



Rose Marie Kirkley

November 18, 1930 - April 19, 2021

Rose M. Kirkley was born in the small town of Mt. Savage Maryland on 11/18/30 to Thomas Conroy Campbell and Lillian Eloise Skelley Campbell. She was one of four children - 2 sisters, Sally and Patricia, and Richard, her brother who have all predeceased her.

Rose grew up in very humble and somewhat tumultuous beginnings, which enabled her to deal with whatever life brought her way. She met the love of her life, Earle L. Kirkley (d. 08/05/10) in 1951 at a party at his house in Baltimore. He wrote her number down with a yellow crayon on yellow paper, but somehow they reconnected. They were married in July, 1952 and after a honeymoon trip to Cape May, NJ they moved to Blacksburg VA where Earle was completing his degree at Virginia Polytech Institute.

In August, 1953 in Baltimore MD, they welcomed their first daughter, Diana, followed the next year by Elizabeth in Texas where Earle was stationed while in the Army. They returned to Baltimore where Debbie was born. In 1957, Earle and Rose left Maryland for Orlando, Florida where two more girls, Karen and Patti, were born as well as three sons, Earle III, Bob, and Ken.

She spent many years of her life doing what she did best - being a wonderful mother to her children. She was quite proficient at cooking meals enough for an army, sewing matching clothes, caring for multiple kids with chicken pox,

sandwich-making, household management, and planning the best holidays ever! She was a prankster and a confidante to her children and grandchildren. Rose was well known for being a great cook/baker. She even created her own cookbook, "What's For Dinner Mom?".

During her lifetime, she worked off and on as a secretary/administrative assistant in several places. She also spent many years catering weddings and decorating cakes (which were quite popular). But her primary occupation was being a mother of eight children and then three grandchildren, Allen, Bryan and Kevin. All who were raised by her were blessed with her loving spirit, her listening ears, her generous time and her unconditional caring.

In addition to her family, her life's passion was for her church, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church. Her love of the Catholic Church was inspired by her Aunt Mary, a Notre Dame nun. If she wasn't at home she was most likely at the church:

- Attending St. Gerard's Circle meetings
- Serving as an officer of the Circle and Council of Catholic Women
- Organizing craft-making for the Community Fest
- Decorating tables for the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
- Being a Eucharistic Minister – sometimes taking communion to those who were homebound
- Sewing new altar cloths and other miscellaneous linens for church use

Throughout her 58 years as a member of the church, she made long lasting friendships with many women in her circle. If they ever needed anything, she was there for them. Rose is the last surviving original member of St. Gerard's Circle, which has now gathered in heaven watching over us all.

Rose was always known for her beautiful smile. In her later years, following a stroke, there was not a doctor, nurse, or caregiver who wouldn't tell you about how much her smile meant to them. She experienced much joy in her life due

to family and friends and gave as much joy to others. Our mother will be truly missed.

She is survived by daughters -Debbie Kirkley, Karen Kirkley (Jack) Conrad, Patricia Kirkley and sons – Earle (Robin) Kirkley; Bob (Cindi) Kirkley; Ken Kirkley; the grandsons she raised - Allen (Jodi) Gast, Jr., Bryan (Elizabeth) Gast, and Kevin Gast. Other grandchildren include Brendan Best, Don Conrad, James (Ashley) Conrad, Rob Conrad, Earle (Rebeccah) Kirkley IV, Katelyn (Caleb) Knapp, Diana (Anthony) Jeffers, Doug (Sarah) Kirkley, Rob Kirkley, Rachel Kirkley, Ryan Kirkley, Lauren Kirkley, 18 great-grandchildren and a brother-in-law, George (Nancy) Kirkley.

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Visitation will be held from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021 at DeGusipe Funeral Home, 9001 N. Orlando Ave., Maitland, FL 32751.

Funeral Mass will be held at 2:00p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 861 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL Live Stream link at: <https://stmarymagdalen.org/SacramentsAndLiturgies/Funerals.aspx>

Burial will follow the Mass at 3:30p.m. at Glen Haven Memorial Park Cemetery, 2300 Temple Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789.

