



Cathleen G. Spinelli

January 30, 1951 - November 12, 2018

Cathleen G. Spinelli, 67, of Cinnaminson, NJ, passed away peacefully on November 12, 2018 with her family by her side. She was the loving wife to Michael A. Spinelli for 43 years, dear mother to Eric (Debra), Joan Marie Still (Thomas), and Julie Ann Giuffre (James). She was a devoted and playful grandmother to Sean, Emerson, Madelyn, Bryce, and was eagerly awaiting the arrival of her 5th grandchild. She was the beloved sister of Joan Gallagher and Barbara Gallagher. She will be missed by many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her loving son Drew and her parents, Charles Gallagher of Bridgeton, NJ and Helen McGann Gallagher of Moorestown, NJ. Cathy was a lifelong educator and advocate for children with special needs. After several years in public education, she earned two Master's degrees from Trenton State College (TCNJ), and achieved certifications in school psychology, learning disabilities, teacher of the handicapped, and others. After earning a doctorate in Education from Temple University, she advanced to positions in higher education, teaching, first at Monmouth University and, for the last 18 years, at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She was a strong advocate for teachers in special education and particularly valued her work as a field placement advisor in the Philadelphia public schools. Cathy was a well-known author of several books designed for undergraduate and graduate teachers entering the field of special education, as well as numerous articles. Her particular area of interest was assessment and placement of special education students. Her work earned her recognition as

an expert in the field and led to many invitations to serve as keynote speaker and presenter at national and international conferences.

In addition to her devotion to family and career, Cathy still found time to rescue, foster, and tend to animals in need, adopting many of them herself. No animal that came into Cathy's view was left unattended. She was known to stop and care for animals found on the side of the road. She will be greatly missed by her loyal companion, her dog, Bella.

Cathy was a devout Catholic whose life reflected her moral convictions, and her faith permeated everything she did. She could frequently be found at daily Mass and was proud to teach at a faith-based university.

Cathy found great joy in spending time with her grandchildren and looked forward to their visits. She loved to spend summers in Ocean City, NJ, with friends and family, reminding everyone to replenish their sunscreen. She spent many fun hours exploring yard sales for items she could transform into decorative home furnishings to be enjoyed by the many friends and family members who were welcomed into her home.

Friends and family are invited to gather on Sunday, November 18th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Givnish of Cinnaminson, 1200 Route 130 North, and again on Monday, November 19th from 9:00am to 10:00 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Charles Borromeo of Cinnaminson at 10:30am. Burial will be held privately. Donations may be made in Cathy's memory to Loaves and Fishes, c/o Barbara Anne Cagney, 83 Sycamore St., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 or Read By 4th via the website freelibrary.org/readby4th

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Cemetery

500 Marne Highway
Hainesport, NJ 08036

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Cinnaminson
1200 Route 130 N
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
(856) 829-8000
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Visitation

NOV 19. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Cinnaminson
1200 Route 130 N
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
(856) 829-8000
info@givnish.com
<https://www.givnish.com>

Mass

NOV 19. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Church
2500 Branch Pike & Pomona Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

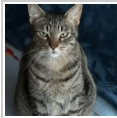
Tribute Wall



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Cathleen G. Spinelli*



Givnish Funeral Home - November 16, 2018 at 02:20 PM



Cathy was a beautiful soul. Her and her family's beauty and love shines through in every photo. They say only the good die young. Well, Cathy was so much more than good. For someone as accomplished as Cathy was, both materially and intellectually, she was the most genuinely humble person I ever met. You don't come by that kind of strength easily. I feel honored to have known her and been a small part of her life. R.I.P. Cathy.

Sally Donatiello - November 17, 2018 at 10:00 AM



“ *Cathleen G. Spinelli*

September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM

SC

“ Mike,

I was devastated to see that Cathy passed away! I had tried emailing her and sending Facebook messages a number of times during the past few years! She was the most loving, compassionate and sweetest person I have ever met! I cherish the fact that I got to meet her through having Drew work for me during the last couple of years of his life! I was proud that Cathy thought of me as Drew's work mom! And I still have the ceramic angel that she gave me when she came and sat with me at the hospital while my husband was having his cancer surgery! All I can think of is that she is forever with Drew now....may she rest in peace.

