit touched the lives of many, and no words can ever truly describe what a special person she was to friends, family, and strangers alike. Kathy was a dedicated registered nurse at Forbes Hospital in Monroeville, where her selfless nature was evident in her life’s work. She was a devout member of Immaculate Conception Church in Irwin, having attended Saint John Fisher for many years before joining Immaculate Conception, where she continued to attend early morning Mass.

She was a loving mother and grandmother, deeply committed to her family, always sharing her love equally. Kathy cherished spending time with her grandchildren, teaching them how to cook and bake, and reveling in the joyful chaos that came with having many people around her. The more, the merrier

was Kathy's motto, as she thrived in the lively atmosphere of family gatherings. She enjoyed cooking and baking wonderful meals and desserts that brought everyone together.

Kathy was deeply in love with her husband, Calvin D. Garbowsky. They shared many cherished memories with family and friends, creating a bond that was evident in their time together. Kathy took great joy in caring for Calvin and loved taking rides with him, relishing those moments of quality time together. Their relationship was a beautiful example of partnership and devotion. Kathy found joy in traveling with friends and visiting casinos, enjoying the thrill of the games. Her love for nature was evident in her admiration for flowers, especially forsythias, daffodils, and lilacs, which she cherished for their vibrant beauty and fragrance.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Calvin D. Garbowsky; her children, Coleen (Eric) Schlichte of Renton, WA, Mark (Amy) Garbowsky of Baldwin, Colin Garbowsky (Lya Vue) of Carnegie, and Heather Garbowsky of Irwin; and her cherished grandchildren, Sean, Cian, Kathleen, Kyle, Calina, Cienna, Bailey, Luna, and Mila. Kathy is also survived by her brother Michael F. Strank and sister Patricia A. Pavlikowski, both of Johnstown.

Family and friends will be received on Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc., 521 Main Street, Irwin, 724-863-1200. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Tuesday at Immaculate Conception Church. Interment will be private.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to her caregivers, Jackie Long and Carla Cushion Giacchino, for their exceptional care, as well as Heartland Hospice for their compassionate support. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that scratch-off tickets be brought for Mr. Garbowsky's enjoyment. Online condolences may be shared at www.snyderfuneralservices.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

OCT **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

OCT **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Immaculate Conception
308 2nd street
Irwin, PA 15642

Tribute Wall

SG

“ Kathleen, you were my best high school friend. I thank you for being apart of my wedding and spending time with Doug and I during our Johnstown Catholic's 50th class reunion as well as other times. I always looked forward to your Christmas picture and when I didn't receive it I knew something was wrong. I know you and Cal are in a better place. I will be offering a Mass at our church for you and Cal in February 2026. God Bless you
Sally (Kriak) Gresty

SALLY GRESTDY - January 21 at 11:44 AM

ER

“ On behalf of my sister, Kathy Sheehan Best of Lakebay, WA, she is so sorry to hear of the loss of her lifelong friend, Kathleen. She extends her condolences for all of Kathleen's family and sends her prayers to you all. My sister will miss her calls and Christmas cards with Kathleen.

We hope that Good memories of Kathleen and her life shared with you is bringing you comfort today.

Eve Sheehan Roha - January 26, 2025 at 01:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.



October 27, 2024 at 11:16 AM

RM

“ Kathleen was a wonderful, warm, kind and caring person. Always friendly and giving to our family. Our deepest condolences.

Rob and Lara Meigs - October 23, 2024 at 08:32 PM

MK

“ Marnie, jim. Challen & Keldin purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.



Marnie, jim. Challen & Keldin - October 21, 2024 at 09:48 AM

MK

“ Marnie, jim. Challen & Keldin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.

Marnie, jim. Challen & Keldin - October 21, 2024 at 09:48 AM

DF

“ Melissa & Dan Fitzgerald
When I started at Forbes hospital, young and green, Kathy taught me so much about taking care of patients. She was an excellent nurse. I learned so much from her. She truly was an example of what nursing is all about, compassion and caring for others.

🙏 Dan

Dan Fitzgerald - October 21, 2024 at 09:09 AM

DF

“ Deepest sympathies Your DeeJay’s Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.



Deepest sympathies Your DeeJay’s Family - October 20, 2024 at 01:57 PM

DF

“ Deepest sympathies Your DeeJay’s Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.

Deepest sympathies Your DeeJay’s Family - October 20, 2024 at 01:57 PM

SS

“ Kathleen was my next door growing up. Gave me my first job babysitting the kids. I enjoyed those days with the kids. Colleen was always my buddy. Her love of family shined proudly in her smile. Luckily reconnected with her and cal last year. Great talks. Sure will miss her. Biggest heart I ever met. Lucky she was my neighbor for 19 yrs

shelley stein - October 19, 2024 at 08:49 PM

LS

“ Lindsey & Seamus purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.



Lindsey & Seamus - October 19, 2024 at 04:30 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.*



October 19, 2024 at 03:52 PM



“ *Todd and Celeste Plunkett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.*

Todd and Celeste Plunkett - October 19, 2024 at 03:52 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.*



October 19, 2024 at 03:44 PM



“ *Baldwin EMS planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.*

Baldwin EMS - October 19, 2024 at 03:44 PM

PP

“ Patricia Pavlikowski purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.



Patricia Pavlikowski - October 19, 2024 at 02:54 PM

KW

“ We always liked working with Kathy. She kept up on the straight and narrow and we always learned from her. Her struggles are over and she now rests in the arms of Jesus.
The tree is from Karen Williamson and Anne Landis.

Karen Williamson - October 19, 2024 at 01:31 PM

KW

“ Karen W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.

Karen W. - October 19, 2024 at 01:26 PM

HB

“ Haley & Tony Borck purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Kathleen Eve Garbowsky.



Haley & Tony Borck - October 19, 2024 at 10:31 AM