



## Benita Kelly

May 27, 1931 - January 15, 2026

Benita 'Bea' Kelly, born to Mary and John Dimitri on May 27, 1931 in Brooklyn, NY, lived in Stamford, CT from 1959 until her peaceful passing into the hands of Our Lord, on January 15, 2026 at the Regional Hospice in Danbury, CT. Bea was a loved and cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, teacher, neighbor, St. Cecilia parishioner and friend of many generations over the course of her amazing 94 years. She dedicated her life to her family and her faith. Bea was a parishioner at St. Cecilia's Church from 1959 to the time of her death. She was president of the Rosary Altar Society for eight years at St. Cecilia's during the 1960's.

Bea valued her Catholic education from elementary through graduate school. She attended St. Gabriel's Elementary and High School in New Rochelle, NY; received an undergraduate degree in accounting at the University of Mount St. Vincent (1952) in Bronx, NY; and graduate degrees in theology and education from Fairfield University (1970), in Fairfield, CT. She was married at St. Gabriel's Church in New Rochelle, NY to Robert Francis Kelly on November 28, 1953, after which they immediately began raising their family. Bea was predeceased by her husband on October 30, 1967, after settling for her lifetime in Stamford, CT during early 1959. She remained a devoted mother of four beginning a 36-year career as an elementary school teacher at St. Cecilia School in 1970.

Her years teaching English and the Catholic religion at St. Cecilia, were truly a legacy of love. She adored her students and they adored her. For many years she orchestrated the annual Christmas Pageant as well as the Buy-a-Smile Holiday Fair. All proceeds from the fair being used to provide corrective surgery for children in Bolivia born with a cleft palate. Being a lifetime die hard NY Yankee fan her favorite activity with students was coordinating the yearly Spring bus trip to Yankee Stadium.

In her retirement Bea volunteered her time teaching catechism. She loved her monthly luncheons with her teacher friends as well as their book club get together. She also thoroughly enjoyed her many shopping excursions, especially to Costco and Kohls. Bea was also very content and happy just enjoying many peaceful hours on her deck taking in the sunshine. From April through September, and often October, you could be sure to find her in front of the TV watching every Yankee game.

Bea was predeceased by her beloved husband, Robert, in 1967 and her loving daughter, Denise in 2025. She is survived by her son, Bryan Kelly (Denise), and daughters Janice Pearson (Roger) and Diane Kelly. Bea leaves behind cherished granddaughters, Julie Gunts (BJ) of New Canaan, CT; Michelle Kelly of East Sandwich, MA and Kristina Kelly of Columbia, MO. Her great grandchildren, Brady, Ellie and Charlie Gunts were the joy of her life during her final seven years.

Calling hours will be from 4pm to 7pm on Wednesday, January 21st, at Bosak Funeral Home, 453 Shippan Avenue, Stamford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Thursday, January 22nd at 10:30 am at the Church of St. Cecilia, 1184 Newfield Avenue, Stamford. Interment will follow at St. John's Cemetery in Darien, CT.

Donations in Bea's memory may be made to The Catholic Academy of

Stamford in Stamford, CT; Waveny Life Care Network, in New Canaan, CT; or Regional Hospice, in Danbury, CT.

If you wish to make a remembrance for the family, you may sign the family guestbook at [www.bosakfuneralhome.com](http://www.bosakfuneralhome.com) or [www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome).

# Cemetery Details

## St. John Cemetery (Darien)

25 Camp Avenue  
Darien, CT 06820

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bosak Funeral Home & Cremation  
453 Shippan Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902

## Funeral Mass

JAN 22. 10:30 AM (ET)

Church of Saint Cecilia  
1184 Newfield Ave  
Stamford, CT 06905

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ Thank you Kelly for being such a wonderful next door neighbor and for being so sweet and caring towards myself and my family. I'll never forget your kindness and how happy I was whenever I spoke with you growing up. I will deeply miss having you one door away.

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**Ryan Prem** - February 07 at 11:35 AM

HA

“ Ms Kelly you are the first friend I made in Stamford. Our kind and always courteous neighbor... with always a positive word for my children. Heartbroken to read this. Rest in peace. My family and I will miss you.

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**Harin** - February 05 at 05:00 PM

TE

“ Rest in Peace Kelly! I will miss having you as my neighbor! :(



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**Terry** - February 05 at 02:52 PM

TI

“ I was one of Mrs. Kelly's students at St. Cecilia and I will never forget her warmth and kindness. She put her whole heart and soul into teaching and she was a wonderful person! My condolences to the family, I am so sorry for your loss.  
~Terri Isidro

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**Terri Isidro** - January 27 at 03:44 PM

MM

“ Mrs. Kelly will always be my favorite teacher. I have such fond memories of her at St. Cecilia’s and being in her 5th grade class. I still find myself saying phrases in my head that she taught us in class. There really was no better English teacher, I learned from the best! I always enjoyed going back over the years as I got older to visit and say hello. She will be missed, her impact on me and so many others will live on. Thank you Mrs. Kelly for being such a wonderful teacher and role model.

