



Frances Matthew

June 3, 1938 - February 18, 2024

Frances Ann Matthew (85) beloved mother and grandmother, also known as Grandma Fran, went to be with The Lord on February 18, 2024.

She was born in Ludlow, Massachusetts in 1938 to parents Albert and Mary Berkowicz. Frances attended Ludlow High School before earning her legal secretary certificate at North Harris County College. She went to work at a law office in Houston and continued her career working at Chevron and then Halliburton.

Frances was preceded in death by her father, Albert Berkowicz, her mother Mary Berkowicz, her nephew, David Gadarowski and her sister Jeannette Gadarowski. She is survived by her daughter Donna Hennis (Michael) and by her three sons, James Matthew (Julie), Thomas Matthew (Annie), and Craig Matthew (Cathy). Frances is also survived by her eight grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter.

In addition to spending time with her family, Frances enjoyed cooking gourmet meals and took great pleasure in sewing clothing as well as household furnishings. She also loved to travel. Her favorite destination was to be by the ocean so that she could smell and feel the salt air. Frances liked to keep busy by meeting up with friends for lunch, going shopping, playing Bingo, participating in all types of exercise classes, and collecting and reading

cookbooks.

A memorial service will be held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in the Mary Chapel.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
19222 TX-249
Houston, TX 77070
(281) 469-2686

Mary Chapel

Tribute Wall

BH

“ My grandma always made us feel like we were the one in the room she wanted to meet and I feel that she always treated everyone that way equally. So it was always a lot of fun coming over to her house or having her over to ours. Always a ray of sunshine for me and everyone around her-not even an exaggeration. I'll always remember how it felt to be at her home on the holidays, the meals we had, the stories we heard and told, and just the time we had together. So many of us were so fortunate to have known such a matriarch.



Brandon Hennis - March 08, 2024 at 08:07 PM

JG

“ Love from cousin joanne gauthier

johanna gauthier - February 28, 2024 at 12:43 PM

LJ

“ Love from your cousins Darleen, Cindy, and Joanne planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Matthew.

Love from your cousins Darleen, Cindy, and Joanne - February 24, 2024 at 09:32 AM

CC

“ *Frances was a sweet lady and I enjoyed visiting with her at the Y and going to lunch when we could. Carolyn Calvert*

carolyn calvert - February 23, 2024 at 08:18 PM

JB

“ *Fran was a great friend and a very classy lady. I miss her already. We had so much fun cruising and especially after 9/11 when we went to Europe and saw great places and even returned to visit London and Paris. We met 40 years ago and became friends right away. It's hard to let go.*

Juanita Barnett Bilbo - February 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

ES

Fran was a special , loving person . She was so proud of her family and always wanted to tell you about them . We had so many good times together, at the y , visiting in our homes, going to lunch and long phone visits. I will miss her. Thanks Donna for keeping me in touch when she didn't feel like talking.

Eva Snyder - February 24, 2024 at 11:47 AM

CM

“Grandma Fran is what Reese and Cole called their sweet, fun loving grandma. Whenever they saw her she always had nice little thoughtful gifts for them whether it was just a happy meal toy (when they were young) or a sweet treat. More recently she would bring them an item of hers that had important memories attached to it that they will always cherish. She was such the cheerleader for whatever the boys had going on...especially attending Cole's band events with such pride.

Grandma Fran was always fun to go out to eat with. Since she was such a great cook she always ordered the best choice on the menu and everyone was always envious of her meal. Craig and I really love that Reese inherited her passion for cooking. She shared her recipes with him and he even learned to cook her favorite cheesecake. Fran always cooked the family favorites for holidays and we plan to keep up those traditions in her honor.

Fran had a specialty quality of always making sure you knew how much you mattered to her. She always checked in on us and wanted to keep up with what was going on in our lives, with our jobs, and what the boys were up to. You knew that she was really listening and really cared. She was good at making sure you felt her love.

The Matthew family just won't be the same without Grandma Fran but our love and fond memories of her will be in our hearts always!

Love - Craig, Cathy, Reese and Cole Matthew



Cathy Matthew - February 22, 2024 at 07:53 PM

TA

“ Tracy Adams purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Frances Matthew.



Tracy Adams - February 22, 2024 at 05:01 PM

TA

“ Tracy Adams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances Matthew.

Tracy Adams - February 22, 2024 at 05:01 PM

MA

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Matthew family at this difficult time. Fran was a very special woman who touched many lives. Always smiling and sharing a fun story. She took delight & pride in everything that her children, grandchildren & great granddaughter accomplished. She will be truly missed, rest in peace. Love, Bill & Martha Adams

Martha Adams - February 22, 2024 at 02:15 PM

DO

“ So many memories. From “You kids are driving me crazy” to “Everything I do, I do for my kids”.

A million questions. Every time I would have friends over they would always say your mom is so nice. That’s how she was. She was nice, kind, fair, and always interested in you. She could start up a conversation with everyone and everybody and would ask you a million questions to get to know you.

A great cook. Mom was a gourmet cook. Our kitchen was full of pots & pans, kitchen gadgets, cookbooks and different foods. She loved to bake and cook. But cooking for 4 kids was not easy. Every week at the dinner table she would hear: I don’t want sauce on my noodles, I don’t like tuna fish, my cereal is soggy or ew, I’m not going to eat THAT.

An expert seamstress. Mom would make a lot of her own clothes and mine too. Sometimes we wore matching outfits. She even made ties for dad and curtains and bedspreads when we would move into a new house. I always thought I had the cutest clothes from mini and midi dresses to a red patent leather maxi coat. That’s why Teenie called me Mini.

The stories. Starting back in 1973 during the summer we would do the laundry down in the basement and watch soap operas. She would explain everything to me about what was going on. Now, 50 years later, we would still watch the same stories and discuss them almost every day.

The funny engagement story. Mike and I officially got engaged out at a restaurant with mom and dad. After Mike put the ring on my finger, Mom told me to meet her in the ladies room. I went into the ladies room and she wasn’t there. I went back to the table and she wasn’t there either. So, dad had to go and find her. He did. Oops. She was in the men’s room by mistake.

She was a great mom. I believe her philosophy was to let everybody just be. Just be themselves. I know we drove her crazy sometimes but she loved us. She loved us our entire lives. As I heard Julie say, she was there for us when we were born and now we were all there for her at the end.

Over and out Mother. Talk later.

I will be ready for your million questions.

Donna - February 22, 2024 at 10:27 AM