



## Jeanne G. Karath

August 25, 1921 - January 22, 2020

Jeanne F. Karath (nee Gibbons), 98, rejoined the love of her life Edward on January 22, 2020. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 25, 1921, Jeanne was the first of eight children of the late Patrick M. Gibbons and Mildred (nee Kraus). She graduated from John Marshall High School in Cleveland in 1939 and married Edward Albert Karath on September 26, 1942, in Cleveland. They lived in Springfield and South Charleston, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa and Columbus, Ohio before finally settling in Albany with their five younger children in 1965. She never lost affection for Cleveland Jeanne was a lifelong Catholic, later joined in faith with Ed. They raised their children in Catholic schools, and both were very involved in school and parish life. At Holy Name in Columbus she was a creative Cub Scout den mother and was known for the patch of green in her hair that she sported every March 17 as she cashiered the school cafeteria. At St. Teresa's, among other contributions, Ed and Jeanne were involved in the Right-To-Life Committee and she was the secretary at the rectory for her beloved Father Mealey. They were older but no less faithful congregants at Mater Christi. Many of her best friendships were forged through church activity. Jeanne's work life (and some of her home life!) was mostly secretarial, beginning before World War II in Cleveland (then kids started arriving!). Jeanne was affectionately known as "Ma" to her friends and coworkers at St. Peter's Hospital where she worked at the "heart station" until 1986(?) It was an enlightening experience to attend her retirement party and see how much she was enjoyed and admired by those friends. Then she created her home office where she was busy transcribing medical records. One only need a quick look in the Karath home to see the importance of family to Jeanne. Generations are pictured on the walls, mantles, tables, bureaus. She was especially keen on her Irish heritage and her 1986 trip to Ireland with friends from St. Teresa's fulfilled a lifelong dream to explore her Gibbons/O'Malley roots. Above all, though, it was her children and grandchildren of whom she was most proud. She was demanding in their education. She loved to watch them perform on stage or on a field; her voice rose above at many a football, soccer, softball, basketball or other game and she loved to go on the road to catch a grandkid's game or to witness a performance. She was very proud of them in their adult accomplishments as well, in the families they raised, the work they did and the people they became (Jeanne was almost as enthusiastic

about her Ohio State Buckeyes (Woody) and New York Yankees (Reggie, then Derek); and every year, the extended family Christmas gatherings she enjoyed and for which she was most responsible, instilled that... Ask any who knew her to describe Jeanne and they will invariably comment on her smile and laughter and humor. She brightened any occasion, and she loved occasions! You might also hear about how smart she was (she could have gone to college with a scholarship) or what a great confidant she was (letters and reams of printed e-mails attest to this). All her children are at least familiar with, if not appreciative of musicals and classical music, as Mom would frequently play those LP's or sit at the piano herself. She and Ed believed in community and were generous to many causes and people. They also loved to travel, especially to visit their far-flung children around the country, to catch up with family at a wedding or attend a class reunion. Recent years made that impossible, but nothing was more true of Jeanne than that she persevered, whatever life threw at her, and that was true to the end. Jeanne was predeceased by Edward, her husband of 74 years; daughter Kathleen Hoffman (David); son Reverend William E. Karath; sister Margaret Gibbons; and brothers, James, Patrick, Richard and Thomas Gibbons. Jeanne leaves behind to treasure her memory her daughter MJ Garland (Robert) of Clifton Park; sons, Thomas of Albany, John of Bozeman, Mont., Michael (Karen) of Fishkill, and Robert (Sharon Morrissey) of Saratoga Springs; brothers, John of Pickerington, Ohio and Ralph of Seville, Ohio; sister-in-law Jan (Thomas) of Brunswick, Ohio; son-in-law David Hoffman of Bluffton, S.C.; grandchildren, Elizabeth Akpunonu (Basil) of Holland, Ohio, Patricia Buck (Daniel) of Somerset, Pa., Julie Christner (Randall) of Tinley Park, Ill., Matthew Hoffman (Brenda) of Sylvania, Ohio, Carrie Sue Drury (Tucker) of Eagle River, Alaska, Sarah Karath of Lehi, Utah, Suzanne Karath of East Rutherford, N.J. and Lander Karath of Boulder, Colo. Jeanne is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and 13 great-grandchildren. Jeanne's family would like to thank the staff at St. Peter's Rehab. and Loudonville Assisted Living for the outstanding care and compassion she received over the past year. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Jeanne's family on Friday, January 24, 2020, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen St., Albany. Funeral services on Saturday, January 25, at 11:15 a.m. from the McVeigh Funeral Home, thence to the Parish of Mater Christi Church, 40 Hopewell St., Albany at 12 p.m. where her funeral Mass will be celebrated. The Rite of Committal will immediately follow the Mass in St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

# Cemetery

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**St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands**  
48 Cemetery Ave  
Menands, NY, 12204

# Events

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**JAN 24** **Calling Hours** 04:00PM - 07:00PM  
McVeigh Funeral Home  
208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY, US, 12206

**JAN 25** **Funeral Home Service** 11:15AM  
McVeigh Funeral Home  
208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY, US, 12206

**JAN 25** **Funeral Mass** 12:00PM  
Parish of Mater Christi  
40 Hopewell Street, Albany, NY, US, 12208

**JAN 25** **Rite of Committal** 01:30PM  
St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands  
48 Cemetery Ave, Menands, NY, US, 12204