



## Mary Ellen Merchant

February 14, 1935 - May 15, 2016

Mary Ellen Merchant, age 81, passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at Novant Health Prince William Medical Center, Manassas, VA.

She was born on February 14, 1935 in Washington, D.C. Mary Ellen spent her early years attending St. Vincent's, Sacred Heart and St. Cecilia's High School in Washington, DC. She then joined the order of the Holy Cross after high school. Illness brought her back home.

She met her beloved husband Buddy Merchant while they both sang in the All Saints choir (the original All Saints church in Old Town Manassas). She then began her lifelong dedication to teaching children and mentoring at All Saints School. She continued to pursue her Master's Degree in Education by attending night school for twenty years plus. She continued her teaching career and ultimately retired while teaching at Chantilly High School.

Mary Ellen then continued her love of teaching by developing a mentoring program at All Saints School. She also continued tutoring children at her home privately until last year. Mary Ellen was also a leader of the Senior Care program at All Saints School which provided Seniors of the parish a newsletter and luncheons. In addition, Mary Ellen played a strong role in support of the Medical Missionaries program supported by All Saints. Throughout this time, she was an Oblate of the Benedictine nuns in Linton

Hall.

Mary Ellen's joyful life was dedicated to children and education and charity work. She would do anything for anyone in need. She will be greatly missed by all in her family and the community.

Preceded in death by her parents: Guy and Julia Guiffre; husband: Henry D. Merchant; sister: Helen Bowen and brother in laws: Gordon Bowen and Robert Kardaras.

Survivors include her sister: Jeanne Kardaras and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 19, 2016 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 10:00 AM at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, VA with Rev. Robert Cilinski and Rev. Lee Roos officiating. Entombment will follow at Stonewall Memory Gardens, Manassas, VA.

Expressions of sympathy may be in form of donations to All Saints Catholic School, 9294 Stonewall Road, Manassas, VA 20110 and/or Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136. Condolences may be sent to: [www.piercefh.com](http://www.piercefh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway  
Manassas, VA 20109  
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 19.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
[pfh@piercefh.com](mailto:pfh@piercefh.com)  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Visitation

**MAY 19.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
[pfh@piercefh.com](mailto:pfh@piercefh.com)  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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MAY **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church  
9300 Stonewall Rd  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 368-4500

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ I've known her for really my entire life. As a child I use to go up and see Guy and Judd Guiffre. I met her while I was there and would see her on occasion. For the next 30 years we kept in touch every Christmas. I just found out yesterday of her passing when my Christmas card was returned. I got online and found out she had passed away. I wish I had known as I would have driven there for the funeral. She will always hold a special place in my heart. Anyone who knew her were very blessed. A wonderful person and now an Angel. You will be missed.....

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**Sir Michael Burch** - February 08, 2017 at 06:52 AM

DA

“ Darina lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Merchant



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**Darina** - June 01, 2016 at 07:19 AM

JV

“ Aunt Mary Ellen was our "loving" Aunt. When we lived in Virginia my family would travel from the Shenandoah hills to Uncle Buddy's and her home for some of the finest southern cooking she would make "especially" for us.

*Our family get-togethers were always happy and filled with a loving spirit. We prayed for her often and would call her and speak for hours about what was going on with our families and share old memories of Vera's (Momma's) place along with and Buddy's siblings, Rose and Mildred, my mother.*

*She was always there for those who were in need and she had a grand spirit of Christ within her where ever she went.*

*Kristen & I just looked at each other and were so saddened to hear of her passing.*

*On the phone one day while I was talking Mary Ellen about my sister - I mentioned what Lucy had shared with me when she told me about her death that was forthcoming. She said, "Now I don't want you to be saddened by my passing! I'd rather you take your wife out to dinner and celebrate it!!" Then she finished with, "Cause the truth is that it is I who feel sorry for you all. I'am going to a far better place than here. So enjoy it and be happy for me!*

