



Jean Smith

September 20, 1961 - September 22, 2024

Jean Marie Smith, Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully Sunday, September 22, 2024, two days after her 63rd birthday.

Jean was born September 20, 1961, in Topeka the daughter of Carvan G. and Rosalia “Sally” Gudenkauf Smith. She graduated from Assumption Grade School in 1976 and Hayden High School in 1980. Jean loved all sports, including and especially the Kansas City Royals, Dallas Cowboys, Kansas State and Hayden Wildcats.

She was a hard worker even with the limitations of her disability. She worked at Long John Silvers in North Topeka from September of 1980 until March of 1983 when she accepted the job of receptionist at Assumption Catholic Church. In that position, Jean handed out thousands of sack lunches to those needing food who rang the bell at the Church office window. Hers was the hand of kindness to all those people. When the Assumption Church office closed in 2013, Jean became the receptionist at Catholic Charities Topeka office until 2017 when she transitioned to Corita’s Corner Sandwich Ministry, continuing to feed those in need. From January of 2020, until her recent illness, Jean was employed by the Pad Restaurant in North Topeka. Along her journey she made many friends and was always happy to share a smile.

Jean has joined her parents and brother, Thomas L. Smith, who arrived in

Heaven prior to her entrance.

Survivors include her brothers, Tim Smith (Liz), Terry Smith (Debbie), and her twin, Jerry Smith (Becky); sister-in-law, Rose Smith; nieces and nephews, Tonya Bolte (Karl), Justin Smith (Amber), Conrad Hudson, Bryan Smith (Kristina), Kayla Jones (Chris), and Jamie Smith (Ashley); and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Visitation will be from 5 until 6:30 p.m. Friday, October 4, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 5, at Assumption Catholic Church Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Capper Foundation and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 4. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Rosary

OCT 4. 6:30 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Assumption Church
204 SW 8th St
Topeka, KS 66603

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jean Smith* ”



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - October 04, 2024 at 03:07 PM



“ *My name is Karen Jeffries and I used to work with her at Catholic Charities at the front desk then I would take her to grocery stores and to her family and places she was like a sister that I never had and we called each other girlfriend* ”



Karen Jeffries - October 23, 2024 at 10:36 PM

SV

“ To the Family, My brothers, sisters and I are so very saddened to hear of Jean's sudden passing. Jean and I kept in touch through texts, as she would fill me in on my friends she ran into at the Pad, or with kind words when she remembered our Uncle John (Rossiter) or our parents on the anniversary of their deaths. Her last message to me was to remind me that we all had two ornery Irish relatives watching over us. :-) We all have fond memories of Jean when she worked at Assumption Rectory with our mom, Maureen Lane, in the 90s and the 00s. Always kind, always helpful, always with a smile on her face, and a memory to share. Her presence on earth was a gift to us all. I trust that she is rejoicing in heaven with all the friends who went before her. May God's grace, and memories of Jean, bring you all comfort.

Susan and Jon Valesano, Jim and Julie Lane, Colleen and Steve Toliver, Dennis Lane, Trish and Randy LaRue, Bill and Stacey Lane.

Susan Valesano - October 06, 2024 at 06:59 PM

KK

“ So sorry to hear of Jean's passing. She was such a sweet friend to everyone she met. I will always cherish her friendship and our talks. She always kept me up on all the family when I would see her at the Pad. Her sweet smile and hugs will be greatly missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Karen Hinchsliff Kiefat - October 05, 2024 at 03:54 AM

DK

“ To the Family, so sorry for your loss. Jean was always so friendly and was always the first to say Hello and ask how things were going. Whether our paths crossed at Church, a ballgame, or lunches at The Pad. Always enjoyed visiting with her every time we seen her. She always gave us trouble about getting her Dr. pepper from the Card Game at the St. Matthew Fall Festival. She will be missed. Rest in Peace!

The Kuckelman Family

Danny Kuckelman - October 04, 2024 at 01:04 PM

RS

“ The first time I met Jean she was very kind, helpful and caring and I knew I had a very special friend. It was always a pleasure to visit with her and she was a devoted worker for Assumption Church. Rest in peace, Jean.

Roberta Stuke - October 03, 2024 at 06:54 PM

SC

“ Scottie purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Jean Smith.



