



## Darlene J. Dunbar

December 21, 1938 - November 7, 2020

Mineral Point – Darlene J. (Ariss) Dunbar, age 81, of Mineral Point passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 7, 2020, at Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in rural Dodgeville.

She was born in Woodman Township (Grant County) on December 21, 1938, the daughter of Alfred and Lenice (Foster) Ariss. She attended elementary school in Millville, Wisconsin, and was graduated from Boscobel High School in 1956 and Vernon County Teachers' College in 1965. She taught elementary school in Wauzeka, Wisconsin, for one year before marrying the love of her life, Francis (Frank), on July 23, 1966, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Darlene's faith played a central role in her life. Raised Methodist, she converted to Catholicism and sacramentally married Frank at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, on July 23, 1973 and became very involved in the Church, assuming leadership positions in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Council of Catholic Women (at the local, county and diocesan levels). She also served the Congregation of Ss. Mary and Paul in Mineral Point as a religious education teacher, as the Coordinator of Religious Education for six years, and as a volunteer at innumerable activities for the parish, including initiating (with her daughter, Wendy) the pasty sale fundraisers which continue to this day.

While raising her three children, she ran an in-home child care (keeping in touch with many of her “kids” until the end of her life), sold Stanley Home products, decorated the most delicious cakes, and did sewing alterations for people all over the Mineral Point area for many years.

Mom’s generosity to others was without bounds, and she was always there for anyone who needed a meal, a prayer, or just a friendly visit. She was very involved in her community, serving as a Cub Scout Den Leader, Cub Scout Cubmaster, Mineral Point Schools Music Booster officer, Loras College Parents’ Advisory Council member, Iowa County Board of Elections canvasser (30 years), and American Red Cross blood drive coordinator (30 years). In 2017, she was honored and humbled to be recognized by American Legion Post 170 as the “Mineral Point Citizen of the Year.”

She was a wonderful role model for her children and grandchildren, whom she adored with all her heart. She loved attending their events, bragging about their accomplishments, baking them yummy treats, teasing them lovingly, and just accepting them each for their own unique gifts.

Darlene is survived by her twin sons, Ronald (Julie) of DeForest and Donald (Sandy Sullivan-Dunbar) of Evanston, Illinois; her daughter, Wendy (John) Ondande of Oak Park, Illinois; her 10 grandchildren, Katie, Jacob (Kelsey Lange), and Michaela Dunbar, Ian and Cullen Dunbar, and Kemunto, Sagana, Moruri, Misiani, and Yobes Ondande; her sister-in-law, Audrey Ariss; her brother-in-law, Michael Flynn; her nieces, nephews, and godchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, her parents, Alfred and Lenice, her sisters, Lillian and Betty, her brother, David, her nephew, Tom Flynn, and her brother-in-law, Ernie Buss.

Special thanks to Dr. Gordon Grieshaber, the wonderful staff at Bloomfield,

and many special friends and amazing neighbors who cared for Mom so well. You will forever be in our hearts.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, November 14, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mineral Point, with Fr. Michael Tarigopula officiating. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all services will be private with immediate family only. A live stream of the service at can be found on the St-Mary-St-Pauls website at 11:00 a.m. <https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Congregation-of-St-Marys-St-Pauls-113542338679461/>

Memorials made in Darlene's name will be given to the American Red Cross, also memorial cards may be sent to the Gorgen Funeral Home, 310 Ridge St., Mineral Point, WI 53565

# Cemetery Details

## **St. Mary's Cemetery**

700 Dodge Street  
Mineral Point, WI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Darlene J. Dunbar*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Darlene's passing. I was a classmate riding the Woodman bus to high school. We shared many laughs and memories together. She was a grand lady. My pleasure in know Darlene. Lois Jean Rands Kamps*

**Lois Jean Kamps** - March 28, 2021 at 04:41 PM



“ *I am so sorry to have just found out about the lost of your mother. Darlene was a beautiful lady. She took such wonderful care of my boys and so many others when they were little. They loved to go to Darlene's! It was awesome to be able to go to work and know how well my boys were being taken care of. Sending you our thoughts and prayers!*

**Judy (Carey) Pelton** - November 13, 2020 at 05:27 PM



*Thank you for your kind words, Judy! Mom loved taking care of your boys and all the other kids. Once a teacher, always a teacher and such a kind soul. God bless you all.*

**Ron** - November 14, 2020 at 06:48 AM

AC

“ Abigail Joy Cajayon lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar



Abigail Joy Cajayon - November 13, 2020 at 10:05 AM

JR

“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Your Mom was always kind and loving. She was very good to my Mom and Dad(Aunt Lois and Uncle Vernon). She was a Blessing, and now she is with her Heavenly Father. May memories keep her in your hearts forever💕  
With Love and Sympathy,  
Joyce (Rounds) and Dean Roth

Joyce Roth - November 13, 2020 at 09:46 AM

RO

Thank you, Joyce and Dean. Mom loved your mom and dad and all of you so much! She always looked so forward to the family reunions each year and to traveling with dad to see the aunts and uncles and cousins when they could. God bless you all.

