



## Barbara M. (Klafta) Guertin

November 4, 1942 - December 24, 2025

Barbara M. (Klafta) Guertin, 83, of Bourbonnais, passed away peacefully on Dec. 24th, rejoining her beloved husband Ronald after a love story that spanned more than six decades.

Born November 4, 1942, in Kankakee, IL, to Leonard Klafta, Sr. and Vesta (Milton) Klafta, Barbara graduated from St. Patrick's High School in 1960. That same year, on November 30th, she married Ronald L. Guertin, beginning a devoted partnership that would last 62 years until his passing on July 1, 2024.

Barbara's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her three children: William J. (Sherri), of Bourbonnais; Jennifer (Luther, Jr.) Carter, of Bradley; and Susan Barclay-Navey, of Bourbonnais; and one sister, Helen Kelley (Ralph Levange) of Kankakee. Her 10 grandchildren include Kyle (Alexandra) Guertin of Myrtle Beach, SC; Ryan (Alicia) Guertin of Bourbonnais; Tyler (Haleigh) Guertin of Bourbonnais; Victoria Werling of Chicago; Thomas (Jane) Carter of Colorado Springs, CO; Jeanette Carter (Greg Lambert) of Bradley; Sara Carter of Bradley; Molly (Leroy) Sthay of Bourbonnais; Mandy Barclay of Bourbonnais; and Maggie (Michael) Barclay, as well as 16 great-grandchildren. Though she worked at Model Finance, the Paramount Theatre, and Peoples Bank, her true vocation was as a homemaker, where she enjoyed being a wife, mother and grandmother. A woman of generous spirit and boundless energy, Barbara served her community through the Kankakee Junior Woman's Club, the Gabettes, and the Red Hat Society. Her crowning achievement was co-creating the "Spice of Life" benefit variety show in 1984, to which she devoted over 20 years. This beloved annual event raised more than \$175,000 for Harbor House of Kankakee County, touching countless lives.

In quieter moments, Barbara found peace in her garden, building puzzles, playing Scrabble and mahjongg, and watching the birds and wildlife that visited her backyard sanctuary.

Visitation will be held Friday, Jan. 2nd, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, Jan. 3rd beginning at 10:00 am at Schreffler, officiated by Deacon Patrick Skelly, followed by a brief burial service in the mausoleum at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais.

Memorial contributions may be made to Harbor House of Kankakee County.



# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. State Rte. 102  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 2.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel  
1900 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-2421  
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Service

**JAN 3.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel  
1900 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-2421  
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ *.Such fond memories of babysitting for your family back in the day. Your mom gave me the best Christmas present....homemade cookies in a bucket made to look like a poinsettia plant.  
They were a wonderful couple.*

Karen Purcell Mann - January 06 at 12:20 PM

GK

“ *I did not know Barb well, but I knew her son very well and worked with him for several years at the radio station. She and her husband appeared to be warm, loving parents and overall great people involved in the community. My sincere sympathies to her entire family, especially Bill and Sherry.*

Glendal Kilbride - January 01 at 10:54 PM

IK

“ *Barbara and I were besties. We were active members of Kankakee Jr. Woman's Club participating in the Follies and other activities. We went on cruises together and played tennis on weekends in our younger days. She was a stylish lady who had a big heart. She will surely be missed.*

Irene Rivard Kibbons - December 31, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ *Such a sweet lady my gma Luella Watson helped at the spice of life and was part of the JWC along with Aunt Loretta Mason my mom Linda Estes worked for riverside for over 20 years*

Luella Estes - December 31, 2025 at 09:12 AM

MM

“ *MR MRS lit a candle in memory of Barbara M. (Klafta) Guertin*



MR MRS - December 30, 2025 at 11:22 AM

JJ

“ *Jolinda Lottinville Jones lit a candle in memory of Barbara M. (Klafta) Guertin*



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**Jolinda Lottinville Jones** - December 30, 2025 at 06:22 AM