

I'm a visitor. I'm just passing through. I'm a citizen of heaven heading home via earth. I pray that I'll see you on the other side.



Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!
- The family of Irma Jean Sparks



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Walker - Walnut Hills
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*In Loving
Memory*



Irma Jean Sparks

January 14, 1931 - January 3, 2026

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Visitation: 10:00 am

Funeral Service: 11:00 am

Walker - Walnut Hills

2625 Gilbert Avenue

Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Rev. Dr. John B. Ivey, Officiating

Obituary

Irma Jean Sparks, was affectionately called “Sister Babe” by some family members. Irma was born on January 14, 1931, in Cincinnati, Ohio to Russell Goode and Grace Ross (Pettijohn). Her entire life was spent in Cincinnati, Ohio. Most of her life, she lived in the West End. Later, she moved to Avondale to reside in a senior citizen building until her passing on January 3, 2026, at the age of 94.

Irma was the younger sibling of Janelle “Lolly” McCoy. She attended Trinity School where she was baptized, and East Vocational High School.

On September 15, 1952, Irma wed William Herman Sparks. William had been her neighbor for many years. They became the parents of two children. Irma believed that as a mother, she had to dress her children well, provide nutritious meals served at a formally set dinner table, and raise them in a pristine environment. Each year she looked forward to receiving a Good Housekeeping certificate while living in public housing.

During the years, Irma held a variety of jobs. In her teen years she worked at Chet Restaurant, then at Gidding-Jennings, Kenner Toy, Saturday Knight, Ltd., and Memorial Day Care. Irma volunteered at St. Anthony School as a kitchen aide when her daughter attended the school.

As a devout Catholic, Irma was a member (joined in 2001) of St. Louis Catholic Church in downtown Cincinnati. She attended church regularly with her sister, Janelle. Both had hearing loss, but that didn’t stop them from getting on the bus, to attend church service. Prayer was very important to Irma. Daily, around the same time of day, she had prayer time.

Irma was independent, until a couple of months before her passing, she would catch a bus to do her banking and grocery shopping. She was a homebody who enjoyed shopping, cleanliness, and neatness (home and self).

She was preceded in death by her mother, Grace Ross (Pettijohn); her father, Russell Goode; her great aunt, Grace Slater; her sister Janelle McCoy; her husband, William Herman “Football” Sparks.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her children; Diane Sparks and David Sparks (Debra);her grandchildren, Dana Russell Sparks (Atlanta, Georgia), David Sparks Jr., and Ciera Lockett; her great-grandson: Donovyn Russell Driessen (Bluffton, SC), and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other loved ones.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Parting View Immediate Family

Prayer Rev. Dr. John B. Ivey

Scripture Rev. Dr. John B. Ivey

Poem "A Letter from Heaven"
Read by: Brenda Jones

Acknowledgements Bonnie McCoy

Remarks Friends & Family

Obituary Read Silently

Selection "I Love the Lord"
By: Whitney Houston

Eulogy Rev. Dr. John B. Ivey

Benediction Rev. Dr. John B. Ivey

Recessional Clergy, Family & Friends

Pallbearers

David Sparks Dana R. Sparks
Marquez McCoy

Flower Bearers

LaTanya Jan McCoy- Baxter
McCoy-Lampkin

Place of Rest

Walnut Hills Cemetery
3117 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206