



Mary Jo Pellingra

AUG 25, 1937 - DEC 10, 2019



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Mary Jo Pellingra

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Our much-loved Mary Jo Pellingra of Syracuse passed away peacefully Tuesday morning, December 10, 2019. Born in Rochester, NY on August 25, 1937 to Justin Pellingra and Mary (Tartaglia) Pellingra, Mary Jo graduated Convent School in 1955, and in 1959 received a B.A. from the Academy of Saint Elizabeth College in Morristown, NJ. Teaching briefly in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse for Our Lady of Solace School, she then went on to the Syracuse City School District in the late 1960's teaching kindergarten and first grade for Dr. Weeks and Dr. King, eventually retiring from Bellevue Elementary in 1994. That ending a 30+ year career doing a job she truly loved, serving as the best possible teacher and advocate for the young students in her charge. To this day it is not uncommon for a stranger to smile and say "Miss Pellingra was my kindergarten teacher at Bellevue..." upon hearing our connection to her.

Mary Jo was an avid life-long pet lover giving generously of her time, money, heart and self wherever she saw an animal in need and no matter how many. She would often bring her dogs to school with her to promote an upbeat atmosphere, to introduce children to the benefits of kind, loving, gentle animals and the kind, loving and gentle care they need and deserve.

In 1963 Mary Jo and her sister Gerri attended the funeral service for President John F. Kennedy in Washington D.C., setting the tone for her life-long personal and political leanings.

Family and friends ranked very high amongst Mary Jo's favorite things alongside the yearly Applefest in Lafayette, numerous craft shows, her personal commitment to the Catholic Church, and projects in and around her Onondaga Hill home; in later years, her in and outside gardening became her post proudfest endeavor.

Mary Jo is survived by, Gerri Pellingra (Sam) Spadaro, Justin Pellingra, Craig (Kristen) Pellingra, Pamela Spadaro, Jeanette Rodriguez, Julie Spadaro, Justin Pellingra, Jennifer Titarenko, Shane



Obituary

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Salcedo, Ayden Plaza, Keira Remington and Elise Titarenko.

Special thanks to her good friends at At Home Care, the staff at Bishop Rehabilitation and Hospice of CNY.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2019 from 12 – 2 pm, immediately followed by a Funeral Service in celebration of Mary Jo's life at THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse, NY. Interment will be held in Spring of 2020.


In lieu of flowers, donations may be made on behalf of Mary Jo Pellingra to CNY SPCA, 5878 E. Molloy Rd., Syracuse, NY 13211.




Events

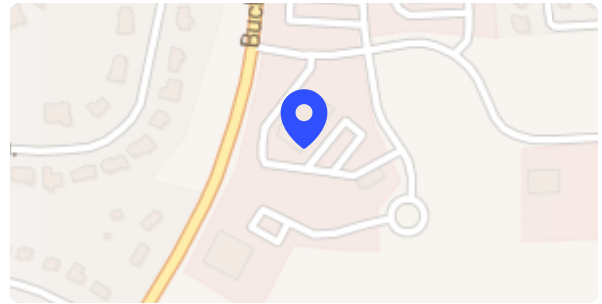
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Visitation

 **Sunday**, December 15, 2019


 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET


 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

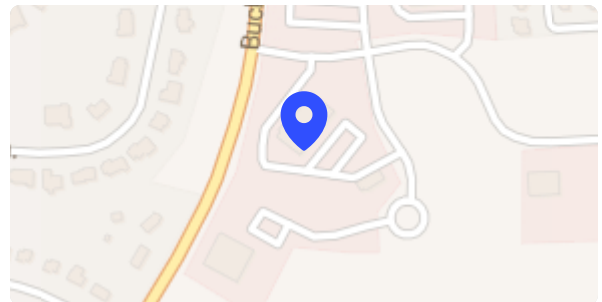


Funeral Service

 **Sunday**, December 15, 2019

 2:00 PM ET

 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212





Tribute Wall

Mary Jo Pellingra
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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.



December 12 at 6:08 AM



Your Childtime Family sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Pellingra family.



December 13 at 8:00 AM



Adeke Schepp Young posted:

Dear Jeanette and family....I am so very sorry for your loss. Though we had been expecting MJ's passing for several months that does not lessen the grief we surely share at this time. Mary Jo and I met first at Convent School on Court St. where we sat across from each other on the first day of our sophomore year. That day we began a friendship that has lasted all these years. Tonight, looking at our yearbook, I note Mary Jo's picture reads that she always "reached her goals without fanfare"! Not surprisingly all these years later this still seems a fitting summation of MJ's life of compassionate giving of herself, time and treasure to all whose path crossed hers.. Her heart was always open to anyone in need and her friendship was genuine, warm and lasting. For the past few years, since Den and I retired to Pennsylvania, Mary Jo and I have often exchanged cards and messages. .Since receiving, I have kept one particular card from her on my desk that reads: " A good friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have". As I look at it tonight, I am reminded of how blessed we have been all these years to share a friendship that seemingly only death could end. But I am also sure of this: while friends do die, friendships can be forever. So, forever friend, I am comforted to know that your death was peaceful as you went from the arms of your beloved Jeanette to the arms of our dear Lord and Savior. May perpetual light shine always on you and may your family and friends be comforted by not only how peacefully you left us but how gracefully and selflessly you lived your life while on earth. God-speed dear friend!

December 11 at 6:14 PM



Jaye Rod December 11 at 7:36 PM

Thank you for your beautiful words Adele, It's wonderful to know she had a great friend in you for so many years. She taught me many great things in life and I will truly miss her. Take care





Tribute Wall

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Teresa Plaza shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I used to help Mary Jo set up her classroom yearly she would take Myself and my siblings places so as to give our Mother a break She took us to see Grease when it came out When the youngest of us was born She took to him instantly She became his Godmother I remember being fascinated by the cakes she would create each year for his Birthday I remember how she picked up on the animal Lover in my older brother and how she would gift him with st Francis of Assisi medals and statues I remember Mr Bojangles or Bo The giant Dalmatian Her granola way of eating And the brownies she made us when we came in from playing in the snow Her frosted hair and the way she tilted her head when she laughed or smiled She radiated Genuine The world is a better place Having shared her light.My Condolences to the family Teresa Plaza

December 11 at 5:59 PM



Jaye Rod December 11 at 7:39 PM

Thank you Teresa. I'm happy she was a part of your lives ❤️



Adele December 11 at 6:37 PM

What a great testimony Teresa... you have captured the essence of who MJ really was...thanks and God bless.



Sharon Williams posted:

To Mary Jo's family My Deepest Sympathy. MJ and I go way back and have had many laughs and cries over the years. She came to our lunches and we all shared my memories of our Convent days. You suffer a lot now you can rest in peace. You are Safely Home til we meet again.Love Sharon

December 11 at 1:17 PM



Media

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.

December 12 at 6:08 AM



Jaye Rod December 13 at 7:04 AM

This is beautifully done ❤️



Media

Mary Jo Pellingra
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Teresa Plaza shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 11 at 5:59 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary Jo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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