Suzan Cohen

Suzan Cohen - March 28, 2019 at 06:27 PM

KF

“ Michael. *I took a picture of the tree on the card that drew hand colored. I bought s frame and now I will bring his tree out each holiday. What a wonderful family you have. The kids all looked great. Cathy was always an inspiration to me with her kindness and joy even in the sadist times. True faith. Katen forrest.*



karen forrest - November 21, 2018 at 07:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .*



November 19, 2018 at 12:45 PM



“ *Love, Lisa and Jack Faricelli purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .*



Love, Lisa and Jack Faricelli - November 18, 2018 at 08:16 PM



“ *I met Cathy in 2010 when she introduced me to the Master's of Special Education program that she developed at SJU - a program that was one of the first, nationally, to receive accreditation by the IDA. I was fortunate to enroll in the program, under her guidance and encouragement. After graduation, I had the honor of working with Cathy to expand the reach of the program.*

Cathy had endless energy, and endless commitment to educating teachers in the strongest possible programs. She was a pioneer and entrepreneur, and also the most caring soul you can imagine. She had a creative solution to any challenge. I am blessed to have known Cathy and collaborated closely with her over the years. I will miss her. I also know that her gifts to the world of teacher education will live on forever.

Nancy Scharff - November 18, 2018 at 03:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .



November 17, 2018 at 09:17 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .



November 17, 2018 at 08:59 PM



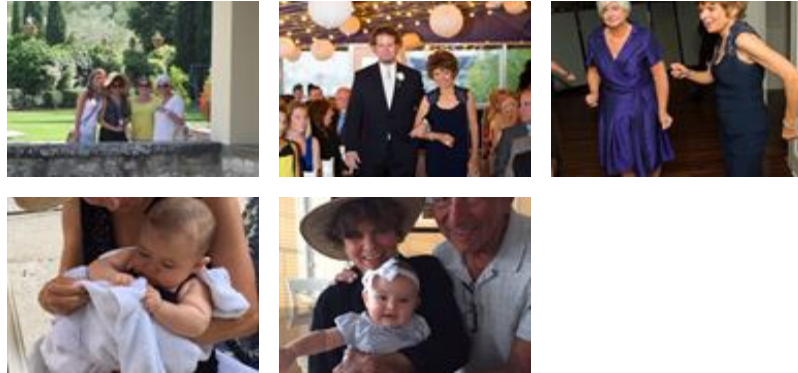
“ *Guiding Light Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .



November 17, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - November 17, 2018 at 01:46 PM



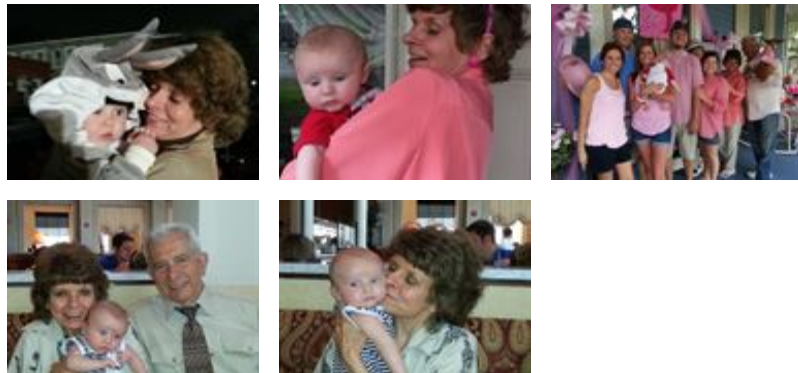
“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .



