

We are here today to celebrate the life of Nancy Heavin.

If you knew my mom, you'd know the 3 most important things to her were Faith, Family and Fun.

My mom was deeply FAITHFUL and a devoted Catholic.

- She attended St. Joseph's Elementary, then Sacred Heart High School, followed by St. Mary's Nursing school.
- She was married at Blessed Sacrament Church, but later was a very involved member of the St. Peter & Paul Parish in Waterbury and their Madonna Guild.
- She grew up in a faithful family where her sister would go on to become a Sister of Mercy and her parents would have their parish priest over to dinner.
- It was not surprising that after being a member of the C.Y.O. growing up, which was overseen by a then newly ordained priest, Father Arthur Murphy, she and my dad would go on to have a longstanding relationship and friendship with Fr Murphy, inviting him to dinners at our home and having him perform a vow renewal on their 25th wedding anniversary. He also officiated my own wedding.
- My mom would find comfort from her faith and also celebrate it for her many blessings over the years. Our family will be leaning on our shared faith at this time as well.

Now, regarding FAMILY:

- While my mom worked as a nurse, then various roles in real estate including starting a real estate training school, her most important "job" to her was being a great wife, mother and Gram-ma. None of us could have asked for a better, wife, mother and grandmother.
- She was so loving and supportive to all of us, always offering affection or a shoulder to cry on.
- She loved being with her family, whether at our collective gatherings at her home or ours, or traveling on the many vacations over the years.
- She loved being a grandmother. It brought her so much joy and happiness.
- She was right out in the hallway at the hospital the night my husband said to her, "Gram-ma, do you want to come see your grandson, Ryan?"
- Then, she was blessed again with my nephew Connor and my niece Caroline.
- She loved babysitting all of them any chance she could. Some of her favorite activities with them was making Christmas cookies and coloring Easter eggs. She'd also tell them stories that she made up for a laugh or a smile, or she'd say things to them like "I need to put on my face." She meant her makeup, but she said it that way to get a reaction out of them since they didn't know what to think...
- My mom enjoyed attending their sports or school events as often as possible before the Alzheimer's impacted.
- She passed with the love and support of her family throughout this journey until the very end.

We must not forget about FUN – since this will be a glimpse into the celebration of her life.

- My mom loved to get into playful trouble. This likely started when she was a child growing up in 3-family home with her cousins on the other 2 floors. They all group up like siblings and I've heard stories or witnessed the pranks and teasing that continued into adulthood as she and her cousins (who my sister and I always referred to as our Aunts and Uncles), got together for picnics, parties or even NY Giants tailgates and games.
- Over the years, she played various pranks on my dad, but I'll spare those stories and the reasons why she may have done them to teach him a lesson – he can reflect on those hilarious stories privately with us.
- But, there were many experiences over the years that give you a sense of the kind of fun and trouble she'd get into with her close friends.
- First, with her dear friend Joan, the 2 of them were often referred to as "Lucy and Ethel" – making reference to the I Love Lucy show and how Lucy and Ethel would always get into trouble (some of you may remember the chocolates on the conveyor belt scene – if not, you can Google it for a laugh)
- Last but not least, are a couple of examples of the fun that she had with her closest friends from nursing school, Sharon and Angela (one of whom is my godmother and the other my sister's). The 3 of them would let's just say, "try new things for the fun of it."
- I can recall as a young child witnessing my mother practicing walking across the living room floor with a book balanced on top of her head because the 3 of them decided to enroll in the Barbizon School of Modeling (not to be deterred by the fact that the 3 of them were in their thirties with small children and their heights ranged from maybe 4'10" to 5'4" – they went to these classes for weeks.
- Another time, I heard that because there was a sale on tennis outfits, they decided that they and their husbands needed to take tennis lessons. They all did and the 6 of them packed all of us children up on the weekends to meet up at East Mountain park as they played tennis.
- Later they went on to learn how to play golf, but I don't think the purchase of golf apparel precipitated that.
- In summary, my mom was full of life and that's why we celebrate her and how we will remember her.