



## Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos

December 3, 1943 - August 31, 2024

Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos, 80, passed away on August 31, 2024 at her home in Barrington, IL. Joan had been fighting a rare neurodegenerative disorder for almost two years and she passed peacefully at home with her devoted husband by her side. She was an incredibly loving wife, mother, grandmother ("Mimi"), sister, aunt, cousin, nurse, and friend to many. For over forty years, Joan worked as an ICU and ER trauma nurse at various Chicagoland hospitals including Northwest Community and Lutheran General Hospitals where she achieved and held multiple credentials rising to the ranks of charge nurse. At a young age, she formulated multiple lifelong dreams which included becoming a nurse, traveling around the world, "finding" her husband-to-be, and becoming a mother... all of which came true. Her family was her code, her essence, her everything.

Beloved wife of Peter Bakos, cherished mother of Michael Bakos, Dr. Kristopher (Dr. Laura) Bakos, Dr. Amy Gabriela (Pete) Dimitrakopoulos, and Jennifer (Justin) Steele, adored grandmother ("Mimi") of Troy, Chloe, and Elise Dimitrakopoulos and Oliver and Kristopher Marc Bakos, dearest sister-in-law to Harold (Rosebud) Bakos, admired aunt of several nieces and nephews, respected colleague of numerous medical professionals, and treasured friend to many.

Joan was preceded in death by her mother Sophia (Sisko) Kobylak, father

Eugene Kobylak, sisters Anna (Miles) Stevens, Emily (Burt) Nielson, and Genevieve (John) Severson, nephews Miles "Junior" Stevens, Harold "Gooch" Bakos, and John Stevens, and granddaughter Natasha Galenski.

Visitation will be held on Friday October 11, 2024 from 3:00 to 8:00 P.M. at Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169. A prayer service will be held at 5:00 pm with a time set aside to share cherished memories. On Saturday October 12, 2024 the Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10:30 am with a visitation from 9:30 to 10:30 am at Holy Family Catholic Community Parish, 2515 Palatine Road, Inverness, IL 60067. A Celebration of Life Luncheon will follow; please check with the family for details. They request that you please come prepared to share your special memories of Joan.

Joan was born in Chicago, IL on December 3, 1943 to Sophia and Eugene (both of Czechoslovakian/Austrian decent) and was the youngest of four girls. She was fortunate to have three older sisters and devoted parents that surrounded her with love during her childhood. She attended Saint Symphorosa elementary and middle schools where she was an enthusiastic and inquisitive student. She spent several years of her childhood growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin where she learned to appreciate the hard work associated with farm life. Her family returned to the city, and she graduated high school from Mount Assisi Academy. Ever since she can remember, Joan had dreams of becoming a nurse.

She met her husband-to-be Peter through mutual friends, while both were chosen to "stand up" to their best friends' wedding, as Maid-of Honor and Best Man. What an appropriate place to meet her future husband! They fell in love and married the next year, embarking upon their sixty-year journey together as husband and wife. Joan loved working downtown Chicago for New York

Life Insurance and would later reminisce about how much she truly enjoyed walking along Madison and State Streets. She really appreciated the hustle and bustle of the city. After years of excelling in business, her husband Peter encouraged her to apply for nursing school. She was accepted into one of the most prestigious nursing schools (Augustana Nursing School), graduated with honors, and gave the graduation speech as she achieved her dreams of becoming a registered nurse (R.N.).

She and her husband quickly learned how to juggle their professional careers while raising their four young children. Joan's outgoing nature drove her to become involved with all of her children's activities and volunteer as a Boy Scout leader, Girl Scout leader, F.A.I.T.H. class teacher, art instructor, and school nurse for the elementary schools. She also volunteered countless hours in various ministries, including the Eucharistic ministry, Anointing of the Sick, and being one of the founding families/parishioners of her church Holy Family Parish. She and her husband were also extremely involved in their children's figure skating competitions, cross country and track meets, soccer and baseball games, piano and dance recitals, and most importantly their academics. Joan was "ahead of her time" in terms of organization, had the most supportive husband, and somehow accomplished all of these philanthropic endeavors, in addition to earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) from Elmhurst College, while working full-time as a nurse. Over her career, she earned multiple certifications (emergency trauma, pediatric, and advanced cardiac), honors, accolades, and received letters from patients' families recognizing her skill, selflessness, and dedication as a medical professional. She was an exceptionally hardworking, well-trained, and compassionate nurse who spent her entire career nurturing, caring for, and helping others.

