



Barbara Jane Mathews

November 2, 1952 - February 27, 2026

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With profound sadness and unwavering faith in eternal life, the family of Barbara Jane Mathews announces her passing on February 27, 2026. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Barbara lived a life grounded in Christ's love and devotion to serving others. She moved to Benicia, California from Minnesota in 1986, where she raised her children, volunteering in their classrooms and serving as a Girl Scout leader. In 1995, she settled in American Canyon, where she furthered her education, earning two associate degrees with honors and later, her bachelor's degree. As an Eligibility Benefits Specialist for Solano County since 2002, she dedicated her career to helping those in need. Barbara's work family was very dear to her heart. She spoke of them with gratitude for the kindness, support and sense of purpose they brought to her life.

Barbara loved playing cards with family and gathering with her monthly Bunco group. She poured herself into creating cherished traditions and memories with her large family. A devoted parishioner of Holy Family Church in American Canyon and St. Dominic's Church in Benicia, her life reflected Christ's compassion, humility and unconditional love. She wrote heartfelt letters to family and friends, donated quietly to charities, and carried others in prayer through every season of their lives.

Barbara is survived by her beloved children, Jason Mathews, Robyn Tobias-Meitz (Michael), Kelsey Ruiz (Marco), and Sarah Ferrucci (James) and her treasured grandchildren, Mauraga, Cade, Kayleen, Nicholas, Dominik, Dilynn, and Jacob, each of whom held a very special place in her heart. Nothing brought her more joy than both her blood and honorary grandchildren did, as the number of people that lovingly call her “Grandma” grew throughout the years.

She is also survived by her siblings, Patrick Hughes (Cindy) and Margaret Hughes and her former husband, Jeffrey Mathews.

She was welcomed into eternal rest by her parents, George and Emerine Hughes; her daughter, Heatherlea Mathews; her brother, Michael Hughes (Terry); and her parents-in-law, Winifred and Louis Mathews.

Barbara’s legacy is one of love, prayer and selfless devotion. She showed her family what it means to live humbly with grace, to love unconditionally and to trust deeply in God’s plan. The traditions she created, the prayers she whispered and the love she gave so freely will remain woven into the hearts of those that know her forever.

She will be loved forever, always and longer xoxoxo

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” Proverbs 31:25–26

Visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19th followed by a Vigil service at 6:00 p.m. at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 20th at St. Dominic’s Church followed by burial at St. Dominic’s Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to St. Dominic’s Church in Benicia in her honor.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 2:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel
901 W Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-3130
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Vigil Service

MAR 19. 6:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel
901 W Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-3130
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 20. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Dominic's Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510-3057
(707) 747-7220

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Nothing I say will take away the sting of losing your mom. My heart aches for what you are going through and what you are feeling. But they say a person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, for they are still alive in our hearts, that through us, they live on. After the tears have dried and the goodbyes have been said, all we have is happy memories that we've shared with them. So, the one thing I wish for, is that those fond memories of your mother bring you comfort during this hard time in your life. My heart and prayers go out to you!! Thank you for loaning us Ms. Barbara, we loved her very much and tried our best to take care of her always! -Ray Lawson

Ray - March 19 at 08:17 PM

MD

“ Marlon Dunbar lit a candle in memory of Barbara Mathews



Marlon Dunbar - March 19 at 01:20 PM

NG

“ Nicole Chavira Garcia lit a candle in memory of Barbara Mathews



Nicole Chavira Garcia - March 19 at 03:09 AM

GO

“ Glen, Kathy, Jess and O’Klynn purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Barbara Jane Mathews.



Glen, Kathy, Jess and O’Klynn - March 17 at 03:56 PM

S1

“ SEIU Local 1021 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jane Mathews.

SEIU Local 1021 - March 13 at 09:23 PM

S1

“ SEIU Local 1021 purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Barbara Jane Mathews.



SEIU Local 1021 - March 13 at 09:23 PM

DK

“ Barbara and I worked together many years in ODAS. Her quiet demeanor was calming in the busy every day workload. She served the ODAS community well with patience and kindness. She touched a lot of lives in a positive way. It was a privilege to work with and know her. May God hold the family close and with blessings as he welcomes Barbara home. Denise Kaufman

Denise F Kaufman - March 12 at 01:39 PM

RF

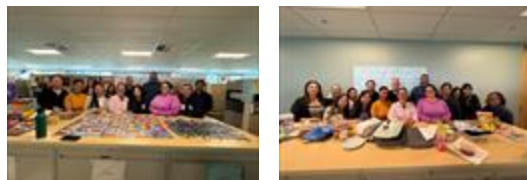
“ I've had the pleasure of working with Barbara and she always had a pleasant and sweet presence. She was a quiet force that did her job and did it very well. We honor her life who touched many others lives with her kindness, dedication and gentle soul. Barbara will truly be missed. May she Rest in Peace.



RobyLyn Fernandez - March 10 at 01:43 PM

VR

“ 2 files added to the album Barbara & Coworkers



Veronica Rios - March 09 at 04:58 PM

VR

“ I had the honor of having Barbara as a co-worker for almost 4 years. Barbara was always so sweet to me. I'm going to miss hearing her say "Good Morning Veronica" when she would see me at the reception window. She was truly a wonderful, kind person and will be missed tremendously. The office is not the same without her. May she rest in peace.

Veronica Rios - March 09 at 04:47 PM

LM

“ Barbara will be so very missed. My family and I were lucky to live next door to her for the past 12 years. She was always so kind to us and such a warm presence in the neighborhood. Barbara truly had a beautiful heart and a gentle spirit. The world could use more people like her. We feel grateful to have known her, and we will always remember her fondly.



Louan Morales - March 07 at 12:25 AM

SH

“ Shawntay lit a candle in memory of Barbara Mathews



Shawntay - March 06 at 07:43 PM

LH

“ Barbara was a very sweet person. Did not participate in any kind of innuendo or nonsense things in the office. She just worked and liked a harmonious environment. I've worked with her for a long time and I'm gonna miss her. It was a shock that she's gone but maybe it's God's will. As the song goes "May the choir of angels come to greet you. May they speed you to paradise. May the Lord enfold you in His mercy. May you find eternal life."

Lorna V. Harris - March 06 at 01:42 PM

MN

“ *Very sorry for your loss - I hadn't kept in touch very well, so am very grateful I was able to catch up with her at cousin Mike's funeral. What a meaningful life!*

Mike Nesemann

michael nesemann - March 06 at 10:56 AM