Scottie - October 03, 2024 at 02:27 PM

SC

“ Scottie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Smith.

Scottie - October 03, 2024 at 02:27 PM

EL

“ To Jean's family, I am so sorry and quite surprised that Jean passed away in the quick manner she did.

I originally met Jean while volunteering at Catholic Charities in 2016. She was very dedicated to her Catholic faith and was always about helping people. Jean never met a stranger. I provided transportation for her several times and she always, always ran into someone she knew and would introduce them to me.

As both of us are Hayden alumni we enjoyed going to Hayden football games. She loved the Royals also and on a few occasions we attended games to cheer them on. I am sure she is rooting them on now in heaven as they won their wildcard game yesterday. Other of Jean's Catholic Charities comrades joined us on more than one occasion to visit Royal Stadium. We even ventured once to a Omaha Storm Chasers game.

Jean loved her family, she especially doted on her many nieces and nephews. She always had them in mind for some memento or appropriate gift that would fit just that individual.

Jean had a great memory for detailed information. She was your family's historian. Whatever will you do now to keep up the family statistics ?

Continued prays for your family. I know Jean is enjoying the company of those who left before her. She is well and carefree.

Sincerely,

Eileen Livingston

Eileen Livingston - October 02, 2024 at 03:12 PM

LC

“ Im so sorry for your loss. Jean was an amazing, kind and nice person. My oldest daughter was her after school helper for many years handing out food at the Rectory window. She was a ray of sunshine to all that knew her. She will be so sorely missed.

Laura and Roger McVay and children - October 02, 2024 at 03:02 PM

GL

“ Gay L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Smith.

Gay L. - October 01, 2024 at 02:33 PM

GC

“ Greg & Brenda Gudenkauf & Terri Charleston purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jean Smith.



Greg & Brenda Gudenkauf & Terri Charleston - September 28, 2024 at 02:35 PM

GC

“ Greg & Brenda Gudenkauf & Terri Charleston planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Smith.

Greg & Brenda Gudenkauf & Terri Charleston - September 28, 2024 at 02:35 PM

NW

“ I met Jean for the first time down at Assumption Church. She frequently called upon my son Jason to serve Mass. she was a big help when carnival time rolled around and once again when I need help for something special at the school. As we often visited the Pad she grew fond of Ruby and Abram my grandkids often times buying them a frosty or slipping them money to put in their piggy banks. She’s touched plenty of people and we often “gossiped” about people we both knew. God gained one special angel. RIP my friend. ❤️

Nancy White - September 28, 2024 at 02:28 AM

LL

“ I met Jean while working together at Catholic Charities and there our friendship began. She always brightened my days. We were both fortunate to have grown up in close knit families and enjoyed talking about them and sharing memories. Each year she bought a Royals yearbook for my brother with Downs Syndrome because she knew he was a huge a Royals fan like she was. Her early morning texts with pictures of beautiful sunrises and lots of emojis taken on her scooter rides always started my days off right. She inspired me with her positive, joyful and grateful attitude despite the health challenges she faced. I always looked forward to celebrating her birthday month with her. I will miss her laughter and stories so much. Jean and her family are in my prayers.

Lisa Letourneau
“Little Sis”

Lisa Letourneau - September 27, 2024 at 09:30 PM



“ *May our prayers give you comfort at this most difficult time. Jean always had a smile to share that lightened anyone's troubles or load. Running into Jean always made that day, a better day and a little more special. The kindness she shared brought joy to everyone on her path.*

Jeanne Myers - September 27, 2024 at 03:13 PM

RS

“ *Jean was a wonderful personal friend who devoted her life in service to the Lord, to her family, to the church and to her friends at Hayden. Our prayers are with the family.*

Rick and Kathy Strecker - September 27, 2024 at 03:03 PM

JA

“ *"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."*
John & Delphine Anguiano and Family

John Anguiano - September 27, 2024 at 02:06 PM

KM

“ *Jean has always been a great friend to Ben and me. Sorry for the family loss*



Klara Meseke - September 27, 2024 at 12:09 PM

RB

“ *met jean when she moved to the cottages being hayden grads though many years apart . I really enjoyed talking with her .MAY SHE REST IN PEACE*

Richard Burghart - September 27, 2024 at 11:19 AM