



## Mrs. Elaine B. Walker

September 3, 1923 - November 27, 2018

Walker, Elaine B. Our beloved mother, grandmother, Elaine Legeros Barbatsis Walker, passed peacefully from this world on November 27th at the age of 95. She felt very grateful for her full and rich life. Her family and her spiritual nature were her foundations. Mom was truly eager to see what the next life would look like! Mom's deep love and delight in her family sustained not only her but all of us. Her smile never left her face. She always lived life to the fullest and encouraged others to do the same. The father of Elaine's four children was Konstantinos Barbatsis (d. 1973) to whom she was married for 25 years. Later she married Walter W. Walker (d. 2001) with whom she shared a wonderful life for 30 years. "I have been married to two fine men," Mom often said, "I've had a good life with both of them." Mom had many friends but spent her final years focused on her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In her own words, "It's really your family you want to be around at this stage of your life." She was known joyfully to her large extended family as YiaYia, Sheesh and Theetsa Leni. Elaine spent her life around the sparkling lakes of Minneapolis, growing up on the east side of Lake Calhoun. She raised her family on the west side of Calhoun and spent nearly 40 years near Lake of the Isles. Looking back, Mom said "I have lived my life around these lakes and loved every minute of it!" Elaine enjoyed serving on the boards of several Minneapolis institutions including The Walker Art Center, Hazelden Foundation, Walker Methodist Foundation, The Johnson Institute, Perspectives, WAMSO and St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. She was

known for her exuberant personality, intelligence and high spirits. She was a social being to her core - a great lover of people. Mom held dear to her heart the philosophy that life is full of choice and possibility! Elaine is survived by her children Nick Barbatsis (Lynne), Kutzi Priest (Jack), Eve Konstantine and Tian Dayton (Brandt). Her 12 grandchildren are Patrick Barbatsis (Kris Indahl), Matthew Barbatsis (Ann), Kara King (Anthony), Emily Basalik (Eric), Carson Priest, Sheffield Priest (Nouli), Eliza Priest (Ashley Murphy), Simeon Priest (Catherine), Aleca King, Tom Mourmouras, Marina Dayton (Jasper van Santen) and Alex Dayton (Chondita). Elaine's 14 great-grandchildren are Benjamin (2004-2018) and Sam Barbatsis, Alex and Zeke Barbatsis, Gabriella and Sam King, Jaelen and Hana Basalik, Elise and Jasmine Murphy, Apollo Priest, Friso and Isabelle van Santen and Asha Dayton. Mom's great-grandchildren thought she was delightful and fun and they basked in her adoring presence. Mom was preceded in death by brother George Legeros, and she is survived by brothers John and Conn Legeros (Dorla). We want to express our deepest gratitude to Melrose Bradbury, Mom's skilled and devoted caregiver for the last several years. We also extend warm appreciation to Olga Diaz for her loving attention over many, many years. Mom's bright legacy for all of us is her zest for life, deep spirituality and great sense of fun! Go peacefully Mom, we love you. You are an inspiration! And, as the Greeks say, Zoe se mas, Life to Us. Our Mother's funeral will be on Wednesday, December 5, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis. A visitation will commence at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, if you wish, please send memorials to St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, the Philoptochos Society. [washburn-mcreavy.com](http://washburn-mcreavy.com) Davies Chapel 612-377-2203

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# Cemetery Details

## Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Previous Events

## Church Service

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Tribute Wall

FH

“ sermon Part II

*. I want to thank Elaine for making St. Mary's Summer camp a beautiful destination, not only for the children way back in 1952, but also for me when I was a child and a teenager. Today Fr. George and I have the privilege to serve as directors of this camp while one of her nieces much of the legwork keeping this beautiful camp going.*

