



Grace Frances Schroat

MAY 31, 1932 - APR 17, 2026



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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Grace Frances Schroat

MAY 31, 1932 - APR 17, 2026

Grace Frances Schroat, 93, of Decatur, Illinois, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2026, in her home.

Grace was born in Decatur on May 31, 1932, the daughter of Martin and Mary (Rosetta) Endrizzi. She married Virgil Schroat on August 7, 1970, in Decatur, and they enjoyed over 25 years of married life until his death in 1996. Grace was a hall monitor at Decatur MacArthur High School, a job that gave her great pleasure until her retirement. She was an exceedingly kind, caring person who would step up to help without ever needing to be asked. She was an avid rummage sale shopper and seller who was always on the lookout for a great deal. She had a great affinity for flowers. Most of all, she loved her family and took great care of her. She will be greatly missed.

Grace is survived by her children: George (Cindy) Backstein of Springfield, IL, Richard "Dick" (Cay) Backstein, Jr., of Decatur, IL, Doug (Cheryl) Backstein of Riverton, IL, Sherri Backstein of Fairbury, IL, Sharon Bartolameolli of Davenport, FL, Linda Loman of Decatur, IL, Susan Grider of Decatur, IL, and Ronnie Schroat of CA; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; best friend Joyce Keller; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Virgil, son Martin Backstein, and 5 siblings.

Visitation for Grace will be from 10am to 11am on Wednesday, April 22, at St. James Catholic Church in Decatur. Funeral Mass will follow at 11am. Burial in Graceland Cemetery will follow the Mass. Memorials may be directed to the Catholic Children's Home. Condolences may be shared with the family at

<https://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>






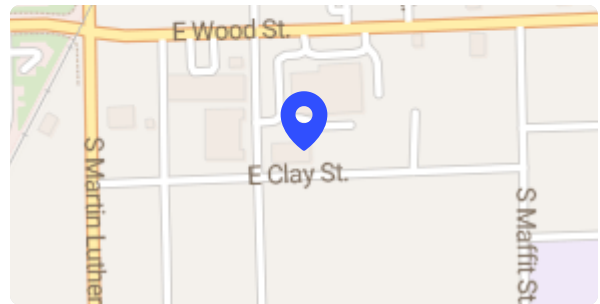
Events

Grace Frances Schroat




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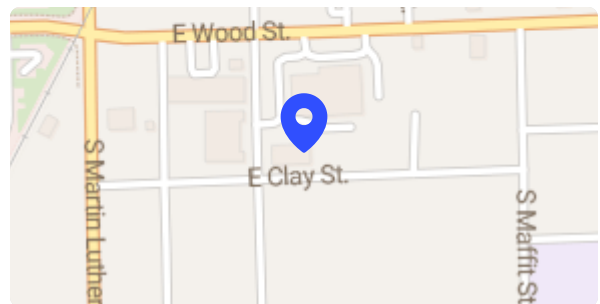
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, April 22, 2026
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
-  **St. James Catholic Church**
742 East Clay Street, Decatur IL 62521





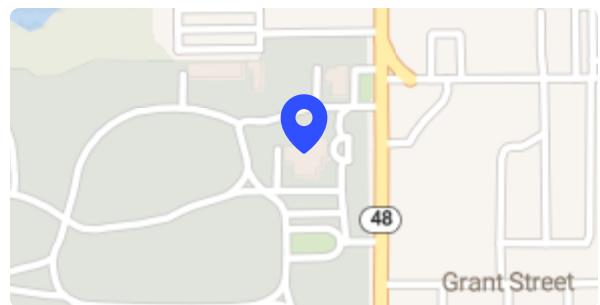
Funeral Mass

-  **Wednesday**, April 22, 2026
-  11:00 AM CT
-  **St. James Catholic Church**
742 East Clay Street, Decatur IL 62521





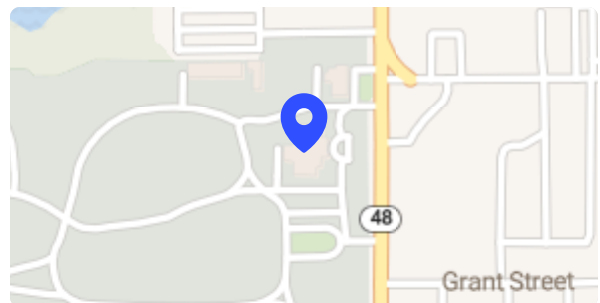
Burial Following Services

-  **Wednesday**, April 22, 2026
-  **Graceland Cemetery**
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur IL 62526



Cemetery Details

-  **Graceland Cemetery**
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur IL 62526
-  **(217) 615-0724**





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Schroat family.



April 21 at 11:55 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Grace.



April 21 at 11:55 AM



Ryan shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My loving, sweet and kind grandmother. She had a laugh that would make you smile and always made you feel special. The best chicken and noodles and sweet tea. I was lucky to have spent many summers being at her house even after my grandfather and the love of her life Virgil passed away. I got to see her daily at MacArthur high school because she worked there for over 2 decades. She made sure to hug me and always made sure I had money for lunch. If you ever met Grace, she made you feel welcome. She took pride in her flowers and her yard was always immaculate. I am happy both of my children got to know her and feel her sweet and kind nature. Give her hugs and kisses before she passed. God blessed me with an amazing grandmother for 38 years, she is with our lord and savior and her son Marty who she dearly loved. She told me she missed my grandfather before she passed and wanted to be with Jesus, I let her know she would be with them soon. While I have cried many tears for her passing, I will always smile because I have been a blessed man. She always made me feel wanted and loved. -Love you beautiful lady Ryan Ebbens xoxo



April 18 at 8:24 PM



Resa Benz-Spiker lit a candle in honor of Grace.

