

A C E L E B R A T I O N O F L I F E



*Shirley Marie Curtis*

SUNRISE: AUGUST 18, 1939 | SUNSET: MARCH 16, 2025

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
Viewing: 9:30a.m. | Service: 10:30a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church  
14908 Main Street  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Father Thomas LaHood, Officiating

# Order Of Mass

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

Sprinkling of remains with Holy Water

Musical Selection ~ Jesus Promised Me A Home

Kimise Songbird Lee

Opening Prayer

Father Thomas LaHood

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading ~ Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

Serenity Williams

Responsorial ~ Psalm 23

Angela Curtis

Second Reading ~ Romans 6:3-9

Serenity Williams

Gospel John 14:1-6

Father Thomas LaHood

Homily

Father Thomas LaHood

General Intercession

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Musical Selection ~ Goodness of God

Kimise Songbird Lee

Procession With the Gifts

Father Thomas LaHood

Introductory Dialogue

Preface

Eucharistic Prayer *(please kneel or sit)*

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace *(please exchange with your immediate neighbors in the pew)*

Lamb of God *(please kneel or sit)*

Communion *(We do not have open Communion. Catholics are invited to come forward)*

Prayer after Communion

Reading of the Cards and Obituary

Karen Curtis

Eulogy

## FINAL COMMENDATION

Remarks of Remembrance

Rev. Terry McCain

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

Father Thomas LaHood

Prayer of Commendation

Hymn ~ Going Up Yonder

Kimise Songbird Lee

# Remembering Shirley

On Sunday, March 16, 2025, Shirley Marie (Butler) Curtis entered eternal rest at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. after a brief illness. Shirley was born on August 18, 1939, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. She was the fifth of eleven children born to the late Thomas Henry and Catherine Irene (Belt) Butler. At an early age Shirley was baptized and was a member of St Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Shirley was educated in the Prince George's County Public School system. After leaving school she helped in the tobacco fields, working alongside her father and siblings. She later worked for the Prince George's County Public School system. For much of her life, she worked as a private housekeeper for several families.

Shirley loved spending time with her nine children and her large extended family and friends. She was just as happy sitting around enjoying good conversation with family and friends, as she was being the life of the party. If the music was playing, she was dancing, beckoning anyone standing idle to join her on the dancefloor. Shirley made everyone feel welcomed and loved, she was thought of as a second mother by many. If someone was in need and she had it, she would help in any way she could.

During the day you could find Shirley engrossed in her favorite day-time TV shows. She had a favorite character on each show, Victor was her man on *Young & the Restless*, Steve Harvey on *Family Feud*, Justin Wilson from a PBS Cooking show, and Steve Urkel and Arnold from *Family Matters* and *Different Strokes*. In the evening you could find her watching her favorite dancer "Dancing Tony" on *Breeze Country*. Shirley was also a vicarious Dallas fan, while most of her family were Washington Commanders fans. She knew very little about football, but if her two youngest sons liked Dallas, "Dallas was her team"!

Shirley leaves to cherish her memory nine children, Joanne Butler, Freddie Curtis (Angela), Donald Curtis, Betty Short (Thomas), Wanda Lanier, Kathy Green (Ray), Pamela Curtis, Rodney Curtis (Karen) and James Curtis (Sencee), 32 grandchildren, and 30 great grandchildren, one brother, Paul Butler, three sisters, Betty Butler, Doris (Butler) Spencer, and Carolyn (Butler) Smith, four sisters-in-law, Jacqueline (Hall) Butler, Geraldine (Curtis) Griffith, Lorraine (Curtis) Carby, and Edith (Medley) Curtis, one brother-in-law, Donald Spencer, many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

In addition to her parents, Shirley is preceded in death by her partner, James Abrams, ex-husband Freddy Curtis, brothers, James L., Thomas H., and Frances E. Butler; sisters, Agnes (Butler) Barnett, Teresa (Butler) Deville, and Mary Elsie (Butler) Smith; brothers-in-law Sylvester Barnett, Joseph Deville, George Smith, Michael Smith, Wilmore, Rudolph, Leroy and Ralph Curtis, George Griffith and Cecil Carby; sisters-in-law Eugenia (Sellman) Butler, and Barbara (Cook) Curtis.





# *The Missing Piece To Our Hearts*

As sunrise approached, little did we know  
God had called you home.

In life we love you dearly as you lay far away  
Our feelings truly haven't changed.

Shattered into a million pieces,  
The moment we heard your name.

We lost our precious jewel,  
Our one in a million pearl.

You departed so peacefully,  
Knowing your love is fully near.

Never truly leaving our side,  
But leaving us with your helping guide.

Full of memories, your blueprint, your legacy,  
Will now forever live on.

Knowing our families Matriarch,  
Is now forever gone.

Our hearts are truly broken,  
Shattered into pieces.

As life goes on, we won't feel alone,  
For we know God let us borrow you.

Feels like a moment,  
But God has blessed us with many years.

Now it's time for you to go,  
Because He called you home.

Until God calls us all,  
Our hearts will remain the same.

Someday our missing piece,  
Will fit in place again.

Finally, our missing piece to our hearts,  
Will be whole again.

Sleep peacefully our Beautiful Angel,  
Until we meet again.

We love you always,  
Your Family





## *Tribute To Mother*

As we all sat in your hospital room, not knowing that the end was near, every chance we got we would ask you a question just to make sure that you knew your family was near. Also, hoping to hear one of your quick "colorful" retorts, because we needed "normal", this newness was too much. The change was too quick. We counted on you to make us laugh and smile, waiting anxiously for what you'd say next. Nobody could make us laugh as hard and loud as you could, and we'd respond with "poor Shirley". But this newness was a whisper or a stare. You knew more than we wanted to know. Especially, when your grandchildren heard you say, "the party's over". A phrase often used at the end of a family gathering to signal it's time to go home. But it was what you said afterwards that gave us so much comfort and peace. The moment you said, "I saw my mother, she is coming to get me; and my father was right behind her." You were trying to tell us what we couldn't or wouldn't understand. Your time was near, and your Heavenly parents were leading you home. What more could we have asked in our time of pain and loss, but to know that you will NEVER be alone!

With all of our love,  
Your children and grandchildren

# *Palbearers*

Andre Stewart, D'Mar Curtis  
Donald Curtis, Jr., Jaquil Curtis  
Lorenzo Simms, Shawn Butler, Sr.



# *Honorary Palbearers*

Freddie Curtis, Jr.  
Jamarri Green  
Kyle Green  
Rontae Lanier



# *Acknowledgements*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not here at all, just thought of us today. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you all today.

The family appreciates your prayers, cards, flowers, assistance and all other expressions and acts of sympathy, love and understanding given during our time of bereavement.

# *Interment*

Resurrection Cemetery  
8000 Woodyard Rd, Clinton, MD 20735

# *Repast*

Immediately following the interment, the family will greet family and friends at:  
The American Legion  
9201 Surratt's Road | Cheltenham, MD 20623

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:**

Fayson Firm of Professional Morticians  
18 Irongate Drive  
Waldorf, Maryland 20602  
[www.thefaysonfirm.com](http://www.thefaysonfirm.com)  
(202) 850-0550

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