



Joyce Arlene Rudowske

November 29, 1950 - May 24, 2020

Joyce Arlene Rudowske, a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, sister, and follower of Jesus Christ passed into glory on Sunday, May 24, 2020 at her home. Joyce, 69, of Charlotte and previously Benton Harbor, MI, was born November 29, 1950 in Benton Harbor, MI, the daughter of William Sr. and Frances (Webb) Bridgman. After graduating from Coloma High School in 1968, Joyce earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Western Michigan University in 1972 and would go on to obtain a Master's Degree. She was an elementary school teacher for nearly 30 years, then worked for the Berrien County Department of Health and Human Services as an Eligibility Specialist, retiring after 20 plus years in 2012. On November 3, 1972 Joyce married Richard Charles Rudowske and raised their family together until his passing in 2015. Joyce was a faithful member of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, MI, for many years, and most recently a member of First Lutheran Church in Charlotte. She actively studied the Bible daily and used her time and talents for the church in various ways. She also volunteered as a counselor at A New Beginning Pregnancy Center in Charlotte. Her family meant the world to Joyce; she loved them more than anything else on earth. She also loved her many friends who helped her so much on her journey through life. Above all, Joyce loved Jesus and served Him in any way she could.

Joyce is survived by her children, Jennifer (Jerry) Powell, Richard (Maya)

Rudowske Jr., Christopher (Kristi) Rudowske, Kimberly (Daniel) Longden, Rachel (Kalvin) Miller; 20 grandchildren, Kayla, Zachary, Abigail Powell, Christopher, Katherine, Matthew, Joshua, Rebecca Rudowske, Mark, William Rudowske, Micah, Grace, Seth, Jonah, Lydia, Anna Longden, Kameron, Nathan, Sebastian, Laurel Miller; siblings, Diane Orth, Brenda (Robert) Zapolnik, Jeanne (Bruce) Hutchins, William (Cynthia) Bridgman Jr.; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 42 years, Richard; grandchildren, Isabel Marie and Owen Louis Miller; brother-in-law, Louis Orth; and her parents.

The family will receive visitors on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, from 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. Due to current Executive Orders, those attending visitation will be asked to wear a mask and will be directed into the visitation rooms by Pray Funeral Home staff to maintain no more than 10 people in any room. The Funeral Service will be Wednesday, June 3, 2020 for Joyce's immediate family only at First Lutheran Church in Charlotte with Pastor Richard Rudowske Jr. and Pastor Jim Eggert officiating. The funeral will be available for live stream through Joyce's Tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com, click on Joyce's Tribute, then click Photos and videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Prior to the beginning of the service, a link will appear on this page to watch the web cast, or it may be viewed at a later date as well.

Friends and extended family members are also encouraged to share memories of Joyce on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com, and/or send flowers to the service to show your support for the family. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Lutheran Bible Translators. The family is in the care of the Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUN 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Joyce Arlene Rudowske*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 02, 2020 at 11:39 AM

BP

My prayers are with the Rudowske family today! I wish I could be there in person, but I appreciate the opportunity to be able to join through this live feed.

Betty Perrone

Betty Perrone - June 03, 2020 at 10:55 AM

DK

I wish I could be there, I wish I didn't have to. She wasn't a sister, but she was more than a sister.

Dennis W. Klug - June 03, 2020 at 04:02 PM

BC

“ *Just saw this today, Our Deepest Condolences to the Family. Joyce was a beautiful person and will be sadly missed.*

Balanced Health Chiropractic Center

Dr. Heidi Hansen & Tina

Balanced Health Chiropractic Center - June 10, 2020 at 11:04 AM

JS

“Joyce was a beautiful woman of God, a valiant prayer warrior and teacher. She was gentle, kind, discerning, and humble. I also discovered she had quite a sense of humor. I am eternally grateful God wove her into my life, and the lives of so many others. Her faith, trust and love for God was inspiring and brought light and understanding into so many dark places. She will be sorely missed, yet I know this isn't a forever goodbye. No more worries, no more tears. I look forward to seeing her again in Heaven. Sincere condolences.

Jeanne Strine - June 02, 2020 at 09:31 PM

 Lee Stults

“My dear sweet friend. How can I go on without you? Your kind words, our neighborhood conversations and walks, our trips we started taking, your spiritual guidance, your opening up your family to me. There are so many things you did for me that changed me to be a better person. I can go on because you are happy and in the arms of our Savior. We will attempt the good work you taught us and look forward to seeing you again. Much love to the family and you are all very blest.