Grace was a beautiful person inside and outside. Always wore a genuine heartfelt smile. God called an ANGEL home!



April 19 at 11:37 AM



Tribute Wall

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Summer Backstein posted:

Grandma Grace—a woman who was, in every sense of the word, unforgettable. Grandma Grace was sweet and loving in a way that made you feel safe just being near her. Her kindness wasn't loud or showy—it was steady, quiet, and always there when you needed it most. She had a heart of gold, the kind of heart that gave without expecting anything in return, the kind that made everyone feel like they mattered. But if you knew her, you also knew she had a stubborn streak. And honestly, that was part of what made her so special. She stood her ground, believed in what she thought was right, and didn't back down easily. That strength carried her through life, through challenges, and through moments that would have shaken anyone else. It wasn't just stubbornness—it was determination, resilience, and a deep sense of who she was. Grandma Grace was also practical—someone who knew how to handle life as it came. She didn't overcomplicate things. She believed in doing what needed to be done, taking care of the people she loved, and finding simple ways to make life work. There was wisdom in that, the kind you don't always notice right away, but the kind that stays with you long after. What made her truly remarkable was how all of these qualities came together. She could be gentle and strong, warm and firm, loving and unwavering—all at the same time. She showed us that love isn't just about words, but about actions, consistency, and being there. The truth is, Grandma Grace leaves behind more than memories. She leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and quiet generosity. She lives on in the lessons she taught us, in the way she cared for others, and in the pieces of her we carry with us every day. We will miss her deeply—her voice, her presence, her way of making everything feel just a little bit better. But we will also carry her with us, in our hearts, in our choices, and in the love we continue to give to others. Grandma Grace, thank you for everything. For your love, your strength, your wisdom, and your heart of gold. You will never be forgotten. Rest peacefully.

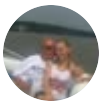
April 18 at 8:24 PM



Mark Miller posted:

Gracie was a Mother to every kid in our neighborhood ,

April 19 at 7:52 AM



Mark Miller posted:

Gracie was a Mother to every kid who grew up in the neighborhood we lived in, She was a friend To all That came through Her Door !

April 19 at 7:51 AM



Tribute Wall

Grace Frances Schroat

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Summer Backstein shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



April 18 at 8:24 PM



Susan Grider lit a candle in honor of Grace.

What can I say about a woman who never had a mean word to say about anyone she was always there never had to be asked she was the first one in the hospital when my mom died she taught me how to make great desserts dirty lady cakes and taught me patience and compassionate I will miss her very much I love you Grace here's a candle wet to light your way love Susie



April 18 at 8:24 PM



Media

Grace Frances Schroat

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Ryan shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 19 at 8:09 PM





Media

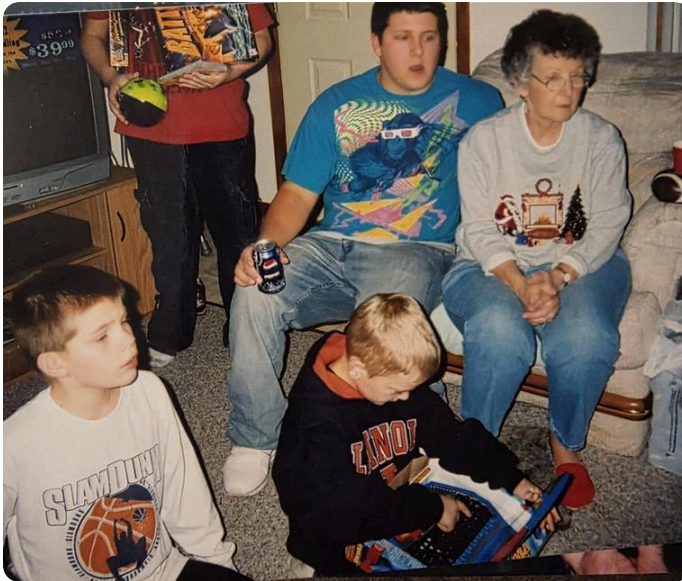
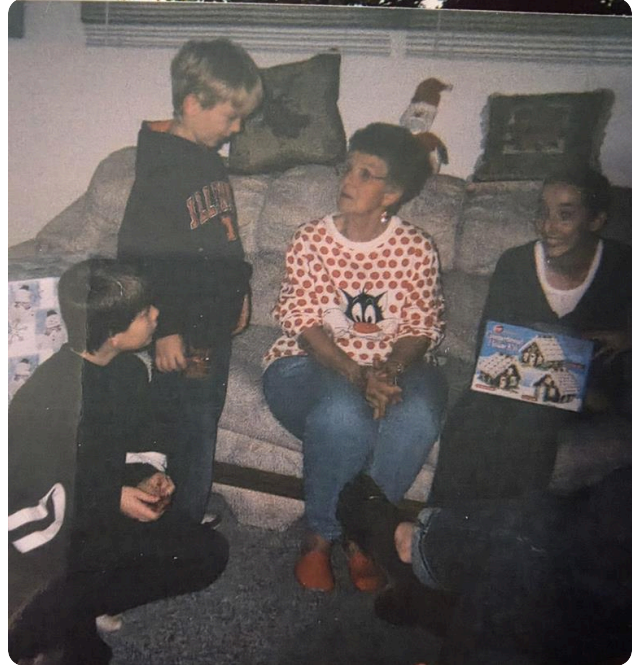
Grace Frances Schroat

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Summer Backstein shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 19 at 7:49 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Grace by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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