Joan was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with her family and friends

to many special places around the world. Joan and Peter placed great importance on taking family vacations together since their early days. Collecting seashells on the beaches of Longboat Key, Florida, renting an RV and traveling "out west" to explore the plethora of US national parks, and reuniting with family every summer "up north" at Cass Lake, Minnesota. These were special times that solidified the family bond and created lifelong memories. Brussels, Athens, Paris, Rome, Beijing, Washington D.C., London, Sydney, Vienna, New Zealand, the Caribbean...Joan became a world traveler. Some of her fondest memories included walking the Great Wall of China with her husband, taking a gondola ride in Venice, Italy, snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, enjoying the breathtaking views of the Aegean Sea from the cliffs of Santorini, having lunch on the quaint Charles Bridge in Prague, seeing up-close the massive glaciers in Alaska, and returning every year to explore another Hawaiian island, later introducing their grandchildren to their favorite spots in Maui.

After she officially retired as nurse, she started the next chapter of her life in perhaps her most rewarding role, as a loving "Mimi" (grandmother). It was her ultimate dream to help care for her grandchildren, continually traveling to Los Angeles and St. Louis to be with them. Mimi was extremely influential in all five of her grandchildren's lives, showering them with love and creating opportunities to learn and enjoy all the beauty life has to offer. They are her legacy. Her family would agree that she was a remarkable hostess, celebrating the holidays by cooking and baking for a house full of family and friends, while simultaneously connecting with everyone and making them feel welcome. That was "Aunt Joan's" happy place. Many can attest that she was an extraordinarily generous woman, taking care of everyone else before herself. She was an avid reader, art collector, coffee, bread, and chocolate connoisseur, BUNKO player, socialite, and loved baking Austrian kolaches, Greek baklava (pastries), and her special cheesecake. Joan particularly found joy in flower arranging and always loved having fresh flowers in her home. Her

favorite flowers were carnations, which are known as the "mother flower", representing the beauty of motherhood.

As we know she wouldn't want us to mourn, but instead come together and celebrate the beautiful memories she made with all of us. Her love of family and close friends will sustain her memory in our hearts forever. May Joan's memory be forever eternal.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **11.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services, and Cemetery Memorials  
2550 Hassell Road  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169  
(847) 752-6444  
ross@morizzofuneralhome.com  
<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

OCT **12.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church in Inverness  
2515 West Palatine Road  
Inverness, IL 60067

## Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **12.** 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church in Inverness  
2515 West Palatine Road  
Inverness, IL 60067

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ Amina & Karen (LGH pharmacists) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.



Amina & Karen (LGH pharmacists) - October 12, 2024 at 08:14 AM

AS

“ Annette Zarn, Jarrett & Ryan Stevens purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.



Annette Zarn, Jarrett & Ryan Stevens - October 11, 2024 at 03:36 PM

AS

“ Annette Zarn, Jarrett & Ryan Stevens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.

Annette Zarn, Jarrett & Ryan Stevens - October 11, 2024 at 03:36 PM

MM

“ Monica McAndrews purchased the Garden Accent - "Gone yet not forgotten..." - Heart for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.



Monica McAndrews - October 11, 2024 at 02:53 PM

MM

“ Monica McAndrews planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.

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**Monica McAndrews** - October 11, 2024 at 02:53 PM

JR

“ Aunt Joan I will always remember my parents calling her on our way to Lutheran to let her know we were on our way each time I was having an asthma attack which was every other day. She had a room and a nebulizer ready for me. She sat with us as long as she could then had to get back to work or course. Not only that every Christmas Eve we would go to the Bakos House she would have an apron on with a big smile. As us kids probably destroyed the house while she cooked a lovely meal. She will be missed by all of us. My heart goes out to the uncle Pete, Mike, Amy, Kris, and Jenny at this very difficult time.  
Jamie rizzio

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**Jamie Rizzio** - October 11, 2024 at 09:55 AM

LG

“ Hopefully , you all find comfort in knowing that her legacy lives on within the hearts of loved ones. I will never forget being young and us all celebrating Christmas together. Aunt Joan always with that sweet, kind smile. You could see how proud of her children (and grandchildren) she was every time she looked at them. Aunt Joan was loved by many and will be forever missed.



“The love in our family flows strong and deep leaving us memories to treasure and keep”

*Sending the family love and Strength  
The Garay Family  
(Lucia, Manny and kids)*

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**Lucia Garay** - October 11, 2024 at 09:15 AM

RM

“ Robert and Joan Morris purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.



