



Kathleen Anne Rathbun

April 9, 1929 - February 5, 2025

Kathleen Anne (Lyons) Rathbun, 95, of Charlotte, passed away on February 5, 2025 after a short illness. She was born in rural Cornell, Illinois in 1929. Kathleen married Joseph L. Rathbun of Chenoa, Illinois in 1954, and over the years they lived in Streator, Illinois and Toledo, Ohio before finally moving to Charlotte in 1968.

Kathleen is survived by her sons, Joe, of Lansing; and Mike and Dan of Charlotte; her brothers, Owen and Harold Lyons of Pontiac, Illinois; her sister-in-law, Betty Winterland of Guthrie, Oklahoma; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Joe L.; her sister, Frances and brothers, Eugene and Louis; and her parents, Theresa and Edward Lyons.

Kathleen earned a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics from Illinois State Normal University and worked as a home economics teacher, for the Illinois state extension service as a youth advisor, and as a hospital dietician before starting her family. She was active in the St. Mary's Altar Society, Charlotte Women's Club, and for many years was an elections official and delivered mobile meals with her "forever friend," Bobbie Kane. Kathleen loved music, playing piano, organ, violin, and the trombone in the INSU marching band. She came from a musical family; her grandmother played harp at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and her mother was a music teacher and church organist. When her mother passed away the day before Mother's Day in 1945, Kathleen was asked to take over as the church organist. When she played the

Requiem Mass and sang, in Latin, she was given a stipend of \$1. Kathleen also loved cooking, sewing, gardening, reading, walking in Bennett Park with Joe L., watching the backyard bird feeders, and most of all her family, which she often called her "greatest accomplishment."

Friends are encouraged to support Kathleen's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation will be at Pray Funeral Home on Sunday, February 9 from 4 to 6 PM followed by a recitation of the rosary. A second visitation will be held at St. Mary Church in Charlotte on Monday, February 10 from 10 to 11 AM, followed by a funeral mass at 11:00 AM with Rev. Fr. Mark Martin officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be given to St. Mary school or the St. Mary-St. Ann parish. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Rosary

FEB **9**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Mass

FEB **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Burial

FEB 10 (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

ML

“ Mary L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Anne Rathbun.

Mary L. - February 23, 2025 at 01:54 PM

MF

“ I often saw Kathleen and Joe on their walks to Bennett Park. Even in her walking attire, Kathleen looked elegant, poised, and strong, and she was always wearing a beautiful scarf on those outings. She had a sophistication and a stature that I admired so much. Joe and brothers, you were so blessed!

Mary Jane Fortino - February 10, 2025 at 05:04 PM

KG

“ When Kathleen found out we had the same first and middle name, we had fun with it! Her wit and class was amazing. We knew each other at St. Marys. I will miss Kathleen and I send my thoughts and prayers to her sons. Kathleen Gardener

Kathleen Gardener - February 09, 2025 at 09:30 PM

BC

“ Brian C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Anne Rathbun.

Brian C. - February 09, 2025 at 09:09 PM

LY

“ Aunt Kathleen had super human abilities to LOVE her husband, sons, siblings, nieces/nephews, cousins and countless other relatives and friends to the limit. Along with that love she prayed everyday for us. We are all blessed beyond words. How lucky are we to have Kathleen as family/friend?! How lucky I am to have been her Godchild! Laura Young

Laura Young - February 07, 2025 at 05:11 PM

AY

“ I will always remember the fun summer trips to Charlotte to visit Aunt Kathleen and family. Trips to the park, delicious desserts and conversation, Michigan State basketball, and so much more. The Rathbun family is just a joy, and our great Aunt Kathleen will sure be missed.

Alex Young - February 07, 2025 at 04:54 PM

KB

“ She was in a league all her own. Echoing the sentiment of many, I always admired my Aunt Kathleen for her class, tenacity, wit, and appreciation of a delectable baked good. What a privilege to have known her, and a gift to have been loved and prayed for by her daily.

Kendall Bagley - February 07, 2025 at 04:23 PM

AB

“ Kathleen was a gracious lady, I worked at Carters IGA, and she was one of my customers, always kind , it was always a good day when I waited on her. Not a hair out of place and dressed impeccably, wonderful memories, we should all be as sweet.

Amelia Butler - February 07, 2025 at 09:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen Anne Rathbun.

February 06, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathleen Anne Rathbun.



February 06, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ Joeseeph, sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Suzanne spoke of her many times and feel as I too knew her. Condolences to all.

Tom Jones - February 06, 2025 at 12:28 PM



“ Mike I am so sorry for your family's loss. Your mom and dad were wonderful people. God bless them and your family.

Jeff Smith - February 06, 2025 at 11:36 AM



“ Brynda V. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Anne Rathbun.

Brynda V. - February 06, 2025 at 11:22 AM

BF

“ Sending my heartfelt sympathy and love to Joe, Mike, and Dan. I will miss your mother; she was my friend. She and I exchanged letters for years. Kathleen's were often peppered with her quick wit and made me laugh. We shared baked goods with one another and I could never "out bake" her--something was always returned on the plate. Our mutual love of tea was often shared in each other's homes. Kathleen was quaint in the best sense of the word. She dressed sharply, hair done, apron on, home-centered, providing for others. Kathleen loved her sons and they lovingly took wonderful care of her. She was a faithful woman of daily prayer, praying for me through several personal losses. Kathleen provided an example for my life and I will be forever grateful for knowing her.

Brynda Van Skike Filkins - February 06, 2025 at 11:13 AM

LR

My family was so blessed to live next door to Kathleen and her family for many years. Kathleen was a true Christian woman. She was always so kind and thoughtful to me. I knew when I saw her name on my caller ID, I would come away from our conversation with a smile on my face. She was such a gracious lady. It was wonderful living next door to her. I will really miss you, Kathleen.

Linda Ryan - February 09, 2025 at 03:44 PM

DH

“ Kathleen was a very lovely, and elegant woman. She was a person of unfailing faith. She was good company. Extending to the family my most heartfelt condolences.

Diane Hudson - February 06, 2025 at 08:45 AM

TC

“ So sorry for your loss. It was getting to know your family this past year while doing her hair. Very sweet lady. Prays to all of you.

terri combs - February 06, 2025 at 06:30 AM

VM

“*Kathleen was always my idea of perfection. Petite, impeccably dressed, a wonderful cook, kind, faith-filled, a great sense of humor and the list goes on. I used to tell her I wanted to be her when I grew up. Unfortunately that didn't happen but it was always something to strive for. I was honored to have known her. Rest in peace dear friend.*

Virginia Mooney - February 05, 2025 at 08:20 PM

MC

“*I always thought she was beautiful, elegant and had a presence of perfection. She was definitely a pillar of St. Mary's Catholic Church. A life well lived...*

Monique T Colizzi - February 05, 2025 at 07:37 PM