



## Bertha Lucille McFarlane

February 2, 1917 - May 12, 2020

Bertha Lucille (Biondolino) McFarlane passed away on Tuesday evening, May 12, 2020 at the age of 103. She was raised in Hartford, Illinois and, after graduating from Wood River High School, she spent a year working to save enough money to enter the nurses training program at St. Joseph Hospital in Alton, Illinois. Bertha was the president of her nursing class and worked at St. Joseph's Hospital immediately following her graduation. She married Peter J McFarlane on December 26, 1941 and they moved to Chicago, Illinois where Peter completed medical school. They returned to Alton in 1952.

Bertha and Peter raised twelve children: Margaret (deceased) Gibbons (Jon) Baltimore, Maryland; John McFarlane (Linda) Webster Groves, Missouri; Peter McFarlane (Pam) Godfrey, Illinois; Thomas McFarlane (Mary) Kalispell, Montana; Paul McFarlane (Valerie) Grand Marais, Minnesota; Anne Mangus (Ron) Lake Havasu, Arizona; James McFarlane (LouAnn) Godfrey, Illinois; Mary Vaughn (Jeff) Alton, Illinois; Phillip McFarlane (deceased); Joseph McFarlane (Chris) Alton, Illinois; Robert McFarlane (Jo) Malvern, England; and Andrew McFarlane (Cathy) Jacksonville, Florida.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Peter McFarlane, two children (Margaret and Phillip), three brothers (Russell, Phillip, and Jack Biondolino), and one sister (Rosalie Pursley). Surviving siblings include Kay Robertson and Sam Biondolino.

Bertha was devoted to her children as well as her 32 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling and ballroom dancing with her husband. She was an extraordinarily talented quilter. Every child, grandchild, and great grandchild received a baby quilt as well as a graduation quilt and a quilt to commemorate their wedding. She loved to attend quilt shows with her daughters and daughters-in-law. Bertha was part of a quilting group that made and sold quilts to raise money for the Ursuline Convent and other not for profits.

Bertha was famous for her cooking skills and her generosity in sharing the products of that talent. For years she sponsored lasagna dinners at her house on Twelfth Street for Marquette high school athletes and is remembered fondly for those meals. Once, she hosted a lasagna and chicken dinner for the University of Notre Dame Rugby Team. She helped initiate a hot lunch program for the nuns who taught at St. Patrick's grade school

where her children attended. She also was instrumental in developing a parish-wide rummage sale to raise funds for the school.

Bertha and her husband were faithful members of St. Ambrose Catholic Church for over 30 years after they moved from Alton to Godfrey. She loved working in her gardens in both locations and had an expansive Jonquil display on her Godfrey property each spring.

A carcade visitation will be held Monday, May 18, 2020, from 10AM-12PM at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey.

A private Mass of Christian Burial will follow at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey with Fr. Steve Janoski celebrant and Deacon Bill Kessler officiating.

Burial will take place at St. Patrick Cemetery in Godfrey.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Ambrose Catholic Church or Marquette Catholic High School.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**St. Patrick Cemetery**

**MAY**

**Carcade Visitation**

**10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**18**

Godfrey, IL, 62035

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St Ambrose Catholic Church

820 W Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey, IL, US, 62035

# Comments

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“ To each dear member of the family of our beloved Bertha McFarlane - heartfelt sympathy and an assurance of prayer from your Ursuline Sisters. Many a beautiful quilt held countless stitches made by Bertha for the benefit of the Ursuline Sisters of Alton! Moreover, it was she who helped organize a program for the ladies in old St. Patrick's parish to prepare hot meals at noon for our Sisters teaching in the parish school. What a loving and faithful witness Bertha was to all as she lived out her Covenant with God and her Covenant with her dear husband, Peter. How wonderful a welcome Bertha must have received at Heaven's gate! May our Risen Lord Jesus fill you all with the firm hope of seeing and being with Bertha once again, never to be separated. Until then, Bertha is busy looking out for her loved ones even more than she was able to do while she was here on earth.

Ursuline Sisters of Alton

Sr. Mary Beisiegel, OSU - May 20 at 08:14 PM

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“ Just finished watching the beautiful mass! I wish I could have been there But Father forgot to mention that Bertha always remembered the neighborhood kids at Halloween, I couldn't wait to to receive my delicious popcorn ball every year! She always made me laugh at family get togethers. She's rejoicing in heaven now!

