



Gentle Departure

Your hands have let go of the weight of the day,
Your eyes now rest where the soft lights play.
Though silence has taken the sound of your voice,
Your love still lingers – we have no choice
But to carry it forward, through shadow and sun,
Until our own journeys are finally done.

Acknowledgements

We, the family of Aretha (Upshaw) Sambian, would like to thank each of you for every kind word and deed rendered to us during this most difficult time. We ask God's richest blessing upon all of you.



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In Loving Memory of



Aretha Sambian

July 9, 1966 - January 14, 2026

January 24, 2026

Visitation: 2:00

Funeral Service: 2:30 PM

Walker - Mt. Healthy Chapel

7272 Hamilton Avenue

Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

Sil Watkins, Officiating

Obituary

Aretha Fay Upshaw-Sambian was born on July 9, 1966, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was the beloved daughter of Bertha Edwards. In 2016, she joined in marriage with Matthew Sambian, with whom she shared a loving union. On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Aretha peacefully departed this life.

Aretha accepted Christ at an early age, and her faith remained a guiding force throughout her life. Though she faced illness over the years, she continued to work, persevere, and uplift those around her. Her strength, kindness, and joyful spirit touched everyone who knew her. She was deeply loved and cared for by her family and friends, and she brought light into every room she entered.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Bertha Edwards, and her uncle Ivory Upshaw; aunt Edith Mae Kirkland, Pauline Kirkland; and Maddie Baldrige. Her grandparents Katherine Upshaw and Raymond Hoard (Mildren Hoard) ;and nephew Anthony Rozier Jr. Aretha was the devoted mother of three sons: LaRay Upshaw (Sa'sha Upshaw), Derrick Upshaw, and Benjamin Upshaw. She leaves to cherish her memory her loving husband, Matthew Sambian, and her four precious grandchildren: MaKayla Upshaw, Destiny Upshaw, Labella Jolley, and Azeem Jolley. She is also survived by her aunt Patricia Upshaw; sisters Katherine Upshaw, Tammy Upshaw, and Tonya Upshaw-Patterson (Robert Patterson), along with a host of extended family members and friends who will forever hold her close in their hearts.

Aretha's life was a testament to faith, resilience, and love. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude	Video Slideshow
Parting View	The Family
Prayer	Sil Watkins
Scripture	2 Timothy 4:7
Selection	Vicki Saunders
Remarks	Family & Friends
Obituary	Sil Watkins
Selection	Teresa Teri Anderson
Eulogy	Sil Watkins
Benediction	Sil Watkins
Recessional	Clergy, Family & Friends

