



Kathleen Daniels

August 5, 1938 - October 14, 2025

“My father always said ‘You’ll be Irish all your life’,” was something Kathleen Daniels said when she would get emotional when speaking in public. It was a way of explaining that her emotions were powerful, genuine, and always very close to the surface. It was that facet of her nature more than any other that people who knew her will remember most.

Mrs. Daniels passed away at age 87 on October 14th. She was a high school educator for nearly 35 years, and that skill set stretched out to the way she cared about her neighbors, friends, and former students. More than anything else, she was a shepherd of anyone who met her, helping them by delivering advice and assistance whenever they needed it.

She maintained relationships with many former students from her entire teaching career, and as a result, many regularly called or emailed her to get her counsel. She had time for all of them and drew them into her extended family while offering them warmth and comfort.

A graduate of St. Scholastica’s High School, she received a bachelor’s degree from Mundelein College and a Master’s Degree in Education from Northwestern University. She taught English literature at Taft, Farragut, and ended her career by helping found a public school, Best Practice, that utilized a teacher-centric curriculum to immense success. After her husband Tom

passed away, she retired and became a consultant that taught other educators how to teach writing.

Even in her retirement, she never slowed down. She did yoga every week and volunteered with various groups at St. Gertrude's parish, where she was a member - making sandwiches for the homeless, furnishing refugees with supplies to help them when they moved to the neighborhood, as well as any other service she was asked to do. She gardened and walked her dog every day, making numerous friends along the way. She also was ordained as a minister and performed weddings for several of her friends.

She was a teacher, a union leader, a dog lover, a gardener, a lifelong Chicagoan, a poet, and an Irishwoman through and through. She is survived by her daughter, Melissa Keefe (Kevin) and son Christopher Daniels, as well as by granddaughters Siobhan and Bridget.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

700 N River Road
DesPlaines, IL 60016
<http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/locations.php?cem=2>

Previous Events

Visitation / Viewing

OCT **24**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Barr Funeral Home
6222 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 743-4034
info@barrfuneralhome.com
<https://barrfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass - Meet at Church

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Gertrude Catholic Church
1420 W Granville Ave
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 764-3621

Tribute Wall

AB

“ I remember when Kathy and Tom moved in to the apartment above my family's, on Claremont Avenue...it must've been in the mid 1960s! I remember thinking, "what a cool couple"!

Over the many years of them living upstairs of us, our families became very close. We celebrated the different holidays that were observed annually, we're Jewish. We got excited about the births of Melissa and Christopher and even when they got their cats, Ellen and Fluffy!

Probably my best memory of time I spent with Kathy is, the garden we planted in front of our building. It was small, but it had a nice variety of colorful flowers and possibly some tomato plants.

Kathy was a very special lady who earned the respect and the love of me and my whole family.

Kathy, may you rest in eternal peace with your beloved, Tom!

Sent with much sorrow and love and with condolences to Melissa and her family and Christopher!

Adrienne Block - October 27, 2025 at 05:52 PM

MM

“ *The Donegal Girl! We met in 1st grade in the early 1940's at St. Ignatius School, Rogers Park and we last visited Thursday October 13th. Kathy was always an excellent student, but also played basketball, ice skated and even twirled a baton. There was a bunch of us that remained friends for life even if different high schools, colleges and careers (St. Scholastica, Mundelein College and Teaching): Marilyn Karsh, Sheila Colleran Clerkin, Barbara Reed Perkaus, Mary Jane Burns Bailey and an outsider from St. Gertrudes, Pat Flood Griffin. Even our mothers stayed connected. During the last few years I had the pleasure of phone conversations (books, the church, politics, family, friends) and some lunches with Kathy, Marilyn and Mary Kay Fitzgerald at one of Kathy's favorite spots: Calo. I had spoken with Kathy early in the summer about our planned family trip to Ireland in the fall which definitely included a visit to our shared roots in Cty. Donegal. So when I returned, Marilyn and I went to visit Kathy in the Nursing Home and I got to sing along WITH her a few Irish tunes..."and I will ask the Lord to make my heaven in that dear land across the Irish Sea!"*

Mary Ann McDermott - October 22, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Daniels.*



October 22, 2025 at 12:04 PM

TF

“ *The Nolan and Keefe families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Daniels.*

The Nolan and Keefe families - October 22, 2025 at 12:04 PM

RA

“ Dearest Kathy, kind neighbor, nurturer of relationships, clarion call for the First Friday crew - life on Glenlake will not be the same without you. R.I.P.

Silvio & Rose Marie Anichini & family

Rose Marie Anichini - October 21, 2025 at 11:41 PM

CH

“ I remember the beautiful wedding with Tom.
I remember countless visits to the house on Glenlake while Tom was alive and when he was not.
I remember the boundless hospitality Kathy bestowed upon me during my visits in the 21st century.
I remember her taking me to visit Burl Kovan when he had assisted living.
I remember her making my breakfasts when she welcomed my staying in Christopher's room when I'd come from New York for special events.
I remember a friend with whom I could discuss any topic and glean her compassionate wisdom.
I member KATHY,
And I join in mourning.
Charles E. Gerber 🙏🙏

CharlesE.Gerber - October 21, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ The Mundelein College and Gannon Scholar Alumnae Association sends its deepest condolences to Kathy's family. She truly represented the values and mission of Mundelein College. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Gabrielle Buckley - October 21, 2025 at 01:05 PM

MA

“ Dear Chris and Melissa: I ordered a tree in memory of your Mother, and I wanted you to know how much I admired her and appreciated living by her and your Dad. They both made my life on Glenlake Avenue fuller and more enjoyable. I send my sincere sympathy on your loss and will always remember her. We had a wonderful group of people on our 2-block street, and the block parties were epic. I am grateful for those memories and was told of her death by Cecie Murphy. I am now in Charleston, SC, where Madeleine and her family (including two grandsons) live. Russell is a paramedic and firefighter in Chicago.
All my best,
Mary Elson, Madeleine and Russell

Mary - October 21, 2025 at 10:05 AM

JB

“ Julia B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Daniels.

Julia B. - October 21, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Kathleen Daniels.



October 20, 2025 at 11:33 PM

TN

“ Tom and Sarah Nelson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Daniels.

Tom and Sarah Nelson - October 20, 2025 at 11:33 PM

LT

“ Love, The Tuminaro’s purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Kathleen Daniels.



Love, The Tuminaro’s - October 20, 2025 at 09:01 PM

PZ

“ Kathy was like my 2nd mother. Tom & Kathy moved into their Claremont apartment and they became fast friends to the Morris & Eileen Land family. Melissa was born and I was so excited to get to hold her as I was only 5yrs. old. I grew up with Melissa and Christopher, I babysat for them when I got older. I got to go on short outings and the beach and parks. I spent so much time that I cherish the memories of. I learned so much from them. I pray Kathy is R.I.P. reunited with her loved ones. My deepest condolences to the Danielle family 🙏

Phyllis Ziegler - October 20, 2025 at 07:56 PM

PB

Kathy was a generous Illinois Writing Project member who supported the group and always had kind words of encouragement for me as well as others. Always sharing her smiles.

Patricia Braun - March 21 at 09:42 AM