



## Joann Katherine Grabowski (O'Malley)

September 16, 1935 - September 11, 2020

Joann Katherine O'Malley Grabowski

Daughter of Frank and Jennie (Nemanich) Jurisic, Joann was born on September 16, 1935 in Joliet, IL. Raised in Chicago she attended Nazareth Academy then went on to study Latin at Loyola University of Chicago where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. At Loyola she met John G. O'Malley while playing cards. She no doubt won the game, but he won her heart and they married in 1958. Starting out in Oak Park, IL and ultimately settling in DeKalb, IL, Joann and John raised four children. John preceded her death in 1986. Joann, always an avid reader, received her Master's in Library Science from Northern Illinois University writing her thesis against censorship in high school education. She joined the staff of DeKalb Public Library as an outreach librarian and held a number of roles until becoming the director, a position she held for 10 years until she retired in 1997. She moved to the Kalamazoo, MI area to be by her sister and her mother. In 2001 Joann married Walter Grabowski and they lived together on Pretty Lake in the Mattawan, MI area until Walt's death in 2019. She moved to the Shoreview, MN area to be closer to family. Joann was acclimating to MN, cold and all, unfortunately she was sequestered in her senior apartment when COVID hit. As a result, she suffered numerous medical setbacks due to the isolation. She was happy to finally see her family again and had some lovely days overlooking Turtle Lake. Joann was slated to come out of yet another senior care center quarantine on September 11, 2020 and she did, by flying on eagles' wings.

Joann is now playing cards in heaven with her parents, Frank and Jennie Jurisic, sister Carol Grabowski, brother James Juricic and her two husbands John G. O'Malley and Walter Grabowski. She no doubt has already won the game.

Joann will be deeply missed by her surviving family including, her children John F. O'Malley of Minneapolis, MN, Cathy O'Malley (James) Cavalier of Shoreview, MN, Maureen O'Malley (Brent) Rehfuss of White Bear Lake, MN and Carol O'Malley (Craig) Hellman of River Forest, IL, sister-in-law Loretta Juricic, Auburn Hills, MI. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Brien, Maille, Clare Cavalier, Karl, Tori, Zach Rehfuss, and Corey, Kristine, Keven Hellman; numerous nieces, nephews; thirteen step grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A private mass of Christian burial, will be live streamed from St. Odilia Catholic Church Shoreview, MN on September 17, at 11:00 AM [www.youtube.com/St. Odilia](http://www.youtube.com/St.Odilia) channel. She will return to Chicago one last time to rest in eternal peace with her husband John, in St. Joseph's Cemetery, River Grove, IL.

As a devout Catholic, in lieu of flowers, Mom would prefer memorials to St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, MI [stjohnbosco.com](http://stjohnbosco.com) , St. Odilia Catholic Community, Shoreview, MN [stodilia.org](http://stodilia.org) or St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, SD [stjo.org](http://stjo.org)

# Tribute Wall

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“ To the family -- Joann was a dear relative, we did not visit as much as we would have liked, but we kept in touch by mail and an occasional phone call. It is sad at times, but peace comes when we accept that God knows our needs and worries, and His love strengthens us.

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**Jeannette Kraus Just (Jeanne)** - December 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Cathy, Moe, John and Carol,  
You had a great mom, hope you cherish the memories you made with her. I am sure she is happy to be out of quarantine and running free!!

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**Kim and Mark Nyquist** - September 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Cathy, what a wonderful and amazing woman your mom was. I'm glad you were able to spend some time together in MN. Lean on each other and let the strength of your family and the wonderful memories keep you going. Take care, Kirsi

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**Kirsi Dahl** - September 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Cathy, I am so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed reading about your mom. What an amazing life. I will keep you and your family in our prayers. God bless!



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**Elda Bloemendal** - September 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Sorry for loss

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**Loretta and Jennie Juricic** - September 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *Cathy, she sounds like a super smart and wonderful woman and Mom. I hope you and your family can all take comfort in each other and the great memories of your Mom. Take care, Tim.*

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**Tim Boxeth** - September 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Cathy ... my deepest sympathies for your loss. It's very hard to lose a parent but sounds like she is in a better place and having fun again.*

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**Kathy Devine** - September 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *Thinking of you all and sending many prayers as you embark on the days ahead. May you always cherish the memories you had together!*



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**Arlys Krauter and Ciara Capra** - September 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Cathy and family, Kandace and I are very sorry to hear of Joann's passing. From all accounts, she led a full and fruitful life. May God bless her and provide you all comfort, and positive reflections during this time of loss.*

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**Richard and Kandace Morris** - September 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ So Sorry for your loss our prayers are with your Family



Deacon Louis & Anne Zemlick Family - September 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I just read of Joann's passing. I missed seeing them at Sunday morning mass after Walt died. It is good to know that Joann was happy and with family. They were both such sweet people. God Bless your family.

Cindy Bieberle - September 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Steve



Stephen G Simon - September 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

WG

“ Very sad. The last of a generation. They did well.

Walt Grabowski - September 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Love and light to you all. She was a big part of my childhood in DeKalb.

Kris Meshew - September 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Dear Cathy, Mo and the Cavalier / Rehfuss families,  
What a fabulous memorial written to celebrate your Mom. I am so  
sorry that she could not spend more time with you all after moving  
here. Cherish the memories ❤️  
Katie and Gary

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**Katie and Gary Foran** - September 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ We were saddened to learn of our former  
neighbor from Pretty Lake passing but know  
she's in a better place having tons of fun!! Our  
hears goes out to the families and may your  
memories of Joann keep her alive in your  
hearts! Prayers to you all.



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**David and MaryJane Hames** - September 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Thinking of you all during this difficult time

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**Susanne Reisterer** - September 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM