



## Joyce May Kaleel

February 26, 2026

Joyce May Kaleel, age 85, passed away on February 26, 2026. A devoted wife of 62 years, proud mother, and loving grandmother, she was a woman of quiet strength who created a home where all felt safe, comfortable, and cherished.

Born the youngest of eleven children to Russell and Edna St. Onge of Marquette, Michigan, Joyce was, at her very core, a farmer's daughter from the Upper Peninsula surrounded by a large, lively family. She spent her childhood in the fields and forests of the U.P., with winters where snow seemed to bury the farm entirely.

In the early 1960s, Joyce moved to Detroit to begin her career. She worked as a secretary and quickly rose to a managerial role, reflecting her intelligence, organization, and leadership. Beyond her professional life, she delighted in tennis, golf, and skiing, and spent quiet hours solving puzzles, reading books, and tending to an immaculate garden. In 1962, she married her beloved husband, Michael. Together, they settled in Sterling Heights, Michigan, where they raised their daughter, Michelle.

Joyce had a gift for creating community. Her home became a gathering place, filled with birthday parties and impromptu afternoons with the neighbors that stretched into the evening. Parents dropped off children – and often their pets

– knowing they were in good hands. Animals were drawn to her gentle spirit. Whether it was a stray kitten, a neighbor's dog, backyard squirrels, or the birds she faithfully fed, no animal was ever overlooked.

Though gentler and more reserved than her husband, her strength was unmistakable. She was the perfect partner to Mike. His boldness was balanced by her calm presence - the quiet force that held everything together. Their differences did not divide them; they complemented one another.

To her grandchildren, she was simply the best grandmother. She created a home so warm and inviting that they looked forward to every overnight stay and trip together. Summers at their place in Traverse City were especially cherished – filled with laughter and the kind of memories that last a lifetime.

Joyce is survived by her sibling, Marilyn; her daughter Michelle (Martin) Mordarski; and her beloved grandchildren, Michael and Allison Mordarski (David Crudder), along with many nieces and nephews, all of whom will miss her dearly. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael, and her siblings Russell, Donald, Arnold, Eugene, Pauline, Bernice, Wallace, Carl and Alvin.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 32000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI, with a luncheon to follow.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

MAR 14. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
32000 Mound Rd  
Warren, MI 48092

## Memorial Mass

MAR 14. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
32000 Mound Rd  
Warren, MI 48092

# Tribute Wall

WF

“ West Bloomfield PDS Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce May Kaleel.

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West Bloomfield PDS Family - March 13 at 10:56 AM

WF

“ West Bloomfield PDS Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joyce May Kaleel.



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West Bloomfield PDS Family - March 13 at 10:56 AM

LB

“ I have many fun memories of Joyce, as she and her family came to visit our farm in the U.P. every summer. She sometimes even brought friends and neighbors to sample country life and meet Mike’s “Uncle Carl,” my dad.

*The Joyce I knew was ambitious, adventurous, daring, hard-working, and fun-loving in a prankish sort of way. It was amazing she never got caught pulling some of her more public pranks, which left us shaking our head in wonder. Although we were young and impressionable back then, we were never daring enough to replicate these ourselves!*

*I remember Joyce thoroughly enjoying her visits to our farm, as she’d also grown up on a U.P. farm—which, by the way, made her an authentic Yooper. I remember her eagerly picking strawberries and raspberries from the fields, and even milking a cow—something I never aspired to and never did. You had to admire her.*

*As memories of Joyce date way back to her marriage into our family, losing her feels like losing a piece of my life. My three siblings would probably attest to the same.  
She will be missed.*

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**Linda Burcar** - March 11 at 11:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joyce May Kaleel.

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March 08 at 02:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joyce May Kaleel.



March 08 at 02:27 PM



“ We always looked forward to summer and the visits from Joyce and family. It was the highlight of our summers up north. So much fun! Good memories include bonfires and wagon rides on the farm, trips to Copper Harbor, fun at the beach in Rabbit Bay, and the patience Joyce displayed trying to teach Eric and I tennis. A truly wonderful lady!

**Mark Makkonen** - March 08 at 02:18 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce May Kaleel.



March 08 at 12:36 PM



“ Patty Adams sent a virtual gift in memory of Joyce May Kaleel



**Patty Adams** - March 06 at 02:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joyce May Kaleel.*



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March 06 at 02:43 PM