



Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024



Scan to Visit



Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 9



Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024

Joan (Giordano) Cullen, passed away on December 4, 2024, at the age of 89. Giovanna, later known as Joan, was born on January 1, 1935, to the late Grace (Magazzu) and Biagio Giordano, who were immigrants from Sicily, Italy. The Giordano family made their home in Canastota, NY. Joan was the first baby born in Canastota in 1935, arriving shortly after midnight.

Joan grew up working for her father who was an onion farmer on the legendary “muck” in Canastota. She graduated from Canastota High School in 1951 and was the only girl in her graduating class to go on to college. Joan attended LeMoyne College and graduated from St. Joseph’s School of Nursing in 1956. She met Jerry Cullen who was a student at LeMoyne in the spring of 1955. They married shortly after Joan’s graduation and settled in the Syracuse area. Joan worked many roles in Nursing over the next 63 years, employed by St. Joseph’s Hospital, Carrier Corporation, the Federal building, private duty nursing, St. Margaret’s School, and the North Syracuse and Liverpool School Districts. In 2008 she was honored with The St. Joseph’s Health Center College of Nursing’s Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing in the Community Setting. She remained close with her group of nursing school friends, having annual reunions throughout her life.

Joan has lived in Liverpool since 1964, where she and Jerry raised two children. Joan was a devout Catholic and a woman of tremendous faith. She was a long-time member of St. Margaret’s Church in Mattydale, where she served as a Eucharistic Minister, Money Counter, Parish Nurse and member of the health ministry team, Altar and Rosary Society member, Confraternity of Christian Mothers and RCIA teacher. She was also an associate of St. Lucy Filippini.

Over the years, Joan volunteered with numerous local organizations, including the Unity Kitchen, Jail Ministry, WCNY Tel-Auc, thirty plus years with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Camp Good Days and Special Times, Francis House, Usher for Famous Artists and the Landmark Theater, Italian Festival, YMCA Triathlon and Samaritan Center. She also volunteered with the American Red Cross as a disaster nurse at both local and national disasters.



Obituary

Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024

Later in life, Joan was a member of Mattydale-Hinsdale Seniors, North Syracuse Seniors, St. Daniel's Wisdom Seniors, Hope for Bereaved Over the Rainbow group, Fit for the Next Fifty-Senior Exercise Program at Onondaga Lake Park and the American Italian Heritage Association.

Joan loved going back to Canastota to visit friends. One of her favorite things to do was to go to the annual Boxing Hall of Fame weekend. She loved to travel, taking many trips to Europe (including 11 times to Italy), the Holy Land, and throughout the United States. For 15 years she never missed her annual trip to St. Thomas.

Joan was an excellent homemaker and cook, learning well from her Sicilian Mother. She enjoyed hosting family dinners, especially on the holidays. She was a voracious lifelong reader, often having multiple books going at the same time. Joan loved to talk, laugh and spend time with family and friends. She enjoyed dominoes, playing cards and attending her grandchildren's activities. She never missed their school events or dance competitions.

Joan is predeceased by her parents Grace and Biagio, her infant brother Giacomo, and her husband of 30 years, Gerald M. Cullen, in 1987. She is survived by her daughter, Colleen (Steven) Richardson of Liverpool, son, Mark Cullen of Liverpool, daughter-in-law, Christine Bent Cullen of North Syracuse, and the loves of her life, her grandchildren, Emily Richardson of Boston, MA and Jared Cullen of Liverpool/North Syracuse. Joan is also survived by her brother, Jack (Judy) Giordano of Redwood, NY and by several nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank Joan's good friends Lois Murphy, Carleen Smith, Bob & Linda Graves and Mary Kieffer-Piazza for always being there for her.

Calling hours will be held from 3:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. on Monday, December 9, 2024, at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME 3401 Vickery Rd. (Corner of Buckley Rd.) Syracuse, NY 13212. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at St. Margaret's Church, 200 Roxboro Rd., Mattydale. Joan will be laid to rest in Assumption Cemetery, Syracuse.

Donations in Joan's memory may be made to St. Margaret's Church, 200 Roxboro Rd. Syracuse, NY 13211, or to St. Joseph's College of Nursing, 206 Prospect Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203.



