



Alfreda Kudla

March 24, 1947 - May 27, 2026

Alfreda Kudla, of Hamtramck, passed away on May 27, 2026 at the age of 79. She was a woman whose gentle heart, quiet strength, and deep faith touched everyone who knew her. She also carried a spirited independence — her familiar “don’t tell me what to do” spark — that made her uniquely herself and brought warmth, humor to those around her..

Born to Frank and Helen Kowalski, she grew up surrounded by family, faith, and the values that shaped her life. She later married Mitchell Kudla, sharing many years of love, partnership, and devotion.

Her faith community at Our Lady Queen of Apostles was a cherished part of her life. She found joy singing in the Church Choir, serving with the Daughters of Isabella, and teaching catechism — especially the First Communion Class, where her patience, kindness, and steady presence left a lasting impression on countless children and families.

She also took great pride in serving her community during elections. She enjoyed working at the precinct and later assisted with ballot counting for the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, offering her time with care, integrity, and her trademark determination to “do things the right way.”

She loved to shop — whether browsing catalogs that arrived in the mail or

heading out for a day of stores and errands. She was her daughter's favorite shopping buddy, and together they made countless memories wandering aisles, comparing finds, and sharing quiet moments over simple purchases. On family vacations, her husband would joke that the only limit to their shopping was the space left in the trunk — yet somehow, everything always fit.

At home, she expressed her love through the simple, meaningful things she enjoyed most — baking treats, sewing, and creating a warm, welcoming space for those she cared about. Above all, she treasured the time she spent with her grandchildren, Andrew and Jacob. Watching them grow was one of her greatest joys, and she celebrated every moment with them.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen (Michael Scott) Tanner; her beloved grandsons, Andrew and Jacob; her faithful dog, Munchkin; her brothers-in-law, Leonard Kudla and Richard Kudla; her sisters-in-law, Pauline Kudla, Diane Kudla, and Donna Kudla-Michalski; and many nieces and nephews, all of whom held a special place in her heart.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Helen Kowalski; her husband, Mitchell Kudla; her sister, Camille Javello (Jim); and her in-laws Jane Kudla, Sister Mary Joannette Kudla, Joseph Kudla, Lottie (Marian) Kobus, and Edward Kudla.

She will be remembered for her kindness, her devotion, her independence, and the quiet, steady way she made life brighter for those around her. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of those she loved most.

The family will greet friends at Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors of Sterling Heights on Sunday, May 31st, from 3:00pm – 8:00pm. Rosary at 6:00pm. Funeral mass will be at Our Lady Queen of Apostles of Hamtramck on

Monday, June 1st. Instate at 10:00am. Mass at 10:30am. Interment to follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery at 12:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat & Conference Center, 23333 Schoolcraft Rd., Detroit, MI 48223.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

17100 Van Dyke Ave (at McNichols Rd)
Detroit, MI 48234
(313) 365-5650

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Rosary

MAY 31. 6:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church
3851 Prescott
Hamtramck, MI

Mass of the Christian Burial

JUN 1. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church
3851 Prescott
Hamtramck, MI

Tribute Wall

MD

“ *Alfreda was a kind and thoughtful neighbor to the Dymek family for decades. I especially remember and am grateful for her numerous occasions of generous help to my mother, Irene, as my mom lived out her years across the street from the Kudlas. Alfreda will always be remembered for the good person she was.* ”

Michael Dymek - June 01 at 08:03 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Alfreda Kudla.* ”



June 01 at 03:22 PM

JR

“ *The Kudla family were great neighbors on Klinger street in Hamtramck. Mrs. Kudla was always friendly and kind and a woman of strong faith. You lived well.* ”

John R - May 30 at 07:48 AM

MZ

“ *Kudla, my condolences. i will include you, your family, and your mother in my prayers. Mr. Z* ”

mike zygmontowicz - May 29 at 03:34 PM

MA

“ I will long remember how Freda's face lit up when I pulled out some treats for her during a visit. A big bright smile as she exclaimed: "Chocolate!" That particular day there was a bit of actual verbal exchange that brightened my day.

I wish we had spent more time together when Freda was mentally more connected with our world, but I will always be glad that I spent time with her during her toughest Journey to the end of her time with us. She always managed to let a bit of her old self shine through, either by sharing a bit of her beloved chocolate or a warm embrace as I was about to leave.

Freda was very special and will be greatly missed.

Rest in peace my friend.

Marlene (Mar)

Marlene - May 29 at 02:52 PM

TK

“ Karen your mom was the sweetest and gentle woman of God. Andrew and Jacob sending comforting hugs of peace. I enjoyed doing her hair and listening to the stories she'd tell of her old neighborhood, and of a hairdresser who messed up her color once! Peace be to you all.
Love Tricia Kucera

Tricia Kucera - May 29 at 02:30 PM

SM

“ Shawn and Mary purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Alfreda Kudla.



Shawn and Mary - May 29 at 02:08 PM

SM

“ Shawn and Mary planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alfreda Kudla.

Shawn and Mary - May 29 at 02:08 PM