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**Robert and Joan Morris** - October 11, 2024 at 08:48 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*



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October 10, 2024 at 10:43 PM



“ *Wishing peace and comfort in these difficult days.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May her memory be eternal.  
With love and sympathy  
Peter & Cally Pantages*

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**Peter & Cally Pantages** - October 10, 2024 at 10:38 PM



“ *Nicole & Vinny Massun purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*



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**Nicole & Vinny Massun** - October 10, 2024 at 09:47 PM



“ 231 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - October 10, 2024 at 03:54 PM

BE

“ *Joan Bakos, my incredible preceptor when I was a new ER nurse. As a seasoned night-shift nurse leader, Joan defied the 'eat their young' stereotype, nurturing each of us with warmth and wisdom. She welcomed me with open arms, giving me a strong foundation and inspiring me not only to be the best nurse I could be, but also to be a better person toward others. Strict yet compassionate, Joan was a true leader and mentor with a heart of gold. I'm deeply grateful for her guidance and will miss her presence greatly. My thoughts and prayers are with her beautiful family. Thank you, Joan, for showing us what it means to care.*

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**Bernie** - October 09, 2024 at 05:09 PM

MR

“ Walking into the Bakos house and seeing Aunt Joan's warm smile as she prepared a holiday feast is a memory I will cherish forever. Though she often spoke softly in the midst of our lively family gatherings, Aunt Joan had a remarkable ability to make me always feel seen and valued. Her genuine kindness and unexpected funny comments will warm my heart forever. I always admired her deep dedication to helping others and her passion for the nursing profession. Aunt Joan's beautiful smile, joy for life, love for her family and kind heart will be profoundly missed.  
Melissa (Rizzio) Chorney

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**Melissa Rizzio** - October 07, 2024 at 10:54 PM

RF

“ Rizzio Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.



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**Rizzio Family** - October 07, 2024 at 01:15 AM

TS

“ The Stevens purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.



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**The Stevens** - October 06, 2024 at 09:29 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*



October 05, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ *Joan was a, kind, loving person. She was my neighbor for over 10 years and a cherished friend. On Halloween she would pass out large candy bars to the kids in the neighborhood which of course they loved! But her favorite holiday was Christmas. She always hosted Bunko in December where she would give everyone as a gift a poinsettia or Christmas cactus. We loved gathering with her. She will be greatly missed for her kind and open heart for everyone.*

**Lynn Randall** - October 05, 2024 at 09:30 AM



“ *I could listen to Joan's nursing stories for hours. She was always so kind and could tell a very entertaining story. She was definitely a woman who lived life to the fullest. I'm lucky to have been able to know her through our monthly bunko nights.*

**Amy Berry** - September 30, 2024 at 09:08 PM



“ *Love, Pat and Bill Baylis purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*



**Love, Pat and Bill Baylis** - September 30, 2024 at 08:59 AM

TF

“ *The Tsianos Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*



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**The Tsianos Family** - September 24, 2024 at 06:55 PM

TF

“ *The Tsianos Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*

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**The Tsianos Family** - September 24, 2024 at 06:55 PM

ET

“ *As her daughter's Koumbara and the Godmother of her grandson Troy, I got to meet Joan in her "Mimi" era. And what a treasure it was to see her in action. Joan adored her grandchildren and loved being their Mimi. Though she lived thousands of miles away, she was present for all of the birthdays and holidays. She had front row seats to all their recitals, sporting events and so many of life's big moments. They were her whole world and it showed. Joan led her life with love. She was an exceptional nurse to all of her patients but even off the clock, Joan was always helping and caring for those around her. She will forever be remembered fondly for the kind-hearted, strong-willed and beautiful angel that she was. Truly, a gift to have known her. Sending our love and deepest condolences to the Bakos/Dimitrakopoulos family. Ζοε σε σας - life to all of you!*

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**Elena Tsianos** - September 24, 2024 at 06:39 PM

“ Reflecting on the wonderful memories of our dear friend Joan, many things could be said about what a truly special person she was. She was kind and caring with a quiet strength and unpretentious demeanor.

Joan loved her profession as a nurse. She was a natural in her work and had exceptional nursing skills. With her emergency department background, she remained calm under pressure and could handle anything. She was hard working and did what needed to get done without complaint. Always the professional, she remained compassionate, friendly and upbeat, despite often having worked long hours. Joan always greeted patients with a smile and they loved and trusted her.

Among her many talents, she had a creative style that she brought to the workplace! At work holiday and birthday parties, she would add cheer with her finishing touches to the table and room with her unique and always beautiful arrangements of flowers, bows, and decorations!

Joan cherished her family and was proud of their accomplishments. She beamed when she talked about Amy, Kris and Mike. Her husband Peter showed such love and affection to his dear Joan as she did with him. Her five grandchildren were showered with love.

Always very complimentary and generous with her friends, she never missed an opportunity to tell them how great they were, build them up or give them a special gift.

We will miss you Joan.

