



## Mary Ellen Derrig

November 28, 1931 - July 13, 2019

Mary Ellen (Rotz) Derrig

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Mary Ellen Derrig, our devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend to all whose lives she touched on July 13, 2019.

She was preceded by her loving husband, Michael "Jack" Derrig whom she was married to for 60 years. She met Jack in 1952 at a local Irish dance and was married on September 5, 1953 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Detroit. Mary Ellen and Jack proudly raised six children: Michael (Sharon), Stephen (Kathy), the late Ellen (Pat) Teschendorf, Gerald (Sandy), Bridget (John) Hines and Patrick.

Mary Ellen's life was her family and she was also a very proud grandmother of fourteen grandchildren: Amanda (Randy) Hill, Heather (Wes) Berlin, Andrew Teschendorf, Christopher (Elisa), Timothy (Jenna), Allison, Meghan Muladore, Jacob (Whitney), Lauren, Jacquelynn, John (Ashley), Erin, Sean and Marie Hines.

In addition, she was a joyful great-grandmother of eight grandchildren: Emily and Sara Hill, Owen and Agnes Derrig, Olivia and Liam Muladore, Claire Berlin and Lydia Derrig. Mary Ellen was equally very proud to be a graduate of St. Vincent High School in Detroit. Many of her classmates became her lifelong friends. After high school she worked in various positions with a number of employers which included US Treasury Department in Detroit.

Mary Ellen was very proud of her Irish roots and loved Irish music which was heard in her home. Her mother who died giving birth to her hailed from Ferns, County Wexford, Ireland who immigrated with her best friend Mary Keane from Ballymoe, County Roscommon Ireland who lovingly raised her as her own. She was also proud of her German heritage, her late German father was born in Saskatoon Ontario, Canada. Mary Ellen is survived by her brother Fred Rotz.

To share and celebrate the beauty and love of Ireland she co-founded with her husband Irish Imports, which was filled with just about everything from Ireland. Mary Ellen enjoyed baking and began baking Irish Soda Bread which quickly became a favorite at the store. That quickly led to the creation of a new business, The Irish Baker. Over the years, she

gave away her award-winning Irish Soda Bread and Tea Scones to anyone or charity in need, especially when children were involved.

Other passions she had was her love of gardening, especially flowers and interacting with the birds who seemed to always surround her. She would always make sure that there was ample bird seed or any old bread made it to her back yard to feed these birds. She also enjoyed playing cards, especially with her family, she was quite the card shark too. In addition, Mary Ellen also enjoyed bowling on a sanctioned league where she managed to bowl a perfect game with a score of 300. Her favorite activity above all else was attending bible study classes. She truly loved learning about her Catholic faith and hands down was the best possible loyal servant to her beloved universal church.

Visitation will be at the O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River in Novi on Thursday, July 18 from 2-8 PM with a Rosary in the evening. She will lie in state at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 711 Rickett Road, Brighton, Friday, July 19 at 9:30 AM until the start of Mass at 10:30 AM. Burial will be at St. Patrick Calvary Cemetery in Brighton.

Flowers are welcomed or memorial condolences may be expressed in Mary Ellen's name to [\[Click here to contribute\]www.solanuscenter.org](http://www.solanuscenter.org)

# Cemetery

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## St. Patrick Calvary Cemetery

201-231 Brighton Lake Rd.

Brighton, MI, 48116

# Events

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**JUL** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 08:00PM

**18**

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O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home

41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI, US, 48375

**JUL** **Liturgy** 10:30AM

**19**

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St. Patrick Catholic Church

711 Rickett Rd., Brighton, MI, US, 48116

# Comments

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“ To the Derrig family when I think of your mother Mary I remember some very specific memories and how an ordinary day at your house would become extraordinary in very simple ways her smile her laughter that that twinkle in her eyes. And when she entered a room it was like the room lit up like sunshine. One day I asked Ellen if she could come out to play and she said after her chores were done it was like a a new word it was interesting and with no judgement your mother smiled and said come in Ellen will show you a few of her jobs and one of them was making her bed , with hospital corners all tucked in nice and tight and smooth & how everyone worked together to get their jobs done and with pride. And your mother still had time for us the Braun kids she always made us feel welcome especially with her smile. There's no question this was amazing to me and to the rest of my siblings. So when I think about Mary I think about her grace and honesty and and how she will always be shining bright in our thoughts and prayers. With love Carolyn Brisebois



Carolyn Brisebois - July 18 at 02:04 PM

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“ Gary & Joanne Dennison purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



Gary & Joanne Dennison - July 18 at 11:35 AM

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“ BCBSM Network Team purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



BCBSM Network Team - July 18 at 08:31 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 17 at 03:50 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 17 at 03:36 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 17 at 02:53 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 17 at 02:29 PM

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“ The Donigan Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



The Donigan Family - July 17 at 07:50 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 17 at 01:34 AM

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“ To Mike and the entire Derrig family,  
My deepest sympathy at the loss of your Mother. From what I read, she had a full,  
Irish-Catholic life...God bless her for that!

Please know that you are in Cindy and my prayers.

Your Brother in faith,  
Tim Core

Tim Core - July 17 at 12:17 AM

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“ Cathy & Marcco purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



Cathy & Marcco - July 16 at 04:22 PM

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“ Heather and Kristy -- Parkside Credit Union purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



Heather and Kristy -- Parkside Credit Union - July 16 at 12:50 PM

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“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 16 at 08:52 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Steven N. Braun - July 15 at 10:08 PM

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“ Mary had grace and kindness, and a beautiful smile and lovely laugh. Of my favorite memories of her, one little story stands out. It was in the early 60's, on a sunny summer afternoon on the Derrig front lawn. It was hot, and Mary let the Derrig and Braun boys play in the sprinkler. Although she kept her eye on us - it wasn't long before we got a little too exhuberant. Running I slipped and fell to the ground hitting my head on the sprinkler. When I got up I could tell by everyones expression that all was not well: I had a large gash on my forehead that was bleeding heavily. I was scared. Mary heard the commotion and immediately came outside. After initially hands on hips asking who did it - she was satisfied it was an accident, and she smiled at me, reassured me it would be alright and took me inside. Once in the bathroom she was so calm. She cleaned me up, and after a little peroxide, and an emaculately applied butterfly bandage - I felt great! I thanked her and asked if I could go back outside with the guys and play in the sprinkler... She laughted so hard

and long, that I did too - not really knowing why... She said instead, I needed to go home and show my mom the cut. Disappointed, I went home, by the time I got there, she had already called my mother suggesting she take me to the doctor's for some stitches. Madelyn did take me to the doctor - he took one look and said that he could not do anything more than Mary had already done. It was perfect, and he sent us home.

My little forehead scar is very faint now, but it always reminds me of that day, and what a good neighbor she was, her smile, laughter and kindness.

With love, and sincere condolences,  
The entire Braun Family

**Steven N. Braun** - July 15 at 10:02 PM

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



July 15 at 07:22 PM

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“ The entire staff at No Place Like Home Health purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Mary Ellen Derrig.



**The entire staff at No Place Like Home Health** - July 15 at 03:55 PM