



Jean Louise (Nixdorf) Fuccella

September 9, 1942 - January 12, 2026

Jean Louise Fuccella was the kind of woman who made life feel fuller simply by being part of it. She carried herself with quiet confidence, deep faith, and an unmistakable sense of adventure that invited others to come along for the ride. Above all, she was devoted—to her family, her community, her Faith, and the many people who were blessed to call her their friend.

Born on September 9, 1942, in Detroit, Michigan, the family soon moved to Oneida, NY where she spent her early years and graduated from Oneida High School. A lifelong learner, Jean went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Marymount College and later completed her Master's degree in Spanish Education at Colgate University in Hamilton NY. As part of her Master's degree, Jean studied Spanish and Spanish culture in Guanacava, Mexico for a semester. Teaching, language, and culture were not simply subjects to her—they were ways of connecting people.

In 1962, on what began as a blind double date, Jean met a man who was not even her date. That unexpected meeting would change everything. She and Dan Fuccella married in August of 1965, beginning a partnership defined by mutual respect, shared courage, and unwavering support. When Dan later left his corporate career in Brighton, Michigan, to start his own engineering company in Cary, North Carolina, Jean stood right beside him. She was instrumental in building and sustaining the business, serving as Vice President for twenty years and proving herself as capable and steady in the

professional world as she was in her personal life.

Jean was known for her adventurous spirit—one that turned into unforgettable family memories. She embraced life fully, whether that meant white-water rafting, floating high in a hot air balloon, or snorkeling alongside whale sharks. These adventures weren't about thrills alone; they were about togetherness, curiosity, and showing her children and grandchildren that life was meant to be explored.

Faith and community formed the foundation of Jean's life. Shortly after moving to Cary, she became a devoted member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, serving faithfully in the Eucharistic and Funeral Ministries and as a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher. She played an essential role in the creation of the church's columbarium and gave her time generously wherever it was needed.

Jean believed deeply that the heart of the Church was its people. That belief guided her leading role in the formation of Mother Teresa Catholic Church, where she welcomed newcomers, encouraged participation in ministries, and helped build a community rooted in fellowship and service. Many Sunday Services ended just as Jean believed they should—with conversation, laughter, and coffee and donuts shared among friends. At Mother Teresa, she continued her work in the Funeral and Eucharistic Ministries and became an active member of Uganda Family Ministries. As part of the early partnership with St. Matia Mulumba Parish in Kampala, Uganda, Jean even traveled there personally on two occasions, eager to experience and strengthen the relationships she so deeply valued.

Music was another language of Jean's soul. She was a gifted pianist, and her children fondly remember waking many mornings to the sound of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata drifting through the house. According to her sister Janet,

Jean learned the piece seemingly overnight - a reflection of both her natural talent and quiet determination.

Jean's greatest joy, however, was her family. She is survived by her beloved husband, Dan Fuccella; her daughters, Michaelle Walcutt and her husband George, and Jeanette Fuccella and her husband Mark Stovall. She was a proud and loving grandmother to Tommy Coppedge; Luke Stovall; Eli Stovall; Taylor Walcutt and his wife Brittany, and their children Forrest, Bauer, and a baby girl soon to arrive; Stoph Mayerchak and his wife Katie Boatner; Kaitlyn Mayerchak; and Cameron Mayerchak. She is also survived by her sister Janet LaRaia and her husband Bob, and Elaine Nixdorf and her partner John. She is predeceased by her brother Charles Russell Nixdorf and his wife Gail Lash Nixdorf. Faithfully at her side was her sweet Havanese pup, Lita, a constant companion who brought her daily comfort and joy.

Jean will be remembered for her warmth, her generosity of spirit, her steadfast faith, and the way she made others feel seen and welcomed. Her life was one of purpose and presence, and her legacy lives on in the family she cherished, the communities she helped build, and the countless lives she touched simply by being herself.

Jean's life will be honored with a rosary at 2:00pm and a funeral Mass at 2:30pm on Friday, January 23rd at Mother Teresa Catholic Church (<https://motherteresacary.org/>) in Cary. Those not able to attend in person can watch a livestream or recording of the Mass via the Mother Teresa Catholic Church YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJJ5S2P3TT2fGhbgWjA76yw>) channel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jean's memory to Mother Teresa Catholic Church (<https://motherteresacary.org/give>) or AmeriCares (<https://www.americares.org/>).

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mother Teresa Catholic Church
1125 Mother Teresa Drive
Cary, NC 27519
[http://\(motherteresacary.org\)](http://motherteresacary.org)

Funeral Mass

JAN **23**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Mother Teresa Catholic Church
1125 Mother Teresa Drive
Cary, NC 27519
[http://\(motherteresacary.org\)](http://motherteresacary.org)

Tribute Wall

PG

“ Jean and I were in the same Small Christian Community back in 1999. It was a mixed group of moms & dads, grandparents and newly weds. Jean was of course, one of the organizers. She was funny, warm and feisty. The group made me feel connected to St. Michael's and less homesick for my small parish in NJ.



I have Jean to thank for getting me involved in bringing the Eucharist to Glenaire Assisted Living. It was such a blessing, I met beautiful people and witnessed what 'til death do us part' looks like. Jean, ever the organizer also convinced me to attend mass at Green Hope H.S. (St. Mother Theresa before Mother Theresa Catholic Church). I called the mass, Jesus on wheels as we would wheel in the altar and the cross Dan made before mass and wheel it back until the next weekend. It was the movie theatre chair noise every time we stood that finally sent me back the 'big' church.

I thank God for bringing Jean into my life and for all the good she has done in her life. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Love you...

Patrice Guidry - January 29 at 04:04 PM

Jl

“ I didn't have much interaction with Jean but I heard a lot about her from my older sisters and cousins. I only heard great things about her and how involved she was in life. My image of her is one of her sitting behind a desk, smiling and taking on the problems of the day and working through them. May she rest in peace

John William Hayes III - January 28 at 12:22 AM

SB

“ *I met Jean on a business level, but it didn't take long to see and feel her warm smile and kind nature. I looked forward to her visits and the exciting stories she would tell. She will truly be missed. Many prayers for comfort, peace and strength to her family and the rest of the people who's lives she touched in only a way Jean could!*

Sheree Barnes

Sheree Barnes - January 21 at 11:32 AM

JS

“ *"His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'"*

Thank you, Jean, for the great example you have always been to everyone.

Joe Steinlage - January 19 at 02:02 PM