Our deepest condolences to the Bakos family.  
With love from her friends,

Pat, Monica and Kathy

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Pat Baylis - September 23, 2024 at 03:57 PM

KS

“ My special condolences to the Bakos family at this difficult time. Joan was one of a kind. She had such wonderful qualities that everyone admired. Some of these were her kindness and devotion she gave to all the people who knew her and worked with her. As a wife, she cherished Peter and talked about him endlessly. Their marriage was based on love and adoration for each other. As a mother and aunt she was so caring and giving beyond belief. Joan had another wonderful side and that was being an exceptional ICU/ ED nurse for many years. She received many accolades from her patients, co-workers and nursing managers. Everyone emulated Joan for her compassion and care she gave to her patients for over forty years. Outside of her nursing profession she was an outstanding cook, scout leader, quilt maker, gardener, floral designer and very involved in the ministry at Holy Family Church in Inverness. Joan enjoyed her monthly Bunco with her neighbors at her home and socialized with everyone. She truly knew how to entertain like no one I knew. As a long time close friend she will be terribly missed but remembered for all the acts of kindness that she displayed every single day. May God bless her and her close family. Love always Sciacca

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Kathleen Sciacca - September 22, 2024 at 11:19 PM

MF

“ *Michelle and Erika and families purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Josephine ("Joan") C. Bakos.*



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**Michelle and Erika and families** - September 21, 2024 at 12:17 PM

MM

“ *To her family: I am so sorry for your loss. Joan and I worked together in the ED at Lutheran General for many years. She was a friend and a fine nurse. We shared many busy nights at work, where she always put the needs of her patients first. She will be missed.*  
*Meg Myalls*

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**Meg Myalls** - September 17, 2024 at 11:26 PM



“ *Wishing the entire Bakos family the peace and comfort of knowing your love for Joan will remain infinite. She will always live on through the legacy of love to her children, grandchildren, and those who have been touched by her gifts of kindness. Joan's edifice of life as a loving wife, mother, friend, caregiver, and nurturer extended to staff and patients in her 40-plus years of nursing at LGH.*

*Jo was a virtuoso in her greatest passion - her family and home. She had boundless energy and an ever-present smile for everyone. Even after her infamous "double" shifts of work, Jo would extend a hand to others - whether volunteering, hosting, or being the friend that you needed. She was a gift,*

*Every person in Joan's circle of knowing has a story to share. I hope that most of us had the opportunity to tell her how truly special she was in our lives.*

*Always with fond memories and loving thoughts. Your presence Joan will be deeply missed.*

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**Janice Lau** - September 16, 2024 at 01:27 PM

JM

“ *I could write a book about Jo. I worked with her at Lutheran General for 40 years. Her husband was a patient of mine. She was so kind to me and my family when we came to the ER. My mom came often because of her emphysema. I remember when she had her hip replaced and I went to bat for her to get into the inpatient rehab unit. She always had a smile on her face and had time for everyone she cared for even when she was busy. She always saw the good in people. I am blessed to have shared her life. Celebrate her entire life. Thank you Jo for the goodness you brought to all you touched. May her memory be a blessing. Jerry Lewis, MD*

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**Jerry Lewis, MD** - September 16, 2024 at 11:53 AM

ER

“ I have so many wonderful memories of my Aunt Joan. First, she always made family her number one priority. I will forever remember our week long vacations to Cass Lake. She was the best baker ever, I always looked forward to what dessert she had planned. She was compassionate as a person, but also as a nurse, which inspired me to also become a nurse. She was welcoming and always opened up her house anytime we would be in Chicago. I am so glad to have visited last summer. You will be deeply missed by many. We love you Aunt Joan.

Love,

Erika, Andy, Rikki, Carson, Hudson & Sophia

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**Erika** - September 16, 2024 at 09:22 AM

MM

“ Blessings to the family. I know losing Joan was not easy. She was charge nurse at Lutheran General when we met. Working skillfully and exhibiting such kindness and compassion to all of us. She would smile at me as if to say, I see you and you are doing a good job. She will be missed. God took another angel home.

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**Madlene Moore-condon** - September 15, 2024 at 11:19 PM

JE

“ *The essence of the written words do not seem enough. It is hard to honor an amazing wife, mother, nurse and best friend. Words just do not capture who she really was. And how big her heart was. Always watching out for everyone, busy doing God's work. The world will be less because of her loss.*

*I shall always remember her goodness to me. She was a mentor when I first began to work with her. I still can see her at the charge desk overseeing patients, staff , and paramedics. She would race through the department with her kangaroo shoes and calandar; sticker filled appointment book. Her husband and children were as amazing as a family. So much love there. All I can say I miss you and will cry from time to time. You were that special.*

*Every time I see a happy sticker I will smile because it reminds me of you.*

*"So long my friend, Jeri Evans*

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**Jeri** - September 15, 2024 at 10:21 PM