*But now, let us consider the most important destination! Not Sanibel Island. Not Lake Harriet. Not St. Mary's Summer Camp. All these things are just shadows and dim reflections of the real destination...the heavenly destination. It is with thanksgiving and faith in God that Elaine lived, even in her final days. This thankfulness and faith, knowing—and even looking forward to—the next destination. In the Orthodox funeral service we just sang, “Blessed be the road which you travel on today, for has been prepared for you a place of eternal rest.” She said she was ready. She said she was fine with it. She said she was looking forward to her final destination. Now may the God of peace receive Elaine's soul into His heavenly kingdom. Amen.*

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**fr. Jason Houck** - December 05, 2018 at 04:26 PM

“ *Elaine Walker Funeral sermon 12/5/18*

*Good morning. Thank you for coming out to pray for Elaine and also to honor her memory.*

*Today when we gather to pray for Elaine and reflect on her life, I want to bring up a theme, the reoccurring theme of ....destinations. ....destinations. On a winter day like today, we might daydream about tropical destinations like her place down on Sanibel Island. Many of you may have been there or perhaps been invited to visit that lovely place, truly a paradisaal, earthly destination. Her invitation to join her there was, really, a reflection of her generosity and kindness.*

*I had the pleasure to visit Elaine a number of times when she wasn't down on Sanibel Island, but at the Walker Place. I would chat with her, pray with her, and bring the Holy Sacraments to her, as it was difficult for her to attend church here in her later years. I had the privilege to hear some of her stories, one of which I want to tell to you now.*

*Let's go all the way back to 1951. In 1951, Elaine was the president of the Saint Mary's PTA, which oversaw: Sunday School, Greek School, and Vacation Bible School. Vacation Bible School was one week, and the last day of Vacation Bible School was spent at the park at Lake Harriet—another beautiful destination. Elaine told the priest that the kids have so much fun at the Lake compared to the rest of the Vacation Bible School days. So the priest—Fr.*

*Carfopoulos—suggested to take it a notch further and start a summer camp the next year. So, in 1952, Elaine headed a planning committee to start a church camp, St. Mary's Church camp. This camp continues to this day and is, really, a defining ministry of this parish. This brings us to another destination—the shores of Lake Minnetonka, where the first St. Mary's Sumer camp was held. One of Elaine's nieces works with me and coordinates our summer camp. She carries on the beautiful St. Mary's Summer camp tradition. She also shared with me something...very special. Here I have a commemorative album of the first year of St. Mary's summer camp...in the original box and everything. In it, we have Elaine's*

*comments about their first year of summer camp. 66 years ago, Elaine wrote the following:*

*“Hi Darlings. Hi-ho, Hi-ho, it’s off to camp we go. To swim and play and sing all day. Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho...*

*My heart is so happy because never in my wildest dreams did I think camp would be such a huge success! Now we all know each other, and I think we all love one another in a very special way. We just have to come—all of us again next year—and initiate some new ones into the fold, of course. ¡And don’t forget to thank the good Lord for watching so tenderly over each one of us here at camp—be see’in you ! ¡Thanks to everyone and love to everyone!*

*Elaine*

*Well, Elaine’s wish came true, and thousands of children over the past 66 years have been initiated into the fold of the St. Mary’s Summer Camp experience. The camp is still going strong today and is still a HUGE SUCCESS.*

*Perhaps the St. Mary’s Summer camp experience—which still remains the favorite summer destination for many children today—was best described back in 1952 by Deacon Anthony Conairis. He wrote in this same book,*

*“the experience will remain an unforgettable one in my life. I discovered during my stay here that a whole year’s Sunday school work can be covered in the two weeks of camp. The children came carrying in a very receptive mood. They learn that Christianity is not a “goody-goody” religion but a real he-man’s religion. They learn to work, eat, play and still give the proper precedence to prayer and religious instruction. They have formed a lot of good habits which will help them to lay a good foundation for themselves. A Church camp is the best investment any church can make. It is a must! Deacon Conairis.”*

*So here, I have to pause and thank Elaine for the investment she made, the church camp she formed, which was one of the many important foundations she built. I want to thank*