



Mary Jo Burke

March 2, 1928 - October 11, 2019

Mary Jo Burke (née Flaherty), of Cinnaminson, NJ, passed away peacefully on October 11, 2019 surrounded by her children and husband. Born in Mount Carmel, PA to the late Daniel and Margaret (née Rooney) Flaherty, she was 91 years old.

Mary Jo was the much-loved wife of Thomas J. Burke for nearly 66 years. Loving mother of Thomas, Jr. (Pam), Joseph (Maureen), Mary Kathryn (the late Theodore) Ley, Michael (Tracy), Kevin (Lynne), Rosanne (John) Purcell, the late James, and deceased infants Anita Marie and Karen Marie. Dear grandmother of 18 and great grandmother of 10.

Born at home, Mary Jo often spoke of the warm and loving family she was privileged to grow up in even though several financial hardships befell them during the Depression years. Those difficulties helped shape her life but her outlook was formed equally by the positive impact of family. Mary Jo frequently spoke of her extended family, the love and protection of her parents, and of the two older brothers she adored, Charles and Edward. Many times she spoke of the daily letters she wrote to her brothers while they were in the South Pacific during World War II.

Although Mary Jo began her Catholic grade school education in Mount Carmel, her family moved when she was 12 and she completed elementary school in 1941 at St. Frances de Sales in West Philadelphia. In 1945, Mary Jo graduated from West Catholic High School for Girls.

After high school, Mary Jo worked for the Bell Telephone Company for about a

year until she felt the call to join the religious life whereupon she joined the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent. Her religious name was Sister Maria Josita. She was in the convent for four years teaching at a Catholic grade school in South Philadelphia and then St. Martin of Tours in Northeast Philadelphia. While in the convent, Mary Jo attended Immaculata College for enough time to receive a teaching certification. In time, Mary Jo prayerfully began to realize the religious life was not her calling; she therefore did not take her final vows and petitioned to leave the Order. In a year she was granted the right to leave. Mary Jo was supported by her parents when she entered the convent and was equally when she left.

Mary Jo returned to the Bell Telephone Company and continued to work there for a total of four years. Along with friends, Mary Jo joined the Catholic Discussion Club in the city where young Catholic men and women would meet weekly for social activities. During one of those meetings, she met Tom Burke who later mistook her change of address card as an invitation to call on her outside the discussion club. Within four months they were engaged and four months later on November 21, 1953 they exchanged marriage vows at Saint Patrick's Church on S. 20th Street in Philadelphia.

Tom and Mary Jo went on to have a large family, starting in 1955 with Tommy and ending in 1969 with Jamie. In 1970, the whole family moved to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands in Micronesia. Those four years were a highlight of her life where she did missionary work and was host to the only annual St. Patrick's Day party the island had ever seen up to that time.

Mary Jo and Tom taught Irish adult ceili dancing for many years and performed at exhibitions and parades with dancing groups. They were also longtime season ticket holders of Villanova basketball and football. She traveled with Tom for 10 of their retirement years visiting the 48 contiguous states in a motor home. They were also cruise enthusiasts.

Active in church life, Mary Jo was a Eucharistic Minister, past Chair and Vice President of the St. Charles Borromeo Altar and Rosary Society, and volunteer at the yearly parish carnival.

Mary Jo is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who will miss her dearly.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather at Givnish of Cinnaminson, 1200 Route 130 N., on Wednesday, October 16th from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. Mary Jo's Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00 am at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 2500 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson. Interment will follow in Lakeview Memorial Park, Cinnaminson, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary Jo's memory may be made to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent in Malvern, PA <http://ihmimmaculata.org/share-our-mission/give-a-gift/>

To share your condolences and memories, please visit www.Givnish.com.

Cemetery Details

Lakeview Memorial Park

1300 Route 130 North
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

OCT 16. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Mass

OCT 16. 11:00 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 Mary Jo Burke*



Givnish Funeral Home - October 16, 2019 at 10:36 AM



“ *Mary Jo Burke*

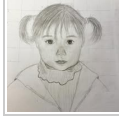
September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM



“ *Eva Marie lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Burke*



Eva Marie - October 01, 2020 at 12:10 AM

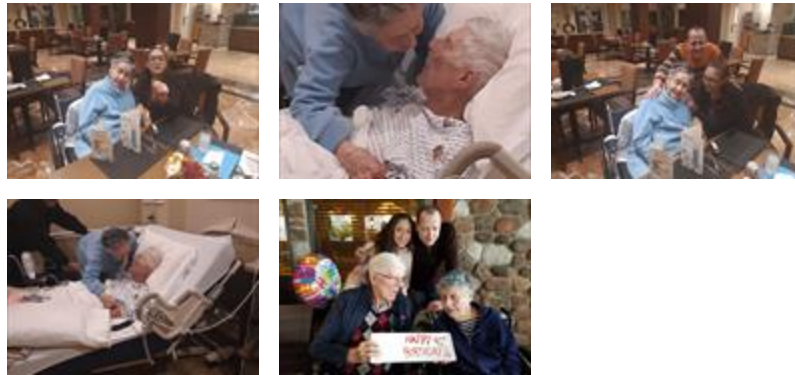


Mary Jo, I just happened to be looking up my mother's obituary on Givnish & I found yours! You can't tell me this was by chance. So often I've thought of you and Tom! I had no idea you had passed! I know you've met my Mother by now! Please ((HUG)) her for me! Thank you for your friendship to my family! You are a beautiful soul and I will never forget you. My daughters absolutely love you & Tom! Our families being part of St. Charles parish with you was a beautiful time in my daughters' lives. You & Tom were such great examples to them! And our friendship started at Dr. B & Dr. R's office! You just struck up a conversation with me.....you were really interested in people....you really loved people! That's why I love your heart!! God Bless Your family and bring them peace!

