



Mary Kennison

January 12, 1941 - February 5, 2021

Mary Joan Maher Kennison, 80, Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully at her home with her family beside her, Friday, February 5, 2021.

Mary was born January 12, 1941, in Independence, Kansas to John and Marian Nielsen Maher. She graduated with honors from Yates Center High School in 1959. She won the P.E.O. Scholarship to Emporia State Teachers College where she graduated with honors in 1962, majoring in mathematics and physical education. Mary served students at Highland Park Junior High School, Hayden Catholic High School, Chase Middle School and retired from Topeka High School. Mary devoted more than 40 years of her life to students. During those years she continued her education and earned her master's degree in education. She taught mathematics, physical education and special education, was a pep club, cheerleader and dance team sponsor, and coached volleyball, basketball, gymnastics and track and field,

On April 4, 1964, Mary married her best friend and love of her life, Robert "Bob" Kennison, at Assumption Catholic Church in Topeka, enjoying 38 years together before his death August 1, 2002.

Mary loved life. Her favorite phrase was, "Let me help." She was generous to her family but also to the Catholic and public community. She loved her Jaguars, traveling, visiting with family and friends and all her former students.

She enjoyed hearing the birds singing, fresh flowers and the overall beauty that the Lord laid out for her. She was a member of St. Joseph Church, was very involved in Church functions and supporting fund raising activities where her competitive spirit shined. She was an active member of the Daughters of Isabella, Little Flower Circle # 503.

Mary was a vibrant, deeply spiritual woman who loved the Lord, her family and friends. Her presence here will be greatly missed but our loss is Heaven's gain.

Survivors include her children, John and his wife, Linda Kennison, Overbrook KS, Anne and her husband, Kipp Kaiser, Allen TX, Lady Jennifer and her husband, Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, Sir Harold Norris, Topeka, and Christopher Kennison and his fiancé, Jen Connor, Omaha NE; 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and many friends.

Mary was also preceded in death by her sons, William A. Kennison in 1977 and Michael Robert Kennison in 1979, her parents and sister, Betty Maher Waggoner.

Visitation will be from 11:30 until 12:30 Tuesday, February 9, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. The rosary will be prayed at 12:30 and Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 1 p.m. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Due to the pandemic, masks and social distancing are required at all services.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart–St. Joseph Parish and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

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

Mary's family is thankful and blessed by the hospitality, strength and compassion of her Stormont-Vail personal physician and staff, the staff of Heartland Hospice and Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, the "Angels on the Hill".

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 9. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
227 SW Van Buren Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Rosary

FEB 9. 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
227 SW Van Buren Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
227 SW Van Buren Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Kennison*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Rest in peace Mary knowing all the hearts you touched over the years with your words, actions, and deeds. I for one will miss her smile and generosity especially in the ways she brighten Christ the King Church. Material things may come and go, but your love for God and fellow people will live on in your family and friends that were fortunate to have been graced by your love and smile. I know the past few months have been hard especially on your family and friends seeing you suffer so. May your family take comfort in the fact that you are free of your earthly body that was no longer serving you well. Rip my dear friend and fellow child of God, please continue to guide us on the journey to heaven. I hope my cantoring at ctk masses provided you some love and joy. Thank you for the friendship you provided to everyone at ctk.*

Lisa Hockenberry - February 13, 2021 at 09:17 AM



“ *Mary and I were both young teachers in the 1960s at Highland Park Junior High. She was teaching phys ed and was also pep club sponsor. During her career in educaion, she touched many lives and was well liked by her students. Her recent involvement and generosity to Christ The King Church will be remembered by many.*

Rita Hamman

Rita Hamman - February 12, 2021 at 01:42 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Kennison.*



February 08, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ *So very sorry for your loss. Mrs Kennison was such a wonderful math teacher..
I remember riding home to Louise Jones .. so she could pick up the kids.. she has a red VW bug..
She made a difference in many lives..*

mary reyer wells - February 07, 2021 at 06:25 PM



“ *To the Kennison family, I am so sorry for the passing of your mom. She was my teacher at Hayden, such a nice lady. May God wrap his arms around all of you and give you peace until you meet again.*

Gina (Leathers) Herman - February 07, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Kennison.*



February 05, 2021 at 04:25 PM