Lee Stults - June 02, 2020 at 05:00 PM

KH

“I had the pleasure to work with Joyce from 1998 until her retirement and truly appreciated her humor, and her kind and generous ways. She always lit up when talking about her children and then later on, her grandchildren and she was a dear friend to those around her. My sympathies go out to her family and may the memories of her endure forever and be cherished by all. Krista Hainey



Krista Hainey - June 02, 2020 at 03:58 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Judy Walter - June 02, 2020 at 01:29 PM

JW

“ Jenny, Rich, Chris, Rachel, and Kim and your families - I feel badly over your loss. Your mother was an exceptional person. I met her when Jenny and Rich were toddlers. She was very pretty with her long blond hair. We became such good friends. We had so much fun building Amway, traveling together, playing cards (Spades), or just sitting for hours and talking. She was with me when I felt Amy kick for the first time (my first baby). She and your father helped me find Jesus and be saved. She was with me when I was baptised. We traveled to Colorado over a Fourth of July weekend when Kim or Rachel was just a baby. I think Kim was named after my Kimberly. Chris is my Godson. I loved your mother like a sister. Even though I haven't seen her in awhile, I am going to miss her. May the Lord comfort all of you during this sad time.
With much love and blessings,
Judy (and Gary) Walter

Judy Walter - June 02, 2020 at 01:14 PM

JW

“ Judy Walter lit a candle in memory of Joyce Arlene Rudowske



Judy Walter - June 02, 2020 at 12:42 PM

JE

“Joyce, My way cool older sister. You showed me how to use your electric razor to shave my legs when I was 10. Boy was mom pissed. You taught me how to put on eyeliner and blush. We were the trouble makers in the family. The smokers, the partiers. I was so honored to be your maid of honor. My friends were in awe of you and thought I was so lucky to have such a groovy sister. Years later we couldn't be much farther apart in terms of politics and faith but we were always respectful of each other's views and I so enjoyed our many long phone conversations about everything and anything. What am I going to do without you? I guess I'll just have to keep talking to you and know that you are listening and that you'll always be beside me. I'll try to fill this hole in my heart with all the memories but it's a big hole.....I love you.

Jeanne - June 02, 2020 at 11:02 AM

GK

“*Rudowske Family,*
We were sadden to hear that Joyce was gone from this world but are glad she is now with her Savior and those who have gone on before, including Rich. Joyce was a compassionate, sweet soul who was always full of fun. We had many good times years ago when our families would get together at Adler's or Rudowske's for pool parties or bonfires. Joyce made the best taco shells and brownies, among many other things. Pot luck food and good conversation was always enjoyed. Her love for her children and grandchildren was always in her heart. I will never forget Joyce, even though it has been along while since we sat and talked. This is not goodbye but we will see you again soon dear friend.
You are in our thoughts and prayers, Gayla and Guy Kerby

GAYLA J KERBY - June 02, 2020 at 09:49 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



June 01, 2020 at 08:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



June 01, 2020 at 05:40 PM

RS

“ God's peace and comfort to the entire Rudowske clan. We did not know Joyce well, but well enough to know that she was a precious gift from God to her family. You all have much to be thankful for in this dear lady and in our Heavenly Father "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named". You have a blessed heritage.

I would like to leave you with these words from Ephesians 3, first penned by Paul of Tarsus.

"...according to the riches of God's glory, He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

May God Himself fill the empty space in your hearts that Joyce's home-going has left behind. In the overall scheme of things, it won't be long until, by the grace of God, you will be together again - for Jesus Christ our Lord has conquered sin and death -- our confident expectation is in Him!

much love,

David & Ruth Snyder

Ruth Snyder - June 01, 2020 at 05:30 PM

TH

“ Tom & Lora Heinz purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



Tom & Lora Heinz - June 01, 2020 at 04:47 PM

PG

“ Joyce Rudowski was a wonderful, kind and caring person. I worked with her for many years at Berrien County DHS. She was an excellent worker who was not only conscientious in completing her work but also cared for her clients and tried to help them as much as she possibly could. She lived her faith on a daily basis. She did, indeed, love Jesus and shared that love with all of us. She loved her family and was very proud of them, The world has lost a beautiful person and heaven has gained a beautiful soul. Joyce will be missed by all who knew her. May God hold you all in His arms and comfort you during this time of sorrow. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Pam Gabriel

Pamela Gabriel - June 01, 2020 at 02:39 PM

RS

“ We would go out for lunch and would talk so long they would be setting up for supper. We'd laugh and say we probably should go.

