



Joan Ethel Goodwin

March 11, 1938 - April 10, 2026

Joan E. Goodwin, 88, of Fort Myers, Florida, passed peacefully on April 10, 2026, surrounded by her loving family after complications from pneumonia. She left this world the same way she lived in it—with quiet grace and a heart full of love.

Born on March 11, 1938, in Weymouth, Massachusetts, Joan was a true New England girl with a sparkle that never dimmed. One magical summer on Cape Cod, she caught the eye of a smitten young man named Richard. On their very first date, he boldly announced they would get married. Joan thought he was crazy, but she married him anyway, embarking on an adventurous journey that crisscrossed the United States and Canada, with each of their children born in a different city before finally settling in Fort Myers, Florida.

Above all, Joan was a devoted, attentive mother who poured her heart into her children, and a daughter who cared for her parents at the end of their lives. She put her teaching degree to wonderful use as a substitute teacher at Villas Elementary School, then became the school's dependable bookkeeper for 30 years.

Every summer, Joan's happiest tradition was packing up and heading back to the family beach house on White Horse Beach near Plymouth. There she created a joyful chaos of love—gathering nieces, nephews, cousins, and

grandchildren for days filled with laughter, endless card games, and walks on the beach. She was the proud matriarch of the family, making all feel welcome and offering quick smiles and easy laughter. The family affectionately nicknamed her "Teflon Joan" because no matter what life threw at her—health challenges, storms, or everyday troubles—she bounced back with grit, determination, and that trademark positive spirit. She beat the odds repeatedly, becoming an example for others -- especially her grandchildren -- and always offered a non-judgmental listening ear for whoever needed one.

A devout Catholic, Joan was the warm, steady glue that held the entire family together across the miles and the years. She found pure delight in tackling 1,000-piece puzzles and was famous for her pumpkin ice cream pie that somehow made every Thanksgiving and Christmas sweeter. Her radiant smile, her unflinching kindness, and her quiet strength will be deeply missed by everyone lucky enough to have been loved by her.

She is survived by her sisters, Dianne and Donna; her children, Maryellen (Kevin), William (Greta), and Robert; and her cherished grandchildren, Jane, Christianne (Melkon), Megan, Alyssa, Kevin, John, and Sarah. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard.

A Memorial Mass celebrating Joan's life will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Columbkille Catholic Church, 12171 Iona Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908. A hosted reception will follow.

In place of flowers, the family invites you to honor Joan by performing a small act of kindness or supporting a cause close to your heart—something she would have quietly done without fanfare.

As Joan so loved to sing: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me..." her life offers a beautiful reminder that love, laughter, and faith can

carry us through anything. She leaves behind a legacy of warmth that will continue to wrap around her family for generations to come. We are so grateful she was ours.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

APR **16**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Columbkille Catholic Church
12171 Iona Road
Fort Myers, FL