The family of Rose Kirkley invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in her loving memory. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church - Council of Catholic Women

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26**. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel

9001 N. Orlando Ave

Maitland, FL 32751

(407) 695-2273

todd@degusipe.com

<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Graveside Service

APR **27**. 3:30 PM (ET)

Glen Haven Memorial Park

2300 Temple drive

Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Rose led our craft group at St. Mary Magdalen with great ideas and directions. We laughed while we worked and loved being together. I was a member of ST. Gerard Circle as well so I knew first hand how much she contributed to our church. Her stitchery was impressive. But, her laugh and warmth are what I remember. She made me feel included in her wide circle of friends. The Kirkley's were lucky to have such a Mother.
donna calmes

donna calmes - April 28, 2021 at 10:41 AM

PS

“ Rose was a saint for taking in the 3 grand sons when Diana her daughter passed away of cancer. In Maitland and St Mary Magdalene circles she was held in such high esteem. God rest her soul.

Peggy Sweeney - April 28, 2021 at 09:41 AM

DK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debbie Kirkley - April 27, 2021 at 08:25 PM

VH

“ *The Kirkley family meant so much to my husband, who lived next door. I remember meeting all of you when Greg Hodson and I were married. Rose was such a special person and was dearly loved by all. My heartfelt condolences to you in your loss.*

Vicki Hodson

Vicki Hodson - April 26, 2021 at 07:35 PM

PR

I know that smile. She was my dear neighbor across the street from us. She taught me so much. Great recipes. and one day she called me and wanted to know if I wanted to learn about cake decorating. I still have her icing recipe and I even decorated Kelly's wedding cake and once in a while I'd do another cake just to keep my hand in. One time she had a catering job and asked me to ride with her so I could keep and eye and a hand on this huge wedding cake in the back of her station wagon. She was a very careful driver We arrived there early so she could put the cake together and give it finishing touches. Our birthdays were two days apart and I was one year older so I thought of her often. Before we moved away, we had such fun together. I would try to call her during the holidays and it was so good to hear about all the Kirkley's. What a lovely family. My heart goes out to all of you. With love and sorrow, Pat Riley

Patricia Riley - May 03, 2021 at 11:26 PM



“ *My prayers and thoughts are with you all! Your mom was such a light and "mom" to all who knew her. What a gift it was being y'all's neighbor for a season.*

Love Kelly Riley Brewer and family.

Kelly Brewer - April 26, 2021 at 01:55 PM

PR

“ --So sorry to learn of this loss and we wish to all of your family God's gracious comfort and presence as you share wonderful memories together.

With love,

Paul & Kim Riley

Paul Riley - April 26, 2021 at 01:09 PM

BP

“ To the Kirkley family - my deepest condolences on the loss of your beautiful mom. My prayers for strength, comfort and peace are with all of you.

Brenda Procell - April 26, 2021 at 11:35 AM

MH

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of your wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Rose and family were neighbors of Bob and Jeane Hodson in Maitland. My greatest memory of Rose was her helping me to learn how to decorate cakes, something I did for many years after her instructions. Our visits to the neighborhood witnessed the growing up of all of her children. May the memories of Rose be with you forever. Bob and Marcia Hodson

Marcia Hodson - April 26, 2021 at 08:19 AM

DK

Marcia, so glad you heard the news. Wasn't sure how to contact you. We had a photo of you and mom in our slide show. :) I'll try to post it. Debbie K.

Debbie Kirkley - April 27, 2021 at 08:18 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rose Marie Kirkley.*



April 25, 2021 at 05:15 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rose Marie Kirkley.*



April 25, 2021 at 02:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rose Marie Kirkley.*



April 25, 2021 at 01:54 PM



“ *There isn't enough room to share all our wonderful memories due to living across the street from the Kirkley's for the past 51 years! This includes having a supply of wonderful babysitters for our two children, watching the boys play Lacrosse in their front yard, and simply getting to know the best neighbors one could ever have. Rose's dedication to her family was and is a true inspiration to all. Our condolences go out to all the Kirkleys.*
Sheila and Bill Oelfke

Sheila and Bill Oelfke - April 25, 2021 at 01:53 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rose Marie Kirkley.*



April 25, 2021 at 12:42 PM



“ *We will always remember an early snowstorm that occurred while your Mom and Dad were visiting us. Your Mom loved the warmth of Florida and hated snow and cold. Your Dad, on the other hand, made snow angels while wearing a short sleeve shirt. We will always remember your Mom's beautiful smile, her sense of humor and her delicious dinners.*

George and Nancy Kirkley - April 25, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rose Marie Kirkley.*



April 25, 2021 at 07:08 AM



“ *Earle and family, our prayers and sympathy are with you in this difficult time. May your mother Rose rest in peace. Rob and Terry*



Rob - April 25, 2021 at 07:01 AM

DK

“ 1 file added to the album *Rose Kirkley*



Debbie Kirkley - April 24, 2021 at 11:45 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Rose Marie Kirkley*.



April 23, 2021 at 02:03 PM