



## Mary Ellen LaFaive

October 19, 1942 - November 11, 2018

NORWAY- Mary E. LaFaive age 76 of Norway, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at Pinecrest Medical Care Facility in Powers, MI.

She was born on October 19, 1942 in Muskegon, Michigan the daughter of the late Freely and Angela (Burcon) Richards.

Mary graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central High School in 1960. After raising her children, she attended Northern Michigan University and graduated at the age of 50.

Mary married Dennis LaFaive on October 12, 1963 in St. Michaels Church in Muskegon.

She was very involved in the community, organized and started the Norway Easter Egg Hunt, volunteer for the United Way, she was a 4H and Blue Bird Leader. A loyal friend who never met a stranger.

Member of St. Mary's Church in Norway, and the saintly stitchers. Mary was very proud of her social work for the county working with children, her home health care business Agape and all the work her and Dennis did in Mexico with the Christmas Child program and helping several school children. Mary loved quilting and her flower gardens were her pride and joy.

Mary is survived by her husband Dennis; daughters Deborah LaFaive and Donna (Randy) Wagner; grandchildren Emily (Jake) Temple, Josh Bell, Geri (Brian Schmidt) Sundstrom, Mia (Sam Giovanetti) Sundstrom, Sara (Jake Zeugner) Wagner and Courtney Wagner; great grandchildren Joey Sutherland, Aeon Schmidt, Abbi and Evie Temple; sister Kathy Richards; sister-in-law Joyce Richards; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her daughters Denise LaFaive, Deanna Sundstrom and infant son Dennis C. LaFaive; brothers Pat and Robert Richards and sister Janet Nesbitt.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, November 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church with Fr. Timothy Ekaitis officiating.

Internment will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home  
618 Norway Street  
P.O. Box 155  
Norway, MI 49870  
(906) 563-5700  
[ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com](mailto:ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com)  
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church  
401 Main Street  
Norway, MI 49870

# Tribute Wall

VL

“ *My sympathy to your family. I knew Mary through the Norway Area Garden Club. She invited us over to your home a couple of times to do some crafty garden projects and to tour her gardens - a gracious hostess who made us all feel welcome. She was a lovely person and will be missed by everyone who knew her. Valerie Lucas*

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**Valerie Lucas** - November 19, 2018 at 02:21 PM

TC

“ *Denny & Family,  
Mary was an awesome person. We had so many good times together..filled with so much love and laughter.. gone from our lives way too soon. The times together during the summer at Muskegon Elks Park will never be the same. We will miss her and hold her in our hearts forever and always.  
Tom & Karen Chadwick*

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**Thomas Chadwick** - November 16, 2018 at 01:14 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen LaFaive.*



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November 15, 2018 at 07:25 PM

LB

“ *Dennis and family,  
Our hearts go out to you as you lay Mary to rest. Please know that we are praying for you. Mary loved the Lord and now she’s sitting in his loving arms. Cherish the memories as they will sustain you in these difficult hours.  
Much love,  
Vic and Linda Bengard*

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**Linda Bengard** - November 15, 2018 at 02:52 PM

TD

“ *Dennis:  
  
Our sympathy to you and your family at this time.  
  
Tom & Sandie DeBakker*

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**Tom DeBakker** - November 15, 2018 at 12:56 PM



“ *Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen LaFaive.*



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November 15, 2018 at 11:38 AM

DE

“ Dear Dennis and family, So sorry to hear about Mary's passing. She was such a bright light in this world! Oh, how she loved a party! We were invited by Mary several times to parties she planned at their Leisure World Home. She was always quick to smile, volunteer to help, be involved in a party or dance, and always quick to show me a new beautiful quilt she was working on or had just finished. Mary loved her family, friends and her precious fur babies. Mary loved working with the Children's Christmas activities in Mexico and I remember how she bought snacks in Mexico and threw them off the bridge to the people below, a tradition that we continue to do after following Mary's example. I also remember how proud Mary was when she and Dennis were chosen (Queen/King) for the celebration over in Progreso. We pray for God's comfort to you, Dennis and family, as you celebrate Mary's life. Love and Prayers, Dale & Gayle

Dale & Gayle Eisenhauer - November 15, 2018 at 10:04 AM

JW

“ I knew Mary from Leisure World in Weslaco Texas. She was a wonderful Happy go lucky person all the time. We enjoyed having her in quilting, card games and so many other things going on. She will be greatly missed. RIP. Joann Whittington

Joann Whittington - November 15, 2018 at 09:55 AM

HM

“ Holly Mccarthy-biolo lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen LaFaive



holly mccarthy-biolo - November 15, 2018 at 09:44 AM

SD

“*Mary was a special person I will miss her as a friend and a neighbor in Texas she always had that beautiful smile*

Sharon Decock - November 15, 2018 at 09:43 AM

PK

“*Mary was a dear friend, that I lost track of after moving to Texas. When I saw her at Mikes on the Main, she jumped up and said, "I get the first hug" and told her friend that I was her "first friend" when moving to Norway. We shared the private things young wives do, We then moved across the street on Forest Drive, and my oldest daughter, Lisa, babysat the kids. Time takes it's toll, but memories of a friend stay, in your heart.*

*May God bless all of the family in this time of sorrow, but she is at rest, with those before her waiting for Mom, including little Dennis, whom I saw after his birth.*

*My heart is with you,  
Patsy(Temple) Kuhl*

Patricia Kuhl - November 12, 2018 at 10:54 PM

AT

“*Your mother was always there for me with a kind word and a hug, always. Memories of her only bring a smile to my face. I'm so sorry for your loss. She was truly a good person.*



Ann Townsend - November 12, 2018 at 01:31 PM