



## Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks)

February 3, 1955 - October 4, 2019

Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks), age 64 of Grand Rapids, passed away unexpectedly Friday October 4, 2019. She is preceded in death by her parents Edwin and Nancy Sparks. Surviving are: her loving husband of 40 years Mark; her children Julie (Ryan) VanRhee, Kimberly (Nenad) Stojcic and Matthew; grandchildren Olivia and Logan VanRhee; siblings Brian (Diane) Sparks and Judy (Timothy) Grifhorst; father and mother-in-law Frank (Gerry) Woronko; brother-in-law Mike (Jan) Woronko; sister-in-law Mary Woronko; many nieces and nephews. Kathy loved her whole family and many friends fiercely. Aside from the close relationship she had with her children and grandchildren, she devoted much of her time and energy as a caregiver, mentor and mother figure to anyone in need of a little extra support. Kathy made sure her home was the main hub for family and friends to celebrate life and love. Anyone that knows her felt her passion for ensuring every detail of the event she was hosting made her guests feel wowed and welcomed. Kathy worked at Steelcase for 34 years serving various roles in communication and events. She was a big support to the community through her involvement on the board of directors for: Blandford Nature Center, Experience Grand Rapids, the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids and the Holy Spirit Education Foundation. She was a longtime member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday October 10 at 11:00 AM. She will repose one hour prior to Mass. Her family will receive visitors Wednesday October 9 from 2 to 4 PM and 7 to 9 PM at Arsulowicz Brothers Remembrance Mortuary, 3525 Remembrance Rd NW, where the Rosary will be prayed Wednesday at 8:30 PM. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Holy Spirit Education Foundation.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Holy Cross Cemetery

2000 Walker NW  
Grand Rapids, MI,  
49504

**OCT** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

**9**

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Remembrance Chapel  
3525 Remembrance Road NW, Walker, MI, US, 49534

**OCT** **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

**9**

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Remembrance Chapel  
3525 Remembrance Road NW, Walker, MI, US, 49534

**OCT** **Rosary** 08:30PM

**9**

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Remembrance Chapel  
3525 Remembrance Road NW, Walker, MI, US, 49534

**OCT** **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

**10**

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Holy Spirit Church  
2230 Lake Michigan Dr NW, Grand Rapids, MI, US,  
49504

# Comments

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“ I just found out about this. I worked with Kathy at Steelcase and she was a pleasure to work with. We maintained contact on occasion after I left the company. Kathy was a great person, and she will be missed.

DJ Chivis  
Raleigh NC, formerly of Grand Rapids

DJ Chivis - November 27, 2019 at 08:22 AM

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“ We are so sorry to hear of Kathy’s passing. She was a strong woman who is now a strong spirit. Heaven was calling for her and her earthly work is now completed. A beautiful person who did so much for others. Her legacy will be shared with so many. May God bless her family in this time and may God bless Kathy in her heavenly home. With love and sincerity Steve and Marsha Turows

marsha turows - October 10, 2019 at 10:03 AM

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“ Marsha Turows lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks)



marsha turows - October 10, 2019 at 10:01 AM

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“ Kathy was such a great help through the years or working together. Always there with a smile, an idea to make things better and ready to lead or help a team as needed. I remember her kindness, curiosity and her ability to be a great friend. Sadness today but the joy of her life shines through.

John - October 09, 2019 at 08:49 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 09, 2019 at 02:08 PM

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“ George Bell and Office Resources Inc in Louisville purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



**George Bell and Office Resources Inc in Louisville** - October 08, 2019 at 04:56 PM

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“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 08, 2019 at 12:29 PM

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“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 08, 2019 at 11:16 AM

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“ I was finishing up my first contract and getting ready to start working on a huge project as a freelancer with a different team. Kathy volunteered to meet with me and share her list of contacts I should connect with. While we were talking, Jim Keane walked by. She called him over to our table and introduced me and told him who I was and what I was working on. I'd never met him before, and I was completely dumbstruck. I managed a "nice to meet you," before he went on about his day. Since then, I've never forgotten Kathy's friendliness and generosity. It meant so much to me and made me feel like I was important.

Thank you so much for all you did for me and so many others, Kathy. You will be sorely missed.

**Pasha** - October 07, 2019 at 11:26 AM

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“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 07, 2019 at 10:35 AM

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“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 07, 2019 at 09:47 AM

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“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 07, 2019 at 08:24 AM

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“ My prayers go out to Kathy’s family. I hope with this terrible loss, there is also an opportunity to celebrate what an amazing impact Kathy had on so many people. I met her on my first day at Steelcase, I joined a team she was supporting. She was a mentor to me then, and so many more times through the years and through my career. And the mentor ship was about work, life, kids and exploring thoughtful progress in everything pursued. I’m a better person for having known Kathy and I’ll miss her.

**Jenny Niemann** - October 06, 2019 at 07:39 PM

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“ Kathy is my dear friend! She is a true treasure! She has touched and changed more lives than any other I’ve known. Kathy has always lived life to the fullest and I am honored to have gotten to share a small portion of her life! A giant hole has been ripped out of our hearts! We, her friends, will forever carry her with us wherever we wander! I am horribly sorry for her beloved family! She couldn’t have loved you more! God Bless to all during this horrific time!!!

**Liz Kamyszek** - October 06, 2019 at 03:26 PM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 06, 2019 at 11:49 AM

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“ Kathy was my client, friend, mentor and she added so much light to my life. I will miss her and try to honor her by being a friend and mentor to young working women. I'll reach out to someone who's been through a tragic loss and ask them to lunch. I'll pass along parenting wisdom that she gave to me. I'll be a cheerleader for a young person daring to go into business. I'll love my family fiercely. I'll cherish my memories with Kathy...I'm so fortunate she was in my life. To her family I send endless love and prayers and also thanks - thanks for sharing her with me and her extended work family in the hospitality industry. Everyone we met and everywhere we traveled she was kind and thoughtful to everyone.



**Amy Young** - October 06, 2019 at 11:30 AM

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“ Kathy was my boss when I interned at Steelcase. She was an amazing mentor, and later became an amazing friend. She helped me out as a young college student just starting out. Her sense of humor lit up the room. I never dreaded going to a meeting with her, I knew we would spend most of the meeting catching up on last weekends plans or what we were doing for the upcoming weekend. She will be greatly missed.

**Jamie Sadler** - October 05, 2019 at 09:24 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathy Lynn Woronko (Sparks).



October 05, 2019 at 03:54 PM

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“ I am so grateful for Kathy's mentorship and friendship. Her zeal was infectious! In a recent text exchange she said, "I am sailing the Greek Isles." It warmed my heart, and in true Kathy fashion, inspired me as I imagined her laughing, enjoying the experience and being the life of the party. She was pure light! She was always helpful, always hopeful and ready to lend some good advice or help come up with a solution. She was one of a kind and I will miss her. My condolences to Kathy's family and everyone who is mourning this loss. Heaven truly gained another Angel.

**Lisa Denson** - October 05, 2019 at 03:24 PM