Our thoughts and prayers, Kati and Martin Perez

kati perez - May 18 at 01:59 PM

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“ Bertha was my godmother and made every birthday so special with her kindness and generosity. One of my favorite memories was from my first year at college where my roommates and I bragged to some upperclassmen about what great cooks we were. So they challenged us to cook lasagna dinner for them! Having never made lasagna, I called Bertha to ask for her recipe. Of course she said I could have it but, better yet, she had just hosted her annual lasagna dinner for the Marquette football team and had a couple extra pans. I was welcome to have one if I could get to her house to pick it up ... and you'd better believe I did! My roommates and I were instantly famous for our cooking skills ... until we had to admit our scam later on when they wanted a repeat dinner! Years later, Bertha gave me my own "official" lasagna pan and her recipe as my wedding gift ... and I still have both of them to this day 36 years later. Bertha, you were one of a kind and you will be missed. But what a better world it was just having you in it! My condolences to your family. You will always hold a special place in my heart. Love, Buffy

Buffy (Van Buren) Schnurbusch - May 18 at 01:50 PM



“ Buffy (Van Buren) Schnurbusch

**Buffy (Van Buren) Schnurbusch** - May 18 at 01:51 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to the entire family on the passing of Mrs. McFarlane. I remember when I hired at the KC'S to tend bar back in 1975, Pete helped to train me and I met her father, who would walk down from 12th St. for his glass of "Dago Red" (Pre PC). How fortunate for you all to be able to share all those years together. God bless you all.  
Kerry Miller

**Kerry Miller** - May 18 at 11:14 AM

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“ Pete and Pam, I am so glad I saw you and Bertha recently. Never will forget the fine dining at the Mcfarlane home. A truly sweet woman with a big heart.

**Dave Chappee** - May 18 at 10:23 AM

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“ Mrs. McFarland's warmth and welcoming smile. She was a wonderful mother to all her children. My heart goes out to all of her children!

Pam Crivello Allison

**Pam Allison** - May 17 at 07:26 PM

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“ Chip and Tammy Roach purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bertha Lucille McFarlane.



**Chip and Tammy Roach** - May 17 at 02:28 PM

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“ Oh my, Mrs. McFarlane was always happy and willing to help out at St. Patrick's school. She was involved with PTA organization and helping out at school. I had Paul in my class at St. Ambrose and a few of us, Kathy Hickey, Barb Van Buren and Myself (Judy Fortschneider) would walk over to their house on 12th street and go up stairs to the attic and play hide and seek. We always had the best time together. Mrs. McFarlane would always have cookies or brownies for us to eat. What fun we all had at that big house. Good memories. Mrs. McFarlane was a very lovely woman. She will be missed.

Judy Thompson (Fortschneider)

Judy Thompson (Fortschneider) - May 17 at 05:32 AM



“ Paul was in my class at St. Patrick's school. Oops I said St, Ambrose. Sorry

Judy Thompson (Fortschneider) - May 17 at 05:36 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about your loss-she was loved by all-thoughts and prayers to all the family

Nancy Marlow - May 16 at 08:11 PM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Bertha Lucille McFarlane.



May 16 at 05:05 PM

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“ Joe and Chris and McFarlane Family. We are so sorry to hear of your loss. She will be at peace now with the beloved who have gone before her. I first heard of Bertha's quilting skills when Chris and I became friends over 30 years ago. Chris I hope you can wrap yourself in one of her quilts and smile. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Monica and Kim

Monica Wafstet - May 16 at 04:51 PM



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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bertha Lucille McFarlane.



May 16 at 01:06 PM



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“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Bertha Lucille McFarlane.



May 16 at 07:40 AM



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“ I am so very sorry for your loss. She was such a very sweet lady. I loved her smile. Will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Judy Mihalich Clark

**Judy Clark** - May 15 at 12:52 PM



“ Simply, she was my hero! I loved quilting with her, sharing our beautiful grandchildren and being taught by her. I loved her and words cannot express how much I will miss her. She is home now. Anna

**James Baumgartner** - May 15 at 04:54 PM



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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jeff and Mary Vaughn** - May 15 at 12:05 PM



“ What a wonderful picture of Aunt Bertha with her girls, she sure will be missed!!  
Kathy(Frohock)DeNeef I enjoyed all the visits with her when I was up in Illinois. So sorry for your Loss, May the many great memories give you comfort and the peace of the Lord be with you all at this difficult time. Love Kathy

**Kathy (Frohock) DeNeef** - May 15 at 06:02 PM



“ What a great picture of Aunt Bertha and her girls,we had some great visits Kathy,Jeanie and I.Will hate not seeing her,always a smile. Love to all!! Rosemary(Frohock)Lando

**Rosemary Lando** - May 16 at 05:51 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Joseph McFarlane** - May 15 at 08:02 AM

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“ I was one of the lucky ones that got to experience the Lasagne dinners for Marquette. I have known her for many years and she was truly a Christian lady. Will miss her beautiful smile. Thoughts and prayers from us for the whole family.

**Dave and Mary Eckhouse**

**Mary Eckhouse** - May 14 at 11:34 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss my condolences to the family. What a great woman.Among the many memories I have of her and her husband we are the ones that I remembered them attending our Mexican fiesta. They were greatly accepted into our Mexican community It seems like they danced every dance and I was watching his game walked onto the dance floor with such big huge smiles and then when they were finish as they walked off they had even bigger smiles and I could tell they were really enjoying themselves. May perpetual light shine upon her

**Mario Morales** - May 15 at 01:47 PM

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“ Cannot express the emptiness I feel without her here. May God surround her entire family with comfort. Love Jonna



Jonna - May 14 at 04:52 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home - May 14 at 11:25 AM