



Irene Mary Smith

December 26, 1934 - May 11, 2019

Irene Mary Smith (nee Sidor), most recently of Ann Arbor, died peacefully on May 11, 2019, at Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor after a short hospitalization. She was attended in her final days by friends and family and is survived by two of her children, Gregory, and Christopher; two grandchildren, Julia and Samuel; as well as two sisters, Lillian Timma and Helen Wesolowski. She was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Joseph Smith, and her daughter, Julia Smith.

Irene was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, in 1934, where she graduated from St. Ladislaus School in 1952 before going on to earn a science degree from Michigan State University in Lansing in 1956.

She married Joseph Smith of Detroit in 1958, and they remained constant companions as they raised three children in 5 cities on two continents over the following decades. Fondly remembered as a devoted and loving mother by her surviving children, Irene nonetheless actively challenged the social conventions of her time by pursuing a career and identity independent of her husband's from a young age. As a medical technician, she co-authored peer-reviewed research on blood anomalies. Later, she served in a series of roles working for political and advocacy groups, including several years as Director for Safe Power for Maine, a grass-roots anti-nuclear group that led a successful campaign to enact legislation banning the construction of new nuclear-powered plants in the State of Maine.

At age 45, with her children grown, Irene was ready for new challenges and decided to pursue a career in law, graduating from the University of Maine School of Law in 1983. She subsequently worked in both private practices and as a family law advocate for the State of New Hampshire before her retirement in 2006.

She and her husband Joseph shared a lifelong passion for environmentalism and outdoor activities of all kinds, including hiking, skiing, and bird-watching. She also loved the arts and cultural activities, often traveling to Chicago, New York, Europe and elsewhere for

plays, concerts, shows, and exhibitions.

Visitation will be at the Nie Funeral Home, 2400 Carpenter Road in Ann Arbor, starting Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 2:00 p.m until 9 p.m. A rosary service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

The funeral mass will be Friday, May 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 530 Elizabeth Street, Ann Arbor. A luncheon in the church hall will follow immediately afterward.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 02:00PM - 09:00PM

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Carpenter Road Chapel

2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48108

MAY **Rosary** 05:30PM

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Carpenter Road Chapel

2400 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48108

MAY **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

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St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

530 Elizabeth St., MI, US, 48104

MAY **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

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St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

530 Elizabeth St., MI, US, 48104