Ron - November 14, 2020 at 06:50 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Darlene J. Dunbar.



November 12, 2020 at 01:51 PM

DT

“ *She was a truly lovely lady. Always so helpful whenever she could be. My condolences to the family. Donna Toay*

Donna Toay - November 11, 2020 at 07:37 PM

DT

“ *Donna Toay lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



Donna Toay - November 11, 2020 at 07:34 PM

AL

“ *Annetta Lansdown lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



Annetta Lansdown - November 10, 2020 at 05:57 PM

TF

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



The Dunbar family - November 10, 2020 at 02:48 PM

TF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



The Dunbar family - November 10, 2020 at 02:47 PM

AM

“ So sorry to hear of Darlene 's passing. Got to know her when she would come visit her mother at the nursing home in Mineral Point, which is where I worked for a long time. Sending prayers to the family...

Amy Mundth - November 10, 2020 at 01:36 PM

DD

Thank you!

Don Dunbar - November 15, 2020 at 10:10 AM

DA

“ My Sympathies on the Loss of your mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. I remember her as such a nice person.

Dennis O'Connell  
K of C Field Agent



Dennis O'Connell, KofC Field Agent - November 10, 2020 at 01:22 PM

DD

Thank you!

Don Dunbar - November 15, 2020 at 10:10 AM

JZ

“ Jordan Zenisek lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar



Jordan Zenisek - November 10, 2020 at 12:18 PM

MM

“ Mary Meyers lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar



Mary Meyers - November 10, 2020 at 12:16 PM

EH

“ Erin Hickey lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar



Erin Hickey - November 10, 2020 at 12:07 PM

DW

“ Dana Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar



dana wilkerson - November 10, 2020 at 11:55 AM

HE

“ *Helina Ermias lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**Helina Ermias** - November 10, 2020 at 11:38 AM

BB

“ *Bill Burney lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**Bill Burney** - November 10, 2020 at 11:29 AM

PM

“ *Puja Mittal lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**Puja Mittal** - November 10, 2020 at 11:27 AM

LD

“ *LUDWIG DEFRENNE lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**LUDWIG DEFRENNE** - November 10, 2020 at 11:23 AM

GS

“ *Gurvinder Singh lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Gurvinder Singh** - November 10, 2020 at 11:21 AM

CD

“ *Chris Dever lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Chris Dever** - November 10, 2020 at 11:19 AM

RM

“ *Rob Merkle lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Rob Merkle** - November 10, 2020 at 11:13 AM

AT

“ *Anjulla Tolliver lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Anjulla Tolliver** - November 10, 2020 at 11:10 AM

AF

“ *Aisha Foster lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**Aisha Foster** - November 10, 2020 at 11:06 AM

JM

“ *Jessica Munson lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**Jessica Munson** - November 09, 2020 at 10:31 PM

VT

“ *Vivian Thomas lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



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**Vivian Thomas** - November 09, 2020 at 04:33 PM

RC

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Darlene. She was my first babysitter. She was so loving and kind while she watched me. She touched the lives of so many throughout the years. I was so pleased to be in contact with her through Facebook. I am sending my condolences to her family. What a beautiful lady and I especially loved her heart for Christ. Thank you for the beautiful memories Darlene. Blessings to all of her family.*

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**Rebecca Thiede Cleary** - November 09, 2020 at 03:23 PM

DD

*Thank you!*

**Don Dunbar** - November 15, 2020 at 10:11 AM

DD

“ *Don Dunbar lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Don Dunbar** - November 09, 2020 at 01:44 PM

RD

“ *Ron Dunbar lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Ron Dunbar** - November 09, 2020 at 01:10 PM



“ *Wendy Ondande lit a candle in memory of Darlene J. Dunbar*



**Wendy Ondande** - November 09, 2020 at 01:09 PM