November 17, 2018 at 11:27 AM



“ 74 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - November 17, 2018 at 08:06 AM

MC

“ To Mike and the Spinelli family my deepest sympathy .Cathy was a wonderful friend to me. She was the most generous and loving person that I had ever met. I use to love going with her to find as I call them treasures. She had this great eye and could spot something from the car.Mike and Cathy made me feel like I had someone I could call on after my husband passed away.They helped me with their time and energy with craft shows. She touched my life greatly and I will never ever forget her kindness to me. She is truly and angel in heaven. Loved her children so much. Was so excited when she had her Grandchildren. She made time for people and loved her animals. I realize now how broken she was after losing her son. Unless you have lost a child yourself a father and mother are never the same. I saw many times how it affected her. You can't fix s heart that is broken . She is now with her son. Rest in peace my friend. Till we meet again. Love you Maria Chiaccio

Maria Chiaccio - November 16, 2018 at 09:49 PM



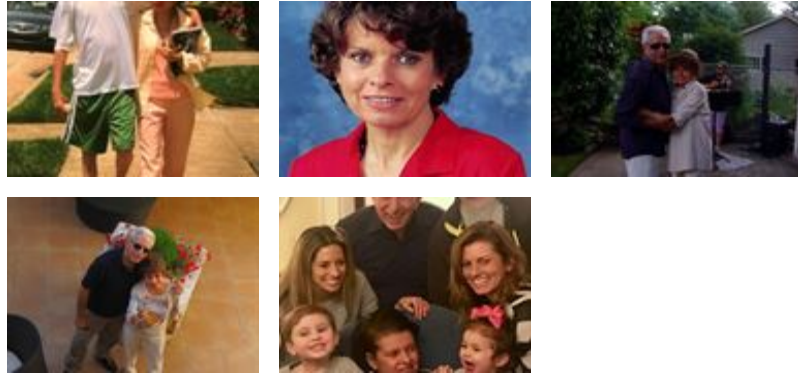
“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .



November 16, 2018 at 01:08 PM



“ 108 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - November 16, 2018 at 12:45 PM



“ From the *Giuffre family* purchased the *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray* for the family of *Cathleen G. Spinelli* .



From the Giuffre family - November 16, 2018 at 12:30 PM



“ *Bryan* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of *Cathleen G. Spinelli* .



Bryan - November 15, 2018 at 09:41 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .*



November 15, 2018 at 04:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .*



November 15, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ *David & Esther Still purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .*



David & Esther Still - November 15, 2018 at 12:22 PM



“ *Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .*



November 15, 2018 at 10:24 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Cathleen G. Spinelli .



November 15, 2018 at 10:07 AM



“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Cathy was a beautiful soul who always greeted me with a smile on the campus of Saint Joseph's University. I wish you comfort in your memories. - Kim Logio

Kim Logio - November 14, 2018 at 06:50 PM



“ Cathy has been greatly missed at Saint Joseph's University, where she was Professor of Special Education and chair of this Department. She was a dynamic professor who created and launched one of the first national online master's degree programs in Special Education. She worked constantly to enrich teachers' understandings of kids who learn differently. I'll never forget the day when she said she was up until 2 am trying to fix the problems with some of the course links. I asked her, "Why do you work so hard?" She said simply: "I do it because the teachers need programs like this; I do it because the kids need teachers who know how to serve them." I'll never forget Cathy's total dedication to teaching teachers and raising the quality of special education instruction. Her legacy lives on in classrooms near and far.
-- Althier Lazar



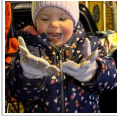
Althier Lazar - November 14, 2018 at 12:08 PM

MC

Cathy was s special and Desr friend to me. She was there for me when my husband died of cancer. She is the reason I have my most precious cat Salmon even though I have allergies to cats. She has my cat son and daughter Kylie and Quinn. She was always there for me when I had a problem as was Mike. We went around and found treasures together. She had a great eye.for things. We shared the same likes and painted together. I will really miss you Cathy. You had a heart of gold and so generous

Cathy was a special angel to me . She is right up there now. A real angel in heaven. I have missed you so much since you feel I'll. I will never ever forget you I love you. Maria Chiaccio

Maria Chiaccio - November 15, 2018 at 07:41 PM



I met Cathy through my friend, Maria Chiaccio. She was truly a person with a beautiful heart. I feel so very blessed to have known her.

Rosalie Forte - November 15, 2018 at 11:40 PM