Rachel Schmidt - June 01, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.*



June 01, 2020 at 09:47 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.*



May 31, 2020 at 07:27 PM



“ *The Bridgman family were part of our entire lives as Joyce's mom Aunt Frances and our mother Joyce Kolenko (yes, Joyce was named after our mom) were best friends since junior high. Our families were together most often every weekend and we vacationed together for years. There are too many memories to even begin to list but when I think of Joyce it is her smile and wit that comes to mind. She was loving, faithful and loved deeply. Rest In Peace my dear friend.*

Martin Kilenko - May 31, 2020 at 09:10 AM



“ *Deepest condolences to her family. Larry and Linda kuball*

Larry Kuball - May 30, 2020 at 08:29 PM

SH

“Joyce was my grief share leader after I lost my husband. What a wonderful lady. She shared stories of her grief after she lost her husband and was so helpful and thoughtful and kind. There were times after the group sessions were over that we texted back-and-forth where she gave me more encouragement along the way. God received a special angel ❤️

Sandee Hurt - May 30, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



May 29, 2020 at 07:56 PM

YX

“Your friends at Xactly purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



Your friends at Xactly - May 28, 2020 at 08:51 PM

TM

“Team Gruggins, Jen, Max & Mitul. purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



Team Gruggins, Jen, Max & Mitul. - May 28, 2020 at 08:43 PM

DL

“ Dear Family,
I am so sorry for your loss. I was Joyce's supervisor for many years before she retired from the Department of Health and Human Services. Joyce was kind and passionate about helping others. She loved her husband, children, grandchildren, and church family. She was always willing to help her peers at DHHS and those in need. She was a blessing to all who knew her. When she retired she gave me her inspirational desk calendar that I still use to this very day. May you be comforted in knowing that she is at rest and her legacy of love and kindness will live on in each of us. Blessings, Darlene Leonard

Darlene Leonard - May 28, 2020 at 06:16 PM

LR

“ So very sorry , I'm so sad to here this.
I've known Joyce for many years she would watch my two girls before school. Because I had to work so early. She would do anything for you. I moved to Texas in the late 80's and not until Facebook was I able to reconnect. Prayers for all her wonderful children and families.

Linds snyder Reay - May 28, 2020 at 05:58 PM

BB

I worked with Joyce at a parochial school for 4 years & never heard her say a negative thing about any of the students. She always had a smile & kind word for everyone. When I was waiting for results of a mammogram, I ran to Joyce & she gave me words of encouragement and prayed with me. I am saddened by her sudden death, but know I will see her again!

Becky Beach - May 30, 2020 at 06:55 PM

JC

We believe that we are never lost, that we are precious in Gods eyes, and our death, like that of Christ, is known and valued by God. Rest in peace my dear sweet sister of the heart.

Jeanne Casey - June 14, 2020 at 05:30 PM

DG

“ I worked with Joyce for many years at DHS. She was a wonderful person, co-worker and friend and always had a smile. Joyce will live on in the hearts and cherished memories of all whose lives she touched. Joyce always made a difference in the lives of those around her. My prayers to her family and all who loved her for strength and comfort at this very difficult time. RIP Joyce, fly high with the Angels.



Denise Gersonde - May 28, 2020 at 01:09 PM

JM

“ My sincere condolences to your family. I had the pleasure of working with Joyce for many years. She always had a smile on her face and her personality was special. May she Rest in Peace.

Janice Moore - May 28, 2020 at 10:50 AM

JB

*“ I had the privilege to work with Joyce at DHHS in Benton Harbor, and she was the most loving and wonderful co-worker anyone could have. This world is losing a wonderful, kind, person, which at this time the world needs. You were and always will be my friend Joyce. You are now in a most wonderful place, along with GOD and the angels which you were on earth. This is a sad time but no one can take the memories of you from me or anyone.
Jan Brown*



Janice Brown - May 28, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



May 28, 2020 at 10:01 AM

AK

“ I did not know Joyce. But I know her daughter, Kristi. I can only imagine that Kristi is a testament to the beautiful and wonderful woman her mother was and the kinds of things she tried to instill in the lives of others around her. I was sad to hear of your loss. After reading some of the comments below, I know she was a blessing indeed and I am sorry that I never got to meet her on this side of the veil. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Anne Kooy - May 28, 2020 at 09:18 AM

KR

Thank you Anne!

Kristi Rudowske - May 30, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.*



May 27, 2020 at 11:56 PM

JS

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Joyce during some of the years of her employment with the state. What a beautiful, kind human being. She was a blessing to those she served, and it was such an honor to have gotten to know her. You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this time of your loss. Sincerely, Joann Sepic*

Joann Sepic - May 27, 2020 at 03:37 PM

JA

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Joyce was an amazing lady. I had the privilege of sitting by her at work for years. She helped me through difficult life issues and always knew the right thing to say. Joyce was always supportive and kind. She will be greatly missed.*

Joanna Adams

Joanna Adams - May 27, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



May 27, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



May 27, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joyce Arlene Rudowske.



May 27, 2020 at 11:40 AM