



## Mary Frances Hodgen

August 29, 1960 - December 17, 2021

Mary Frances Hodgen (Garcia) passed away peacefully at her home on December 17, 2021. She was 61 years old. Mary was born to William and Frances (Sikora) Garcia in LaSalle, IL on August 29, 1960. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Margaret Steinz. She married Michael B. Hodgen of North Platte, NE on July 18, 1981. Although divorced, they continued to care for each other deeply, he survives.

Also surviving are her two children, Michael Hodgen and Sara (Chris) Owens, grandchildren Cole and Sophie Owens, brothers Joe (Donna) Garcia and Bill (Linda) Garcia, and her favorite pet Binx the black cat.

Mary was a super mom and her kids' greatest cheerleader. She always ensured her children had what they needed and was a listening ear as they learned to navigate the world around them. Mike and Sara were affectionately referred to as "the brats".

Mary was an administrative assistant for the last 21 years at The Christian Center in Peoria, IL. Throughout her time, she touched many families and individuals through the various programs the Center offers. One of her greatest feats was the Super Seniors Thanksgiving luncheons in which she successfully cooked a full Thanksgiving meal (including 5 full turkeys and 2 hams) and beautifully decorated single handedly. She had a servant heart, and the staff refers to her as the glue that held the place together.

In her personal life, Mary was known for her creative abilities, creating beautiful decorations for her daughter's wedding and her grandchildren's

parties. In her memory, we will continue the over-the-top birthday parties and look forward to a sprinkle donut party for Sophie in January and a police car birthday for Cole in November. She was an avid Batman fan, Chicago Cubs fan, and loved Christmas ornaments.

Her family leaves those saddened by her passing with her favorite quote: "Why do we fall? So we can learn to pick ourselves up." Remember, no matter what life throws your way, face it with strength and grace as Mary did with her health challenges.

No services will be held, but a celebration of life will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at Peoria First Church, 4020 N Brandywine Dr Peoria, IL 61614 from 10:30-11:30 AM with a luncheon to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to The Christian Center for the Little Sluggers Ball Field.

Schmidt-Haller Burial & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements and condolences may be left at [www.SchmidtHaller.com](http://www.SchmidtHaller.com).

#### Previous Events

##### Celebration of Life

JAN 22. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Peoria First Church

4020 N. Brandywine Dr.

Peoria, IL 61614

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Mary Frances Hodgen*

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**Schmidt Haller Burial and Cremation Services** - August 13, 2024 at 01:18 PM

CE

“ *I am in total shock to read of Mary's passing! You have my deepest sympathy. Back when you kids were younger our families had so much fun together, so many great memories. I know Mary will be deeply missed. God bless, Cheryl Endress*

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**Cheryl Endress** - January 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Frances (Garcia) Hodgen.*

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**Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum** - December 27, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *I grew up with Mary being in the same neighborhood. Come Saturday nights when Willie (her dad) would have a date. Mary and I were set up with fried chicken from the nearby tavern Harold's Tap (some of the best fried chicken EVER! Plus a two quart bottle of Coke and snacks. We were Jr high age so leaving us alone in Peru, IL was ok. I do have more but this is one that my memory continues to relieve very fondly.*

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**Cindy Virgo Washkowiak** - December 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM