



## Jeannette J Burrell

October 18, 1938 - November 12, 2024

Jeannette J. Burrell, 86, passed away on November 12, 2024, at Staten Island University Hospital North.

Jeannette grew up in Gibraltar, PA in an old hotel owned and operated by her Polish grandmother. It was part working-class bar, part hotel, part family farm located at a rural stop of the Reading Railroad. Her grade school was a two-room building where the children of the village were taught together. She graduated from Central Catholic High School in Reading, PA in 1956. She was the first person in her family to attend college, graduating in 1960 from St. Francis College in Loretto, PA. The friendships she made there formed life-long bonds.

On a formative six-week trip to Europe in 1961, with high school and college friends, she set up a date at Heidelberg Castle with a young man she had met while visiting a friend from St. Francis on Staten Island. This was her future husband Dennis, a GI serving as a tank driver on the German/German border. For Dennis, it was love at first sight from the moment he met Jeannette, and he wasn't taking any chances. They miraculously managed to meet at one of the castle's three entrances (which hadn't been decided on ahead of time) and he brought along a few of his army buddies to entertain Jeannete's friends, inviting them to a bar where a model train passed over head and local lore dictated that couples kiss when it stopped above their table. The magic

worked. Dennis joined Jeannette and her friends for the next ten days touring Germany and Switzerland.

In 1961 Jeannette moved to Oakwood, Staten Island, where she lived for the rest of her life. She was employed as a social worker at New York Foundling Hospital and studied for her Masters in Social Work at Fordham University.

In October 1963, she married Dennis and shortly thereafter they settled into the family home on Whitehall Street. Their first child, Jennifer, was born in 1965, Jeffrey in 1968.

In the course of her life Jeannette was incredibly active in the social and religious organisations around her. She served as the President of the PTA at PS 50 in Oakwood, she was a Girl Scout leader, and she coordinated the Eucharistic Chapel at St. Charles Church for over twenty-five years. Jeannette was also the longest serving alumni board member of St. Francis College, for over thirty years. She was a poll worker in Oakwood for decades, where she enjoyed keeping track of generations of neighbors.

Jeanette was always ready for a new adventure. She was an avid traveler, visiting her children while they were studying, working or living abroad in Spain, Germany, and Guatemala. She also made a point of regularly visiting family members behind the Iron Curtain in Poland, as well as Dennis' family in Ireland and England. She made many pilgrimages, including to Medugorje (in Yugoslavia, later Bosnia), Spain and Turkey, among others.

During her longtime membership at the Great Kills Swim Club she took up tennis and continued to play into her 80s. She also practiced yoga and meditation during the 1970s and 80s. She was an avid Yankees fan, writing down the starting lineups and tallying the box score herself.

She was a member of two book clubs. For one of them, she served as

secretary, a great match for her fastidious notetaking, which extended to meals eaten by the family every day, what clothing was worn, and what she learned on her favorite Sunday morning show. She also documented her life and those around her with her ever-present camera, gifting photos wherever she went. Jeannette was a caring neighbor and community member. She delivered Eucharist to home-bound church members and regularly visited friends and family in hospitals and nursing homes.

She dearly loved her children and grandchildren. With her granddaughters, Imogen and Lila, she shared her great love of ice cream, amusement parks, shopping, and the fine arts of snacking and small talk. As she famously said to eight-month old Lila, "This family loves ice cream and you will, too."

Jeanette was the beloved wife to Dennis Burrell. Loving mother to Jennifer Burrell and Jeffrey Burrell. Fond mother-in-law to Alexander Dupuy and Sonja Sarailly. Devoted grandmother to Imogen Burrell and Lila Jenova Dupuy. Dear sister to Carol Janiszewski and Tina Preston.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 16, 2024, and from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024 at St. Charles Church located at 200 Penn Ave Staten Island, New York 10306. Cremation will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jeannette's name to St. Francis University, Loretto, PA at [www.francis.edu/makeagift](http://www.francis.edu/makeagift) Click 'Annual Fund' and at bottom of page signify in memory of Jeannette Burrell. Gift by check: Make

payable to Saint Francis University, in memory of Jeannette Burrell, and mail to: SFU, Office of Advancement, P.O. Box 600, Loretto, PA 15940

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **16.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Visitation

NOV **17.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Service

NOV **18.** 9:15 AM (ET)

St Charles Church  
200 Penn Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10306

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Jeannette was my dear friend since we met at St. Francis college in 1956. she always had a smile and made all feel welcome. Wishing my sincere best wishes to her family on their loss,until we meet again .



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**Mary Lynne Schnorbus** - December 11, 2024 at 12:31 PM

GF

“ We've known Jeannette since the 1980's and we remember her deep enthusiasm for God, her optimism, her boundless energy for most of that time, her kindness, and her loving heart. Family was so important to her. She was always giving us updates of who was doing what, and trips she and Dennis were planning to visit family abroad. Before Barbara Knabe passed on, and before Rita moved away from Staten Island, the three of them were so close. Jeannette and Dennis, Rita and Dick often drove upstate together. We fondly remember stories she told of those precious times. We love you, dearest Jeannette and Dennis, and we send our condolences to the family. --from your GraceLight family and David and Amalya

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**GraceLight Family** - December 03, 2024 at 08:14 AM

SD

“ Much Love to Jennette and family.

