



## Barbara Ann Smithgall

June 3, 2026

Barbara Ann Smithgall, beloved wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away peacefully, with her husband by her bedside, after a courageous and unwavering battle with breast cancer. She was the cherished wife of her devoted husband, John Smithgall, with whom she shared 23 years of love, laughter, and countless memories. Together for 23 years and married on June 4, 2004, they built a life defined by unwavering devotion, friendship, and love. Barbara passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026, just one day before what would have been their 22nd wedding anniversary.

Born and raised in Gates, New York, Barbara was the eldest daughter of Mary Ann Asam. She was predeceased by her father, John, and by her parents-in-law, James and Lucille Smithgall. She is survived by her loving sister, Suzanne Winter (Paul); her treasured niece, Madelyn Winter; her sisters-in-law, Suzanne Burt (David), Doris Barbeau (Stephen), and Cindy Palmer (Jerry); her dearest lifelong friend, Lisa Wetzel (Scott); goddaughters, Alexis Wetzel and Caterina Vasile; two nieces, three nephews, and many cousins who brought her immense joy throughout her life.

A gifted musician and natural leader, Barbara was a pianist and the senior class president of the Class of 1989 at Gates Chili High School, who lit up the stage as the lead actress in many school productions, including Mame. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary Education from the State University of New York at Brockport. She later earned a master's degree in Human Resource Development from the Rochester Institute of

Technology.

Barbara began her professional journey as a teacher in Horseheads, NY, where her warmth and professionalism left an indelible mark. She went on to dedicate more than a decade to Monroe Community College, serving as both an Admissions Counselor and Assistant Professor, where she guided and inspired countless students. She later served as the Associate Director of Admissions at Medaille College's Rochester campus, continuing her lifelong commitment to education and student success.

Barbara was deeply engaged in professional organizations and leadership roles that reflected her passion for collaboration, mentorship, and service. She served as the Western New York Representative for the New York State Transfer & Articulation Association (NYSTAA) from 2013 to 2015 and was an active member from 2011 to 2016. She was also a proud member of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) from 1998 to 2009, during which she served as President (2007–2009) and President-Elect (2005–2007), leading initiatives to empower women in higher education. Additionally, Barbara was an engaged member of the State University of New York College Admissions Professionals (SUNYCAP) from 1998 to 2009, where she served on the Executive Board (2002–2004), coordinated New Professionals Orientation at SUNY System Administration in Albany, and contributed to multicultural programming and statewide conference planning. She was also a proud graduate of the Leadership Rochester program (2011–2012), further reflecting her commitment to professional growth and community engagement.

Barbara and John built three homes together in Chili and Webster, New York, and ultimately in Statham, Georgia, each becoming their own special retreat, thoughtfully designed and lovingly maintained as the backdrop for a life well lived together. Together, they loved traveling to warmer destinations, enjoying the company of dear friends and family, and sharing their lives with their beloved dogs, Teddy, Hazel, and Charlie.

Those who knew Barbara will forever remember her as a woman with a loving

and generous heart. She had a remarkable ability to remember every birthday and anniversary, always offering heartfelt notes and singing her signature "Kings and Queens" birthday song to those she held dear. A devoted dog lover and a quiet champion of kindness, Barbara never walked past someone in need without offering help, embodying grace and compassion in every interaction.

Her battle with breast cancer began in 2009 with a stage zero diagnosis and continued with extraordinary strength and dignity when the disease returned as stage four in 2018. Throughout her battle, Barbara's faith, optimism, and unshakable love for her family and friends never wavered. Her strength and kindness will remain an inspiration to all who were blessed to know her.

Family and friends are invited to her Funeral Mass at St. Pius Tenth Catholic Church, 3000 Chili Ave. Rochester, NY 14624 on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM, followed by a blessing and interment of her ashes at Christ Our Light Mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Barbara's family kindly asks that, in lieu of flowers, you simply keep Barb and her loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Throughout her illness, so many family members and friends generously supported Barb's care and needs, and both Barb and John were deeply grateful for the extraordinary kindness, love, and support shown to them during this time.

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

2461 Lake Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14612

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JUN 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius Tenth Church  
3000 Chili Ave  
Rochester, NY 14624

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ Dear John, Frank & I are so very sorry to learn about Barb's passing. Although we were only next door neighbors for a short time, we just wanted you to know our thoughts go out to you, and prayers of peace and comfort will get you through this difficult time. You & Barb were great neighbors.  
Frank & Patty Massare



Patty Massare - June 18 at 09:03 PM

JW

“ Jamie and Susan Winebrake purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.