*Mary Ellen acknowledged it and said, "Amen." My sister passed away on Feb. 14, 1996, Mary Ellen's 61st birthday...*

*Thank you Aunt Mary Ellen for all the years that we knew each other and for all you did for us. Thank GOD that you are finally with your loved ones and surrounded with Love.  
Give them all our Love.*

*We will miss you dearly.*

*Joseph, Kristen, John, Kevin, James, MaryEllen, Charlotte, Veronica, Vincent and Genevieve Vogel.*

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**JD Vogel** - May 24, 2016 at 12:25 PM

JC

“ *John M. Thomas and the Flint Hill School Community purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.*



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**John M. Thomas and the Flint Hill School Community** - May 20, 2016 at 10:05 AM

PS

“ *Peggy and Howard Smentkowski purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.*



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**Peggy and Howard Smentkowski** - May 19, 2016 at 08:53 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.*



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May 19, 2016 at 08:16 AM



“ *Paula Walsh lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Merchant*



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**Paula Walsh** - May 19, 2016 at 06:38 AM



“ *Virginia Walsh lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Merchant*



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**Virginia Walsh** - May 19, 2016 at 06:28 AM



“ *With Love, Cory & Cyndy Cole purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.*



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**With Love, Cory & Cyndy Cole** - May 18, 2016 at 04:37 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.*



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May 18, 2016 at 04:23 PM

CC

“ Cynthia Cole lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen Merchant



Cynthia Cole - May 18, 2016 at 03:44 PM

CC

“ Ms. Mary Ellen was more than just a wonderful neighbor. She also was my teacher for a few months my senior year of high school and helped me pass my government class. The funniest part about this story is I had no idea she worked at my high school until 3 or 4 years after being her neighbor. We had such a giggle once we did. She then told me that she looked my picture up in her year book and said. Yes I remember you with such a big smile on her face. She will be missed. With love Cyndy Cole

Cynthia Cole - May 18, 2016 at 03:43 PM

DJ

“ What a lovely, lovely lady! The world is a better place for having had Mary Ellen in it. I feel blessed to have known her, even though I didn't know her well. My prayers are with her family and friends during this difficult time.

Dale Jepson - May 18, 2016 at 03:34 PM

BG

“ Bernice, Guy, Mark, and Gaither purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.



Bernice, Guy, Mark, and Gaither - May 18, 2016 at 11:14 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Merchant.*



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May 18, 2016 at 10:09 AM



“ *"Hi sweetie." Those were words Mary Ellen would greet you with as you entered her home. MEM was such a wonderful Christian friend, devoted to her Catholic faith & her career in teaching. Regardless of how bad she felt, she would always find a way to smile. My prayers are with the family. We all celebrate her reunion with Buddy. As MEM would say when you left her house, "God Bless".*

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**Margaret Lowry** - May 18, 2016 at 07:45 AM



“ *Mary Ellen and Buddy were our neighbor on Windsor Ave. We have remained friends over the years!! Miss her.*  
*Bob and Lorraine Hart*

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**Bob and Lorraine Hart** - May 18, 2016 at 07:34 AM



“ *God bless Mrs. Merchant; I remember her love and dedication to her family, community and All Saints.*

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**Martha S. Castillo Donovan** - May 17, 2016 at 06:14 PM

 Sue  
Mairena

“ *Mary Ellen was a special gift to our family. Those who knew her were blessed in her presence. Heaven is rejoicing in song.*

*Sue, Guillermo and Rachel Mairena*

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**Sue Mairena** - May 17, 2016 at 03:52 PM

BM

“ *Mary Ellen was the first to give with all her heart & time to anyone she met! Her love of family and friends will never more visible than in her giving whatever she could whether financial or prayers. The Lord is with you and Buddy. B&B*

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**Brenda & Bob Maslanka** - May 17, 2016 at 01:28 PM