*Steve Drago*

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**steve drago** - November 24, 2024 at 10:33 AM

LL

“ Jeannette epitomized the adage, she was the “salt of the earth”— defined as a very good, honest, and reasonable person who doesn’t think they are special in any way. Yet Jeannette was special in every way. Always with a smile, always with time to chat, always offering to lend a hand, always caring about others. She will be sorely missed by many, and we will be comforted knowing that she surely is at peace with the God she so faithfully served.

Lorraine LaHuta - November 16, 2024 at 10:22 AM

TL

Jeannette was so caring and interested in everything and everyone - she didn't want to miss a thing and was involved in - you name it - she was into it - talkative and vivacious - just a lot of fun - always ready for an adventure - she lived her life to the fullest - she will be surely missed - God rest her soul 🙏🌸🌸

Toni LaFemina - November 18, 2024 at 07:33 AM

LP

“ Lisa P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeannette J Burrell.

Lisa P. - November 16, 2024 at 09:11 AM

BC

“ Barbara King & Jim Costello purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jeannette J Burrell.



Barbara King & Jim Costello - November 15, 2024 at 10:04 PM

BC

“ Barbara King & Jim Costello planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeannette J Burrell.

Barbara King & Jim Costello - November 15, 2024 at 10:04 PM

DE

“ Jeannette was such a kind, loving & funny person. She was always smiling with a positive attitude. She loved her husband, children and grandchildren so very much. She was proud of the people that had become. They all were the light of her life. She also loved God with every breath she took. So she is in now in Jesus' arms, at home with God. She will be missed. P.S. Happy Belated Birthday Jeannette.

Darlene Erickson - November 14, 2024 at 08:37 PM

LM

Met dear Jeannette at my yoga class then became fun traveling friends. So many fun times. My love and prayers to her dear family and many friends. Love Lynn Milkowski.

Lynn Milkowski - November 18, 2024 at 09:47 AM

N'

“ I was stunned to hear of Jeannette's passing. Hers was a personality larger than life. Once she met you, she never forgot you...you were a forever friend. I was honored to know her through Saint Francis as a fellow alumnus. Her honesty and dedication were inspiring. May she rest peacefully and may her memory challenge us to be more like her. Dennis, I am so sorry for your and your family's loss.

Nancy McCreary Waters '80 - November 14, 2024 at 08:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeannette J Burrell.*



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November 14, 2024 at 01:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jeannette J Burrell.

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November 14, 2024 at 01:37 PM



“ *Jeannette was the most loyal and enthusiastic member of the Saint Francis University alumni family. Her laughter and positive attitude were infectious. We will miss her sorely. I send my sincere condolences to Dennis and the entire family.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Chris Collins*

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**Christopher Collins** - November 14, 2024 at 10:59 AM



“ *Vincent Z. purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Jeannette J Burrell.*



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**Vincent Z.** - November 14, 2024 at 09:35 AM

VZ

“ Vincent Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeannette J Burrell.

Vincent Z. - November 14, 2024 at 09:35 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeannette J Burrell.



November 13, 2024 at 10:00 PM

CB

“ You'll be fondly missed. I always loved our laughs and working together at the election. May you dance with angels.

christiane banchetto - November 13, 2024 at 06:29 PM



“ A beautiful lady with so much grace and beauty. I met Jeanette years ago working at Board of Elections as a mutual poll worker and she was an absolutely wonderful graceful lady. Definitely will be missed so much. All my love and prayers go out to the family and especially her husband Dennis. 🙏📄

Anthony Raiola - November 13, 2024 at 06:17 PM

RH

*Jeannette and I became friends when our children attended PS50 in Oakwood. We searched and explored many experiences together. She always had so much enthusiasm in everything she did. Her Love for God and her family was first and foremost.*

*If someone mentioned some place in the world that she hadn't visited or seen yet, you could bet it would be on her list of places to see. Our trips were always fun because Jeannette would not leave one little detail out of our exploration. Gratitude is what I have for having known Jeannette. She loved all the people in her life and would be there in any way she could enrich their lives.*

*My Thoughts and prayers go to Dennis and the rest of her family whom she loved dearly.*

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**Rita Heap** - November 15, 2024 at 11:31 AM

NL

*Jeannette and I have been friends since 1956 when we met in our Freshman year at St. Francis! We shared so many wonderful years as students, alums, best friends ! Our husbands always supported an our forays to St.Francis , vacations in Maine , dinners in NYC and so many other memories! How lucky we were to have such a wonderful relationship!! My prayers for Dennis and the family! She will always continue to be in my prayers!!*

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**Nancy Legare** - November 16, 2024 at 11:11 AM

TD

*I've known Jeanette for many years, and was saddened by the news of her passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out for Dennis and his family may she rest in peace in the hands of the Lord*

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**Toni &Pat Discenza** - November 16, 2024 at 11:15 AM