Eva Marie - October 01, 2020 at 12:19 AM

AN

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Alexa Noel - October 16, 2019 at 05:51 PM

AN

“ Alexa Noel lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Burke



Alexa Noel - October 16, 2019 at 05:50 PM

FG

“ To the Burke family: You have been blessed to have a such a kind, beautiful, loving mother for 91 years. I've been blessed to be part of her life since our family moving to Cinnaminson in 1963. She and your dad welcomed our family with open arms. They were good friends to both of my parents. Joining the "Over 50 Club" at St Charles Borromeo & going to many dances together. When I moved back to Cinnaminson with my family in 2001, to take care of my dad, she welcomed us with open arms. She & I would go shopping to Kohl's store when it first opened in Cherry Hill. Since then I referred her as my "Irish mom" & she referred me as her "Italian daughter". Whenever I would call her on the phone to ask how she was, she never complained & always ended the conversation "Thank you for calling & God Bless".



Our family will miss her kindness. "Thank you Mrs Burke for being in our lives & God Bless"

*Love and miss you "Your Italian Daughter & Neighbor"
Fran Capraro - Giosia*

Fran Giosia - October 15, 2019 at 08:42 PM



Marianne
Burke

“ *Family was everything to Aunt Mary Jo - her immediate family and extended family. She and Uncle Tommy tried to often visit with Andy Burke's family, even years after my father, Andy Burke passed. In the spring of 2017 Aunt Mary Jo and Uncle Tom helped my mom and her family celebrate her 90th birthday. We always appreciated her gracious love.*



Marianne Burke - October 15, 2019 at 03:29 PM



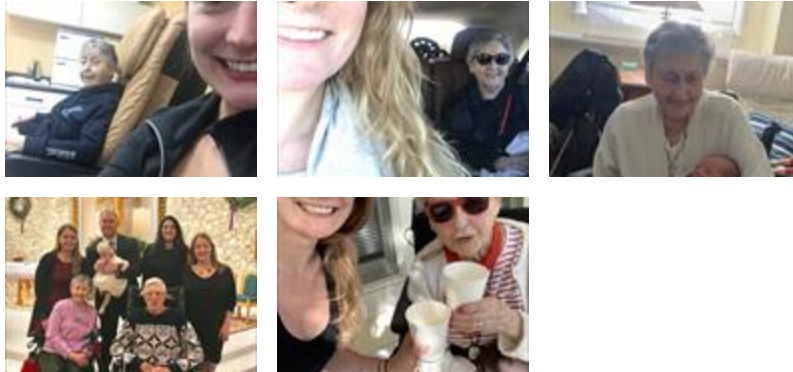
“ *238 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - October 15, 2019 at 03:09 PM

ML

“❤️🥰



Morgan Ley - October 15, 2019 at 12:58 PM



“ *We cherish the many memories ... a life well lived.*



Geri Burke - October 15, 2019 at 11:04 AM

GG

“ *Gary & Geri purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mary Jo Burke.*



Gary & Geri - October 15, 2019 at 10:51 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Meg Leidy

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Meg Leidy - October 14, 2019 at 10:22 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Burke.



October 14, 2019 at 08:57 PM



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



October 14, 2019 at 07:39 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Burke.*



October 14, 2019 at 05:25 PM



Martina
DelRocini

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Burke family during this very difficult time! May your Mother be at peace with the Lord and may her endless love and devotion help you through this very difficult time.*

Martina DelRocini - October 14, 2019 at 03:20 PM



RB

“ *If your mother was anything like you Roseanne, she was an angel on earth. She raised a beautiful family, loving grandchildren, sustained a marriage for over 70 years, had a lovely home, provided love and support for everyone who knew her and now she can relax, and watch over all of you. She is able to see and guide everyone from heaven, so what a better place for her to be? Cherish your memoires, but learn from her. She had a life full of happiness that always overcame the difficult times. She left a legacy in all of you and no matter how long passes, you'll always remember her touch, her kind heart and her forgiveness. What a great woman to leave that behind. I wish you all peace and hope your pain is eased at this time, but she is now with the ones who left her behind. What a nice thing to think of. She is with her babies knowing all her children here on earth are healthy, happy and secure. Relish in that, when you are sad. Love always, Roni Bills and Family.*

Roni Bills - October 14, 2019 at 02:44 PM

Meg Leidy

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Meg Leidy - October 14, 2019 at 01:12 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tiffany Burke - October 14, 2019 at 01:08 PM

MB

Stephen and Tiffany Burke Mary Jo and Tom

Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 01:57 PM

Karen Burke-Baumeister

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Karen Burke-Baumeister - October 14, 2019 at 11:59 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 11:07 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 11:06 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 09:17 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 09:13 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 09:12 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Burke - October 14, 2019 at 09:08 AM