Events

Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024

Visitation

Monday, December 9, 2024

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET

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

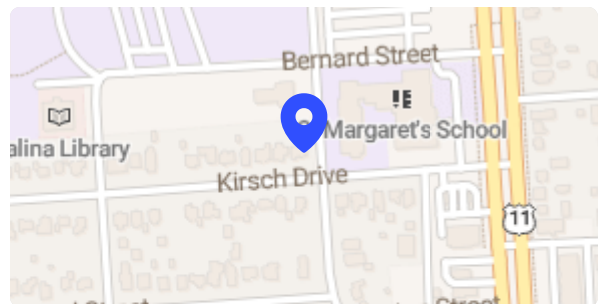


Funeral Mass

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

10:00 AM ET

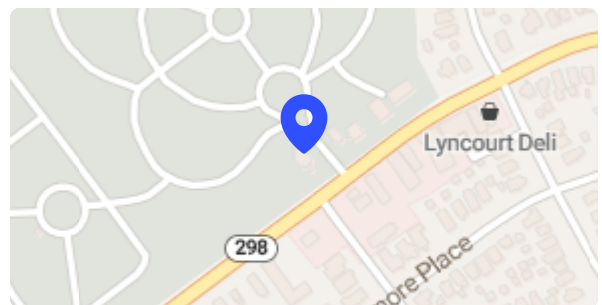
St. Margaret's Church
200 Roxboro Road , Mattydale NY 13211



Cemetery Details

Assumption Cemetery
2401 Court Street, Syracuse NY 13208

454-3841





Tribute Wall

Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024



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



December 9 at 10:55 AM



Anonymous posted:

To Joan's family. I took over for Joan at St. Margaret's when she retired. She was such a caring person. She loved her students. Over the years after she retired she would sub for me and I remember the students saying, "Mrs. Cullen you're back. We missed you". I am very sorry for your loss. Nan Pucino

December 9 at 11:16 AM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 6:50 AM

Thank you so much for your memories. ~Colleen



Brenda Van Duser sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Cullen family.



December 9 at 6:29 AM



Lisa Passero posted:

My mother Theresa Kalinowski Passero was a classmate of Joan's from nursing school. They certainly were a close group! We traveled together to Israel along with Lois Murphy. We had a wonderful time - she was loads of fun! I lost my mother this past year in August. I am certain that my mom and your mom are up there celebrating. With sympathy Lisa passero

December 8 at 2:53 PM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 7:04 AM

Thank you so much for this. My Mom spoke of your Mom often. The trip to Israel was one of her favorites. And yes they were a very tight group! I am so sorry for your loss as well. They also lost their other classmate Sally Hutt in November. I am sure they are having a grand time getting caught up.



Tribute Wall

Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024



John Rose posted:

My heart and prayers go out to you as you grieve the loss of this strong woman of faith who freely shared her faith and love with everyone. I have fond memories of my years with your family during my service at St Margaret's from 1984-88. She and Gerry were integral members and served the community freely and with graciousness. The picture captures her spirit and her soul. Well done good and faithful servant - you left a wonderful legacy. Fr. John Rose

December 8 at 10:10 AM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 7:07 AM

Thank you so much Fr. Rose for your sweet words. She would love to know that you had thought of her. Mom was lucky enough to be able to have communion the day before she passed and as well as last rites. I hope you are well.



Chris, Jared, Dorothy, Dan And Kathy sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Cullen family.



December 7 at 8:28 AM



Chris, Jared, Dorothy, Dan And Kathy planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joan.



December 7 at 8:28 AM



Patricia Salis posted:

To the family of Joan Cullen, We send our condolences upon learning of Joan's passing. Joan and our mother were in a united group of female friends from the neighborhood who enjoyed a good game of dominoes, Friday morning breakfast at the corner table in The Gardenview Restaurant, and laughs along the way. Our Mom enjoyed her friendship with Joan. They shared the happiness of being Grandmothers and swapped proud stories. Wishes of Peace and Comfort from the Family of Barbara Muller

December 7 at 5:53 AM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 7:08 AM

Thank you Patricia. My Mom just love your Mom. She missed her terribly. It gives me comfort to know that they are reunited.



Tribute Wall

Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024



Love, Bernadette sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Cullen family.



December 6 at 10:17 AM



Le Moyne College Office Of Alumni posted:

Please accept the most heartfelt sympathies of Le Moyne College. We hope the love and memories that you will forever hold in your heart bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

December 6 at 8:03 AM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 7:11 AM

My late Dad was a LeMoyne alumni and Mom attended while at St. Joseph's School of Nursing. They cherished their memories from their time at LeMoyne.



Grace Moran sent an Arrive in Style to the Cullen family.



December 5 at 5:11 PM



Fern M. Lewis posted:

I met Joan in 1973 when we were invited to a prayer meeting and teaching led by her husband Jerry. Jerry and my husband, Brian, became good friends as did Joan and I. That friendship has thrived through the years with picnics, prayer meetings, conferences, parties and lunches...oh so many luncheons, good times and sad times. One thing I treasured about Joan is that you could always count on her. She was right there to lend a helping hand not only in her community and among her friends but through out the world. When disaster struck, she was there to help usually in the capacity of a nurse. Truly a wonderful and caring person. I shall miss her. Fern (Bonnie) Lewis

December 5 at 2:08 PM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 7:12 AM

Thank you Bonnie. What good memories you all had. You know she loved you and Brian.



Media

Joan (Giordano) Cullen

JAN 1, 1935 - DEC 4, 2024



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

December 9 at 10:55 AM



Colleen Richardson December 12 at 6:50 AM

Lovely.~Colleen



Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