Jamie and Susan Winebrake - June 16 at 07:20 AM

FF

“ From President Joseph & GGC Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.



From President Joseph & GGC Family - June 10 at 12:31 PM

CY

“ Dear John, Our hearts are so sad thinking of your young wife and the struggles that she must have endured. We pray in the days ahead will bring you much peace. Our deepest condolences, Bob & Cheryl Yaekel

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**cheryl e yaekel** - June 10 at 08:54 AM

JS

*Dear Bob and Cheryl,*

*Thank you so much for your kind note and for reaching out. It means more to me than I can express, and I hope both of you are doing well.*

*I don't recall if you had the opportunity to meet Barb at Mom's funeral, but she truly was a special lady. She touched so many lives with her kindness, strength, and caring heart, and I was blessed to share my life with her.*

*Your thoughts, prayers, and condolences mean a great deal to me during this difficult time. Thank you for thinking of me.*

*I hope Greg and Brenda and their families are doing well, too. Please give them my best.*

*With gratitude,*

*John*

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**John Smithgall** - June 10 at 11:04 AM

JS

“ For those who have asked about honoring Barbara's memory, memorial contributions may be made to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF), an organization dedicated to advancing research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

Donations in Barbara's memory may be made to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation at [BCRF.org](https://www.bcrf.org/). <https://www.bcrf.org/>

Thank you for helping support the research that brings hope to so many families facing this disease.

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**John Smithgall** - June 10 at 08:21 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.



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June 10 at 06:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara Ann Smithgall.

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June 10 at 06:50 AM

JO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John - June 09 at 11:09 AM

JS

*Dear Andy,*

*Barb always spoke of you with such respect and affection. You were far more than her boss at MCC—you were a trusted colleague, mentor, and dear friend. During some of her most difficult health challenges Barb and I faced early in our marriage, your kindness, understanding, and support helped carry us through. I don't think we'll ever fully be able to express how much that meant to us.*

*Thank you for the friendship, compassion, and encouragement you showed us over the years. Please know that Barb thought the world of you, and so do I. We will always be grateful for the role you played in our lives.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*

*John*

John Smithgall - June 10 at 08:37 AM

AF

“ Andy and Lynne Freeman purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.



Andy and Lynne Freeman - June 09 at 11:04 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.*



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June 04 at 06:18 PM



“ *My condolences to my Uncle John. Aunt Barb and Uncle John we shared a lot of good times and good memories. Aunt Barb will forever be in our hearts.*  
*- Paige Vandervoort*

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**paige** - June 04 at 03:32 PM



*Dear Paige,*

*Thank you so much for your kind words. They mean a lot to me.*

*Barb loved you dearly and always enjoyed the time we spent together. We shared so many wonderful memories over the years, especially all the trips to parks, outings, and family get-togethers. Those are moments I will always treasure.*

*She will forever remain in our hearts, and I know she would be touched by your thoughtful message.*

*I can't wait to see you next week and give you and Izzy big hugs.*

*With love and gratitude,*

*Uncle John*

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**John Smithgall** - June 10 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.



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June 04 at 09:23 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Smithgall.



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June 04 at 08:50 AM



“ Barb and I grew up “across the creek” from each other and often tried to find ways to make a bridge so we could cross more easily to hang out. Let’s just say we weren’t meant to be engineers. We went to college together and became teachers together before losing touch. Three decades later I had no idea what impact she would have on my life. We created our own two person “book club” about 6 years ago and enjoyed regular coffee dates at Barnes and Noble. After an hour of catching up about the past, present, and future we sometimes even talked about a book! Lol  
Barb was love personified. She made me feel valued and supported and I pray I offered her the same. Her friendship at this time of our lives brought me such peace and I will forever be grateful for having had her friendship. I love you Barb and will miss you, until we meet again.

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**Marissa Privitere** - June 03 at 03:46 PM

JS

*Marissa, thank you so much for sharing this. I absolutely loved hearing about the "across the creek" adventures and your engineering attempts—I can just picture it. Your friendship meant so much to Barb, especially these past several years. She always looked forward to your coffee dates and cherished the conversations, laughter, and connection you shared. Thank you for being such a wonderful friend and for bringing so much joy, comfort, and peace into her life. Your words mean more to me than I can express. ❤️*

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**John Smithgall** - June 10 at 08:29 AM