- Matt Manskar

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**Matthew Manskar** - January 27 at 02:46 PM

JS

“ Bryan, Mom and I send our condolences to you and your family.

*Jennifer Suppa*

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**jennifer suppa** - January 24 at 08:01 PM

MH

“ Mrs Kelly was an amazing teacher. I'll never forget the trips to the chalkboard to complete the sentence diagrams. She poured her heart and soul into that Christmas pageant. She was the consummate parochial school educator. I am better to have been her student. My condolences to the family.

*Warm regards,*

*Matthew Huth.*

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**Matthew j Huth** - January 23 at 09:14 PM

VS

“ *Bryan, Janice, and Diane,*

*My heartfelt condolences to all of you for the tremendous losses you've endured this past year. I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of your mother. With her gone, it feels as though an era in the neighborhood has come to a close, and that is a sorrow felt by many.*

*Your mother left a lasting and meaningful legacy — through the countless children she taught English and Religion, and through her lifelong dedication to service, faith, and charitable work. She touched the world in ways that will continue to live on in the people she inspired.*

*May you find comfort in the memories of a life so well lived, and peace in knowing the lasting impact she made on everyone fortunate enough to know her.*

*Vinny Suppa*

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**Vincent Suppa** - January 22 at 10:27 AM

CF

“ *My deepest sympathy to Bryan, Janice, Diane and their families for their loss.*



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**CW Fox** - January 21 at 02:34 PM

RP

“ *Bea was a wonderful loving person. We greatly appreciate all that she did for the students, faculty and school environment. She was a true inspiration. The Christmas Pageants, 5th and 6th grade trip to NYC to view the King Tut exhibit and the excursions to Yankee Stadium are only a few of the adventures that she initiated for the school community. Bea was an exemplary educator.*

*We will always remember the loyal fan she was of the Yankees and especially Ron Guidry, “Louisiana Lightning”.*

*May God bless her.*

*Bob and Karen Pendolphi*

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**Robert Pendolphi** - January 21 at 11:22 AM

CB

“ *A beautiful person on the inside and out. Obviously, my favorite teacher ever. She was truly and angel on earth who leaves behind many beautiful memories. Condolences to all.*

*Celeste (Miller) Bouton*

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**Celeste J Bouton** - January 21 at 10:41 AM

JZ

“ *Dear Diane and family, I am so sorry for your loss, first it was Denise last year, and now your beloved mom. I just want you to know that you are in my thoughts.*

*My sincerest condolences.*

*John Zaccagnino*

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**John Zaccagnino** - January 20 at 01:03 AM

PV

“ One of my oldest friends just shared this with me. Very sad to hear. We were an impossible group of 5th and 6th graders. She handled us with caring, compassion and a little bit of firm discipline that only St. Cecelia's could deliver in the early 1980's. She suggested we all become altar boys. We did and had no idea that we could make money and miss class at the same time. :) We all just spent about 20 minutes texting stories about Mrs. Kelly and our time at the end of the hallway. Life was good. Thank you Mrs. Kelly, you were the best.

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**Paul Verbitsky** - January 19 at 07:04 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs Kelly. She was a loving and kind teacher. Many of us wrote about here as our hero when it came time to write about a hero for our 5th grade project. Back in the 70's, she was one of St Cecilia's most beloved teachers. May she rest in peace. Signed, Mimi Wood

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**Mimi Wood** - January 19 at 06:15 PM

KB

“ Diane and family,

*I very sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. My thoughts and prayers to you all.*

*Regards,  
Keith Bentley*

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**KEITH BENTLEY** - January 19 at 05:20 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Kelly was my 6th grade teacher and I have fond memories of her, in spite of the fact I never got the hang of sentence trees. Unfortunately, she retired before our triplets reached 6th grade at St. Cecilia. Will say a prayer for her and her family.

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**Mike Carlon** - January 19 at 03:32 PM

ST

“ Bea not only taught my 4 kids I worked with her at the school many years. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing. For some reason she has been on my mind lately. Now I know why.. RIP Bea. You had a good life.

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**susan tidrick** - January 19 at 12:47 PM

KS

“ My family were next door neighbors for 18 yrs of my life. Mrs.Kelly was such a loving wife,mother, and friend. I remember when there was a ice storm and power was out about three day. She invited our family to sleep over in front of the fireplace. There were six of us plus five of them. Big sleep over. But fun and warm. Sincere condolences to. Bryan,Janice,Diane and family. She will be missed by everyone. RIP Bea. Kim Peterson Sabatino

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**Kim Sabatino** - January 19 at 12:23 PM

TC

“ Mrs Kelly was a St C's legend... love to Diane and family. Theresa Cavanaugh (Hayward)

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**T Cavanaugh** - January 19 at 11:51 AM

AR

“ *Loved Mrs Kelly! My favorite 4th grade teacher! I remember her being so nice and a real classy lady ! I am so sorry for your loss .*

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**Alison Ryan** - January 19 at 11:42 AM