



Joan R. Adams

April 11, 1934 - May 21, 2020

Joan R. Adams, 86 of Willoughby Hills, passed away Thursday, May 21, 2020 at home. She was born April 11, 1934 in Cleveland to the late Bartholomew and Rose Giacomin.

Over her lifetime, Joan worked for many corporations as an executive secretary. She and her daughter, Carol often worked in the same neighborhood, and having lunch together was the highlight of their days. While working full-time Joan attended Notre Dame College of Ohio on weekends, majoring in business and marketing. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Joan also worked for the Mayor of Shaker Heights and dabbled in realty a bit.

Joan was an avid reader and especially enjoyed reading memoirs. She enjoyed going to book sales and rummage sales and playing pinochle with her friends. She was a talented piano player who could play by ear, and her piano was a prized possession given to her by her father. Joan enjoyed riding her three-wheeler and could often be seen pedaling around the neighborhood. She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Willoughby and a member of the Legion of Mary. Her mission with the Legion was to visit the sick in the hospital.

Joan's grandchildren were the apples of her eye. The grandkids called her

Nonna. Nonna taught them to bake her famous chocolate chip cookies and to make pasta. She and the kids went on day adventures and did art projects, such as painting rocks. Each year Joan traveled to Portland to visit her grandsons there. She attended their baseball and soccer games, staged classic song shows with them, and baked their favorite cakes. They often explored the sights in Oregon.

Joan really loved to travel. She took numerous road trips with her son, Mike, and his wife Angie, to visit Sugar Creek Amish Village, to explore wineries, or just to bop around the Ohio countryside. She went to Hawaii with her sister, Carolyn. Once when Joan visited Portland, her daughter, Marilyn surprised her with an Amtrak trip to Seattle to see the Christmas sights and sounds and do some shopping. Joan talked about that trip for weeks.

Joan was loved, admired, and teased for her many sayings. For her eightieth birthday, her children put together a slide presentation of all her famous sayings and projected it in the living room. You might say Joan would go around Robin Hood's Barn for a good saying, and she wouldn't make any bones about it!

Survivors include her children, Marilyn (Raymond) Berardinelli, Carol (Bob) Nagy and Michael (Angela Cirino-Adams) Adams; grandchildren, Robert, Alex and Gregory Berardinelli and Michaela and Morigan Nagy; great-granddaughter, Kaili Berardinelli; sisters, Marie Mauer and Carolyn Graham; brother, Joseph (Diane) Giacomini and many other loving family members.

Preceding Joan in death is her former husband and friend, Lee Adams.

Private family visitation will be held at Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH, 44060.

A public Funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday May 27, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church, 37932 Euclid Ave, Willoughby Ohio, 44094. Please meet at the church. Per current Covid-19 guidelines, social distancing and masks are required for those attending Mass. If you prefer to attend mass virtually, contact Mike, Angie, or Carol.

A private family burial will take place at All Souls Cemetery, Chardon.

In lieu of public visiting hours and to celebrate Joan's life, we have planned an innovative activity. You may again contact Mike, Angie, or Carol for more information.

Send flowers and offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

All Souls Cemetery

10366 Chardon Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024
(800) 582-6850

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAY 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
37932 Euclid Ave
Willoughby, OH 44094

Tribute Wall

JV

“ Carol, so very sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I remember the lovely stories you shared of her when we worked together. Such a lovely and classy lady. Memories are in the heart forever and she will always be with you. Sending love out to you at this sad time. Jo Ann Vitanza

Jo Ann Vitanza - May 28, 2020 at 12:46 PM

SN

“ Mike / Angie and Family. Sorry to hear of your loss. I always enjoyed spending time at your house when we were kids, I wasn't permitted too far off "the farm" so it was always an adventure for me. I am back at dads old place if you need anything ~ Steve Nash and family.

Steve Nash - May 26, 2020 at 11:34 PM

TF

“ The Salamone family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joan R. Adams.



The Salamone family - May 26, 2020 at 11:42 AM

JK

“ To my cousins and their families. It is with heartfelt sorrow that I write this note. Your Mom, my Aunt, my Godmother was a strong, motivated woman. I have so many fond memories of her. She always remembered my birthday and either called me, took me to lunch or purchased a little gift. She handed down many of her business clothes to me. We spent some special times together. When she and I were both working we went on a yearly Christmas dinner just the two of us.

She is a God loving woman who I am sure went straight to Heaven, no stopping in Purgatory. God, family and love were the most important to her. I will forever cherish all the times we spent together at family gatherings with her and you all. We had some really lovely times. I will miss her dearly. In this life she was the most proud of her children, daughter-in-law Angie, sons-in-laws Ray and Bob, her grandchildren Rob, Alex, Gregory, Michaela, Morigan and great grandchild, Kaili. A life well lived and loved.

Love and prayers to you all, Cousin Julie

Julie K - May 26, 2020 at 10:04 AM

LB

“ I was so fortunate to have spent time with Joan at many social functions over the years. I loved how her big beautiful blue eyes just sparkled as she would talk. I usually couldn't Take my eyes off her...and once she started talking to me, i would be captivated. Joan was a woman ahead of her time in so many ways. She loved her family first, loved to socialize and was a woman of substance. She is going to be dearly missed.

Lucille Cirino Bosco

lucille bosco - May 25, 2020 at 03:15 PM

CY

“ *Carol and Family,*
I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was always so kind when we would see her after church and at the kid's events. Her love for all of you was apparent. May you keep your memories close and allow them to bring you peace. We love you.
The Yahners

Coleen Yahner - May 25, 2020 at 01:10 PM

FS

“ *Michael and family,*
What a vibrant and beautiful notice you wrote about your mother in the newspaper. She was a woman of great courage too. She loved her family sooo very much and would do anything to make you all happy! What a special lady she always will be. Joan is being remembered in my Mass and prayers today, along with you and your family. God's Peace and Good Health to you all.

Father Greg Schaut - May 25, 2020 at 07:37 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joan R. Adams.*



May 24, 2020 at 10:13 PM

JW

“ *The obituary on the web page was a beautiful tribute to her life. Gordon said she knew that he was hired in Shaker Heights before he did, because she typed the letter for Shaker Heights City Council. I am glad you talked about her sayings. She kept positive and was humorous. Thank you all for taking care of Aunt Joan. We are and I'm sure she is very proud of all of your family. Your loving service to her and all your parents is a powerful example of Christian love.*

We will be thinking of you and praying for strength as you go forward through this time of grieving as a family.

Cousin Jacquie and Gordon

jacquelyn and Gordon Woodworth - May 24, 2020 at 07:57 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan R. Adams.*



May 24, 2020 at 07:32 PM

MB

“ *In lieu of public visiting hours and to celebrate Joan's life, we have planned an innovative memorial. You may contact Mike, Angie, or Carol for more information.*



Marilyn Berardinelli - May 24, 2020 at 11:43 AM