



## Rita C. McGuffey

November 9, 1928 - April 1, 2026

Rita C. McGuffey died peacefully on April 1st, 2026 at her home in Pine Bush, NY. She was 97. Rita was born on November 9th, 1928 in Mineola, NY to Charles and Agnes Sandy.

Rita and her late husband, Drake, were the Eastern Regional Directors of Mother Angelica's Catholic Family Missionary Alliance. Rita taught religious education at St. Brigid Catholic Church in Westbury, NY and Corpus Christi Church in Mineola, NY. She was an active member at St. Brigid Rosary Society where she chaired many fundraising campaigns. At the age of 60, she climbed Mount Križevac ("Cross Mountain"), located in Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (formerly Yugoslavia), while on pilgrimage, which tremendously blessed her devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A published author and lover of quilting, art, history, baking and cooking (especially her famous lasagna). Rita was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother. She was an extraordinary witness to her faith. A humble, loving woman, she will long be remembered for her signature phrase, "Love one another."

Rita is survived by her children: son Daniel McGuffey and his wife, Janet, of Brentwood, TN; son Robert McGuffey of Huntington Station, L.I. NY; son, the Reverend James McGuffey, pastor of the Church of the Annunciation,

Bloomsbury, NJ; daughter Christine Wolfe and her husband, Guy, of Milford PA; daughter Mary Esparra of Pine Bush, NY; grandchildren Ryan Gordon and family, Daniel Gordon and family, Alexander McGuffey and wife Monica, Robert McGuffey, Elizabeth Ernest and family, Marigrace Kyles and children, Krys Esparra, Jenna Martorano and family, Michael Esparra, Kristiana Stanco and family, and Andrew McGuffey, as well as 13 great-grandchildren with one on the way.

She is predeceased by her husband Drake McGuffey, and her grandson Sean Gordon.

Visitation is from 4-7pm, Monday, April 6th, at Dewitt-Martinez Funeral Home, 64 Center St., Pine Bush, NY. Mass will be said at 10am, Tuesday, April 7th at Church of the Infant Saviour, 25 Holland Ave., Pine Bush, NY.

# Cemetery Details

## New Prospect Cemetery

Pine Bush, NY 12566

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (est)

DeWitt-Martinez Funeral and Cremation Services  
64 Center St  
Pine Bush, NY 12566  
(845) 744-2787  
dewittfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<http://www.MartinezFuneralHomes.com>

## Funeral Mass

APR 7. 10:00 AM (Est)

Church of the Infant Saviour  
22 Holland Avenue  
Route 302  
Pine Bush, NY 12566

## Graveside Service

APR 7. 11:30 AM (est)

New Prospect Cemetery  
Pine Bush, NY 12566



# Tribute Wall

DB

“ My memory of Mrs. McGuffey spans back 49 years. She was in her late 40s when she, along with her husband Drake and their children dedicated themselves to create “The sign of the Dove” coffee house. This was a place where teens and young adults could gather to hear original worship songs and learn how to have a personal relationship with the Lord. Imagine that a busy mother of five who could have easily said “I’m too busy” did not say that, instead Mrs. McGuffey chose to help usher so many young people into the kingdom and for that I will be forever thankful because I am one of them. Thank you, beautiful, beautiful Rita, your life was an example of how we all should live.

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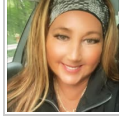
**Donna Geraci Barnes** - April 09 at 08:27 PM



*Beautiful*

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**Lisa Puetz** - April 09 at 11:43 PM



*I met "Queen Rita" on Jan 15 and was very honored and blessed to say that I was able to spend 10 weeks as one of her care givers. She was much more than a 97 yr old lady who finally allowed others to give her a hand, to help lessen her fear of being alone at night and to have that companionship we will all need at some point in our life. I truly thank our amazing Lord for intervening and allowing myself and her 5 generous and supportive children for trusting me just before "lil ole Rita" was taken home to be with Our Father and her husband. During my 62 yrs here on earth I'm living proof that it only takes one interception to finally understand why or what my purpose is and where I should be heading. Many questions were answered when Rita sat quietly (we know Rita didn't do quite that often) and embraced her favorite channel EWTN. My spiritual journey that was being weakened by life's endless hurdles and the bumpy roads many of us are enduring was being lifted and feeling much lighter everyday I spent around this beautiful woman. She had a way to make hurtful feelings vanish. She left me with an amazing wonder. We were always thanking one another and a couple days days in saying "bueno notte, tiamo", it became a lovely friendship learning something new everyday. I was smitten to know she felt ok knowing she wasn't going to be alone. Her Christian way of living and thinking put many of my silly worries into perspective. She was a devout Catholic woman who knew how to walk the talk and shared many how lovely life can be if we just be kind and go on living for others. Thank you Rita for reassuring me that I'm going to be ok as long as I continue to be the woman she was able to allow me to see again when I couldn't. Say hi to Frankie for me, Tiamo "Princess Lisa "*

**Lisa Puetz** - April 10 at 01:44 AM



“ Gable Gift Box was purchased for the family of Rita C. McGuffey.



April 06 at 04:09 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James McGuffey - April 06 at 08:59 AM

JM

*The Fab Five!*

James McGuffey - April 06 at 08:58 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita C. McGuffey.



April 05 at 08:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Danny McGuffey - April 03 at 02:32 PM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita C. McGuffey.*



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April 03 at 12:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita C. McGuffey.

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April 03 at 12:40 PM



“ *My Dear Rita, you were always so beautiful and you never forgot about things people did always praising their efforts. You are and always will be remembered for the grace you gave everyone. I believe in the power the lord gave you to achieve such a beautiful life. I know you are in a very good place and that gives people that know you a sense of peace with hopes of someday seeing you again. Rest in peace in the arms of Jesus on this Holy Week. How appropriate does that sound to end a beautiful chapter of Cross Over, My Rita*

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**Jane Echevarria Castiglia** - April 03 at 12:16 PM



“ *Love Gary and April purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rita C. McGuffey.*



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**Love Gary and April** - April 03 at 11:47 AM

FM

“ Dear Mom,

*These last few months have been so difficult for you, sometimes impossible, and we knew that. But you always came around, always lifted our spirits with your gift of laughter and wisdom, especially your last few days. I remember your asking for prayers last Saturday night. And as I was praying, something wonderful happened. I sensed Blessed Mary all around you. What a gift. You were always so faithful to her in your prayers and so close to her, I am glad she was so close to you in your last days.*

*Thanks mom, for everything. You were a true blessing to us all.*

*From your loving son,  
Father James*

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**Father James McGuffey** - April 03 at 10:26 AM

KE

“ 2 files added to the album Rita



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**krys esparra** - April 03 at 10:20 AM

F(

“ A special lady and aunt. She was a very holy lady, and brought light to everyone around her. Her family will always be grateful for all of the love and continued memories. 🙏🏻

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**Felicia Decker. (Lee)** - April 03 at 10:17 AM

FD

“ *Felicia Decker purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rita C. McGuffey.*



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**Felicia Decker** - April 03 at 10:10 AM