



# Carolyn Ann Ernst

FEB 16, 1935 - DEC 18, 2024



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# Carolyn Ann Ernst

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**C**arolyn Ann Ernst, 89, passed away on December 18, 2024, in Imboden Creek Senior Living and Rehab. Born on February 16, 1935, in Decatur, IL to Vincent R. “Benny” and Opal P. (Wiggins) Ernst, she was one of eight children and the last one to leave this earth. She was a loving daughter, sister, cousin and aunt and is reunited with her parents, siblings and other relatives for all eternity.

Carolyn was a lifelong member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, attended St. Patrick’s Grade School and was a 1952 graduate of St. Teresa High School where she was the Homecoming Queen. In February of 1957 she began employment in the orthodontic practice of Drs. Winters, Williams and Staley and continued employment with Drs. Slusar and Bishop and Hage Orthodontics. She retired in July of 2000 at the age of 65 after 43 years. While working she helped provide home care to her sisters Janie and Barbara during their illnesses and after retirement to her brother Bob. Over the years she enjoyed watching family members participate in various sports and was a lifelong fan of the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cubs. A highlight for her was to see the Cubs win the World Series during her lifetime. She co-hosted countless and fun family get-togethers, bowled, played tennis and traveled to Ireland to explore her Irish roots and to see the beautiful and vivid green landscape.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents; sisters: Janet, Margaret Jane “Janie” and Barbara; brothers: Thomas “Tommy”, John “Jack”, Robert “Bob”, David “Butch”, and sister-in-law Mary Ann (McDonald) Ernst. She is survived by her sister-in-law Marie Ernst Rademacher, “a most important friend in my life”; nieces from Marie and Jack: Janet Ernst (Ron Neideffer), Lisa (Jim) Feriozzi and Mary Ann (Jim) Pollard; niece from Marie and Joe Rademacher: Kathryn “Katie” Rademacher. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Karen (Reeves) Ernst; nieces from Karen and Butch: Martha Jane Ernst and Amy (Ron) Grove; nephews from Karen and Butch: David Ernst Jr., John (Rachel) Ernst and Vince (Lani) Ernst. She is also survived by seven great-nieces, three great-nephews, three great-great-nephews and one great-great-niece and cousins, friends and former co-workers.



## Obituary

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The Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday (12-28-2024) at St Patrick's Church with visitation one hour prior to the service. Father Chris Comerford will officiate the service. Private burial in Calvary Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to St. Patrick's Church, St. Patrick's School and to Calvary Cemetery in care of St. Patrick's Church.

The family would like to thank the many caregivers, staff, volunteers and visitors that Carolyn has had over the last three years.

Condolences can be left for the family at [www.moranandgoebel.com](http://www.moranandgoebel.com)

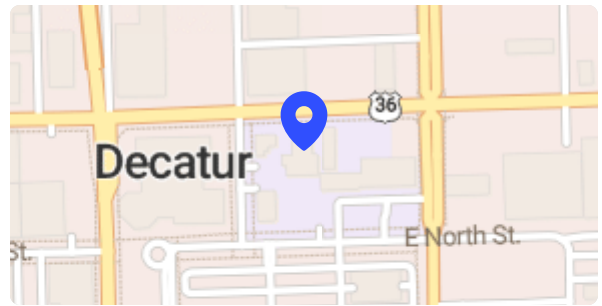


# Events

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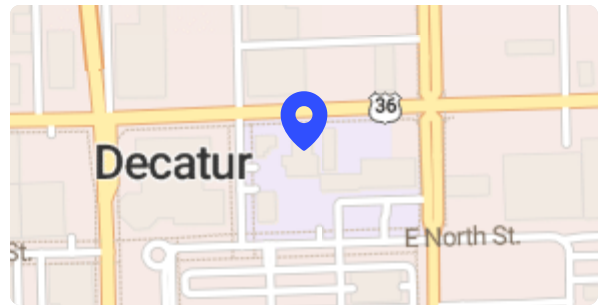
## Visitation

- 📅 **Saturday**, December 28, 2024
- 🕒 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- 📍 **St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
407 E. Eldorado Ave., Decatur IL 62523



## Funeral Mass

- 📅 **Saturday**, December 28, 2024
- 🕒 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT
- 📍 **St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
407 E. Eldorado Ave., Decatur IL 62523



## Cemetery Details

- 📍 Calvary Cemetery, Decatur



## Tribute Wall

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DE

**Donna Brandis Ehler** posted:

To Carolyn's Family: I didn't recognize the name, but I recognized that beautiful smile when I was reading the newspaper obituaries. I was an orthodontist patient of Dr. Staley 40 years ago. Carolyn was such a lovely lady, always so nice and always had a sweet smile, which obviously left a long-lasting impression on me. I'm sorry for your loss. I'm sure she will be dearly missed by many.

December 28 at 4:50 AM

BW

**Brenna Woolery** posted:

Carolyn was one of my favorite ladies when I worked in therapy at Imboden! I loved visiting with her and listening to her stories and memories! I'll always remember her rolling her eyes and telling me Lisa and Janet fussed over her too much! But she loved it! My condolences to the family.

December 28 at 3:04 AM

KE

**Karen Reeves Ernst** posted:

Carolyn was a very understanding sister-in-law and loved her nieces and nephews. She never forgot them after Butch and I moved out of Decatur. Butch's took us to southern Illinois. Caroline always came to visit and help with the babies. Carolyn sent cards may visits to see us and was famous for sending two dollar bills for birthdays and special occasions now I don't even think they make those two dollar bills. on birthdays(which are collectors items now. I believe they stopped making that particular two dollar bill)I remember she was always very competitive with her brothers (Butch, Bob, and Jack). It was who ran faster. Of course the boys always said they were winning. How is remember her and her jeans rolled up above her ankle penny loafers and a plaid shirt ready to take on the day at the end of the day there was a martini glass chilling in the refrigerator for the nightly cocktail. I miss her and still remember many good times it's sad to see the last of the original Ernst family missing from this earth. Sincerely, Karen Reeves.Ernst

December 24 at 10:49 PM

CM

**Connie Matherly** lit a candle in honor of Carolyn.

Janet & family. Sending my deepest condolences & sympathy to you all. May all the memories you've shared help you through your time of sorrow

December 23 at 2:00 PM





## Tribute Wall

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**Laura Collins** posted:

Carolyn is my Moms best childhood friend from St Pats. Suzy Gebhart. I loved Carolyn's friendly peaceful way and how she and my Mom would laugh together. When my mom returned to Decatur we three women would go The Wharf together for lunch. I couldn't find the picture I took of us but will send to MaryAnn when i find it!! I am blessed to have known such a beautiful one of a kind soul!! And my mom just adored her. Besties love lives forever. RIP Carolyn and I think you and Mom are giggling in heaven now. So much joy. My sincere condolences to Carolyn's family. xo

December 23 at 9:29 AM



**Beth Jacobs-Neisslie** posted:

This sweet lady taught me so very much over the years i worked with her at Dr Slusar and Bishops office. She was such a good listener and wise council. My most sincere condolences to her family she will be missed

December 23 at 3:31 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Carolyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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