



## Marion Parker Berard

April 20, 2024

Berard, Marion (Marnie) passed away on April 20, 2024 after a brief illness. She was the beloved wife of the late Jean-Paul Berard with whom she shared 63 wonderful years of marriage. Born in Boston in 1930, she lived most of her life in Connecticut and met Jean when she was 16 while he was visiting her neighbor in Manchester. Jean left to serve in the U.S. army stationed in Sendai, Japan, asked her to write to him, returned in time for her senior prom and married in 1951. Together they embarked upon lives committed to community service, devotion to their faith and love for their five children. Along with her husband, she is predeceased by her son Victor Berard, daughter Kathleen Sally Devine, brother Frank Parker and sister Mary Theroux. Marnie graduated from Springfield School of Nursing and received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. Joseph College in West Hartford. Her career in nursing was notable for her roles during historic health events. With the help of Jean and a few doctors, they set up free polio vaccine clinics, receiving written thanks from Jonas Salk for helping to eradicate polio. In 1966 she worked with the Windsor Locks Health District to introduce Medicare to the health practices in Town. She later worked at nursing homes and served as the Director of Kimberly Hall Nursing Home. She began working at St. Francis Hospital not long after moving to West Hartford in 1971. When HIV/AIDS first emerged Marnie introduced the protocols for caring for those patients. In her role as a Case Manager/Discharge Planner she worked with many grieving families and

came out of retirement to serve as a Bereavement Coordinator at St. Francis Hospital.

She was a member of St. Peter Claver Church since 1971, singing in their remarkable church choir, assisting Jean in his duties as Youth Minister, making stone soup to serve during Lent, establishing an annual craft fair, Breakfast with Santa, and was a founding member of the Church book club. The club has been meeting for over 22 years and Marnie treasured the enduring friendships she shared with the members. She was awarded the St. Joseph medal from the Archdiocese of Hartford in recognition of her faithful service to the parish. Her spiritual journey, honed by her course work in pastoral ministry, continued throughout her life. Her children and grandchildren looked forward to her daily text with a Thought For The Day from her readings.

Marnie is survived by her sister Peggy and husband Watson Luper, children Suzanne and husband Mario Rodriguez, Denise and husband Thomas Hall, Steven Berard and wife Trisha, nine grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be Thursday, April 25th at 8:30 a.m. at the Church of St. Peter Claver Parish Hall, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford with a Mass of Christian Burial following at 10:00 a.m. in the church. Interment will follow the mass in Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider donations to Mercy Housing & Shelter or The House of Bread, both in Hartford. Molloy Funeral Home, West Hartford is assisting the Berard family with arrangements. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

APR **25**. 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Peter Claver  
47 Pleasant St.  
West Hartford, CT

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Peter Claver  
47 Pleasant St.  
West Hartford, CT

## Interment Service

APR **25**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fairview Cemetery  
200 Whitman Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 521-5270

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ Marnie was indeed a wonderful addition to the St. Francis Hospice staff. She came out of retirement to serve as our Bereavement Coordinator after completing her pastoral care degree at St. Joseph's. She not only offered a very personal touch to her work with bereaved families but also ministered to our staff as well. We had several lovely Christmas breakfasts in her warm home. My condolences to the entire family on the death of your matriarch.

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**Susan Pearson** - April 27, 2024 at 07:00 PM

CT

“ On behalf of the Sarah Whitman Hooker chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, we extend our deepest condolences to Marnie's family. She was a cherished member and past chapter Chaplain. May her memory be a blessing. Claudia Teitelbaum, Regent

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**Claudia Teitelbaum** - April 25, 2024 at 09:57 AM

GR

“ I worked with Marnie, at St. Francis, for many years. She was a kind, loving person and, with her late husband, hosted lots of fun parties for her co-workers.  
Please accept my sympathy upon the loss of your matriarch.  
Greta L. Rich

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**Greta L. Rich** - April 24, 2024 at 08:41 PM

DD

“ DENISE DAUKAS lit a candle in memory of Marion Parker Berard



DENISE DAUKAS - April 23, 2024 at 07:51 PM

MD

“ My thoughts and prayers to Marnie’s family. We had so many wonderful conversations together about her life and family whom she loved dearly while she lived at The Gables. One day I noticed her texting. She told me she texted her loved ones inspirational quotes or messages each day. She shared with me her beautiful book “A Promise Of A New Day” in which she would find her messages for the day. She was so loving, appreciative and very kind. She truly is an inspiration to me. I was blessed to have met her. On of my favorite pictures of her enjoying reading in the library.



Maria Daddario - April 23, 2024 at 03:15 PM

DH

Thank you Maria for sharing your comments. We so treasured getting her Thoughts for the Day and she loved sitting in the library after breakfast with all of you. She was a remarkable woman and we will miss her dearly. I know she loved it there at the Gables.

Denise Berard Hall - April 23, 2024 at 08:50 PM

ML

“ Dear Denise and Family,

*I met your mother a couple of times. She was a very sweet and kind person. It seemed like she dedicated her life to helping others and making this world a better place. That is about the best that you can say about someone. She was very special! I am very sorry for your loss.*

*Mark Lewis*

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**Mark Lewis** - April 23, 2024 at 03:11 PM

DH

*Thank you Mark - she was special indeed!*

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**Denise Berard Hall** - April 23, 2024 at 08:55 PM

ML

“ *Mark Lewis lit a candle in memory of Marion Parker Berard*



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**Mark Lewis** - April 23, 2024 at 03:06 PM

ML

“ *Marnie was a long-time good friend of and co-worker with my late wife Ann Long at St Francis Hospital for a number of years. Ann spoke of her often and visited with her many times after her retirement. Ironically Marnie passed away four years and a day after Ann (Apr 19, 2020). May she rest in peace and may you - her family - take comfort in her memory forever. Mike Long*

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**Mike Long** - April 23, 2024 at 01:39 PM

DH

*Thank you Mike for sharing. Mom had such esteem for Ann and enjoyed working with her. It is so hard to believe they have both passed now.*

Denise Berard Hall - April 24, 2024 at 09:36 PM

LL

“ Love, The Connelys and Lowerys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marion Parker Berard.

Love, The Connelys and Lowerys - April 23, 2024 at 12:33 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Marion Parker Berard.



April 23, 2024 at 12:33 PM

SF

“ Shu Komiya & family purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Marion Parker Berard.



Shu Komiya & family - April 23, 2024 at 05:04 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Marion Parker Berard.



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April 23, 2024 at 12:02 AM



“ We were blessed to have known Mrs. Bernard and her husband. We have such respect for them both for all their service and willingness to do for others.t. I know she lived a happy full life and she is now at peace with Mr. Bernard. Our deepest sympathy to her family may they find comfort in all the wonderful memories they shared together. With Love, Richard and Janet Fournier

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janet fournier - April 22, 2024 at 06:23 PM



Love you Janet!

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Denise Berard Hall - April 24, 2024 at 09:33 PM



“ Norma & John Green planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marion Parker Berard.

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Norma & John Green - April 22, 2024 at 12:04 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marion Parker Berard.*



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April 22, 2024 at 12:04 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marion Parker Berard.*



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April 22, 2024 at 09:58 AM



“ *Gordon and Elizabeth (Samsvick) Isaac planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marion Parker Berard.*

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**Gordon and Elizabeth (Samsvick) Isaac - April 22, 2024 at 09:58 AM**