



## Thelma Elaine Murray

February 27, 1937 - November 17, 2023

Thelma E. Murray, age 86 years, a resident of Beech Grove, passed away November 17, 2023 at her residence surrounded by her loving family. Thelma was born February 27, 1937 in Indianapolis to the late Russell E. and Sally B. West Tolen. She attended Manual High School, and married William E. "Eddie" Murray, March 20, 1953. He preceded her in death February 18, 1998.

Thelma devoted her entire life taking care of her family. At the age of 28 with five children and one on the way, she and Eddie took in her four nieces and two nephews after their parents were tragically killed in a terrible train accident. Thelma and Eddie refused to let her nieces and nephews be separated from each other and accepted them willingly and lovingly into their home. Over the years, she nurtured her large family with love, kindness, and support, bringing them together as one big happy family. A true reflection of the love and support that Thelma and Eddie provided is evident in the strong bond the children have for each other, but especially for Thelma and Eddie. Thelma was a caregiver at heart. She nursed numerous ill family members throughout her life including her beloved husband and daughter who battled heart disease, and she dropped everything in her life to care for another daughter who was battling breast cancer. Although she never drove a car, it didn't stop her from getting on a Greyhound bus and traveling out of state to be with her grandson during an illness. She was skilled at sign language (growing up with deaf parents), and it was common for her to interpret in sign

language for strangers if she saw someone struggling in the hospital emergency room or grocery store. She also was an amazing seamstress and made uniforms for the local high school band as well as wedding dresses for her daughters, their bridal party, and costumes for her children, grandchildren or friends.

Thelma was a stay-at-home mom who worked endlessly and tirelessly. She pampered her family and always put herself last. She cherished her children and their spouses and was thrilled when a new baby was born into the family. She enjoyed bowling and became lifelong friends with many of her bowling league members. She also enjoyed going to the casino, and her children loved to spoil her by financing this fun.

Thelma's Catholic religion was her strength, and everyone in her family knew not to bother her at 9:30 p.m. when the rosary was on T.V. On her deathbed, she could barely speak but held her rosary beads in hands and recited her prayers, her last wish to her family was for them to take care of each other, be sad and cry for five minutes, then move on with their lives and be happy.

Thelma was a member of Holy Name Catholic Church.

Visitation will be Sunday, November 26, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel, 3333 E. Thompson Road, with prayers Monday, November 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 89 N. 17th Avenue, Beech Grove, IN 46107. Entombment will follow in Washington Park East Cemetery.

Thelma is survived by her loving children, Mary Jo Kern (Jay), Theresa A. Ringham (John), Thomas E. Murray (Tammy), Sandra L. Fitzpatrick (Mike), Belinda K. Greene, Carol A. Kelley and Earl C. Hall; daughter-in-law, Tammy Murray-Woempner; sons-in-law, Gary McElwaine and David T. Ringham; 24 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death, by five children, Rebecca L. McElwaine, Linda S. Ringham, Steven R. Murray, Earlene R. Griffith and Joseph W. Hall; and two sons-in-law, Thomas J. Greene and Charles T. Kelley; and her brother, Jack

R. Tolen.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Most Holy Name of Jesus  
Catholic Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Washington Park East

10612 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46229

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **26**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel  
3333 E. Thompson Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
(317) 783-3315  
[info@shirleybrothers.com](mailto:info@shirleybrothers.com)  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

## Prayers

NOV **27**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel  
3333 E. Thompson Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
(317) 783-3315  
[info@shirleybrothers.com](mailto:info@shirleybrothers.com)  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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NOV 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Name Catholic Church  
89 North 17th Street  
Beech Grove, IN 46107

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mary Kern** - November 29, 2023 at 04:49 PM

TM

*This was Camden on grandparents day at school. He loved to show Mamaw that he prayed*

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**Terri - miss you so much mom** - November 29, 2023 at 05:17 PM

SF

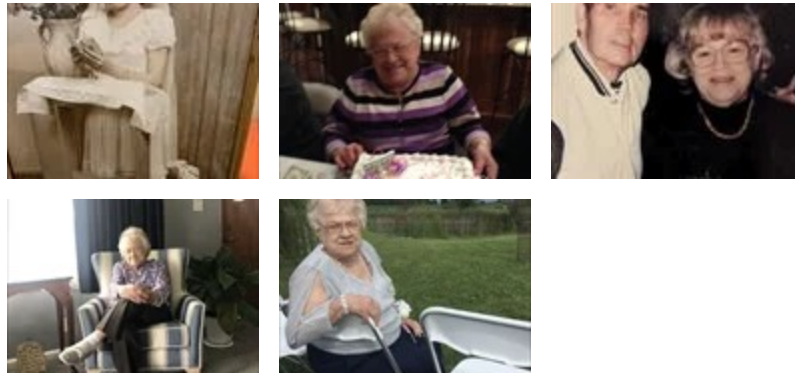
“ *Thelma was a dear neighbor and friend for many years. Our oldest son and her Tommy were good friends in high school. We are saddened by her loss and are praying for all the family that you may have a peace that passes all understanding.*

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**Summers family** - November 26, 2023 at 01:02 PM

MK

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Kern - November 25, 2023 at 08:14 PM

TM

“ Terri - Miss You So Much Mom lit a candle in memory of Thelma Elaine Murray



Terri - miss you so much mom - November 25, 2023 at 12:41 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.



November 25, 2023 at 09:43 AM

DR

“ David and Carol Ringham planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thelma Elaine Murray.

David and Carol Ringham - November 24, 2023 at 11:20 AM



“ Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.



November 24, 2023 at 11:20 AM

YP

“ Your work family from Denison Parking. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thelma Elaine Murray.

Your work family from Denison Parking. - November 22, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.



November 22, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.



November 22, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ Grant Achenbach and Stephanie Eckerle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thelma Elaine Murray.

**Grant Achenbach and Stephanie Eckerle** - November 22, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ George R. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.



**George R.** - November 22, 2023 at 02:23 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.



November 21, 2023 at 06:42 PM

PW

“ *Thelma was like a second mother to me. She never judged, always had a smile. Her home always had room for one more. Her dinners were delicious! I don't know what life would have been like without Becky and all the Murray's. Rest now Thelma. You were the servant of God here on earth. Will always love you.*

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**Pamela Monroe White** - November 21, 2023 at 08:10 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.*



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November 20, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thelma Elaine Murray.*



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November 19, 2023 at 06:20 PM