



# Jean Carol Ropp

SEP 3, 1959 - FEB 11, 2023



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## **Jean Carol Ropp**

SEP 3, 1959 - FEB 11, 2023

**J**ean Ropp passed away on February 11, 2023 in Clearwater, Florida. She was 63 years old.

Born September 3, 1959, Jean grew up in the suburbs of southeast Michigan. She was a towheaded, dimpled spitfire who grew into a young woman with fluffy center-parted hair, aviator eyeglasses that were forever slipping down her nose, and a beaming smile that was somehow mischievous and utterly guileless at once. She radiated joy, kindness, and humor. No one's voice was louder, and no one's heart was more pure.

At 18, Jean met the love of her life, Phil, while she was on a college trip to Chicago. By chance, they re-encountered each other on the Alma College campus six months later and were inseparable from that moment on. At 19, Jean married Phil in a field covered in lilies of the valley in Ithaca, Michigan on May 20, 1979. At 20, she gave birth to the first of their seven girls. Jean leaves behind her adoring husband Phil, who was her best friend and dearly beloved; her daughters Rebekah, Rachel, Sarah, Abigail, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Martha; her grandson, Zef; her brother, Jim; and her sister, Lynne.

Life for the perpetually expanding young family was not often easy, but Jean always insisted that she was "blessed beyond measure." After spending the newlywed period in central Michigan, Phil and Jean moved to Ft. Myers, Florida for several years before settling into a 150-year-old farmhouse in Leelanau County, a spectacularly beautiful peninsula on Lake Michigan. Together, and later with the help of their kids, they built a vacation rentals business called Bass Lake Cottages from the ground up over the course of 15 years. In 2003, the family sold the farmhouse and bought a boutique hotel in Sebring, Florida. When the town was battered by sequential hurricanes little more than a year later, the hotel was destroyed. Jean and Phil, rather than flee, staged a makeshift soup kitchen out of the hotel restaurant and kept the community fed and sheltered through a month-long power outage. They returned up north to Alma, where they spent 10 years, before migrating back down south in 2015 to make their last home together in



## Obituary

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Clearwater. Through frequent changes and occasional unimaginable challenges, Jean was indomitable. “We’ll figure it out,” she always said. And they always did.

Besides being a business owner and restaurant manager, Jean frequently worked second (or third) jobs as a waitress or a short-order cook throughout her kids’ lives. In 2016, she became the Parish Administrator at the Light of Christ church in Clearwater, working closely with Father Bill Wilson, who became her very dear friend. She taught her daughters in both word and example that any work that serves others and is done with integrity is noble work and that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. Jean respected and understood children as full, complex people; she considered it a privilege to share time and the eucharist with elderly folks; and she could never ignore any animal in need of care. She loved to laugh, she loved to read, she loved to sit outside at dusk with her husband and a glass of whisky or wine and talk, talk, talk. She possessed a rare capacity for joy, boundless compassion, and a profound appreciation for the beauty of God’s creation (as well as His sense of humor). She made a mean fried egg.

Jean will be honored by a funeral mass at Light of Christ Church in Clearwater at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Light of Christ Catholic Church.

<http://locchurch.org/>



# Events


**Jean Carol Ropp**

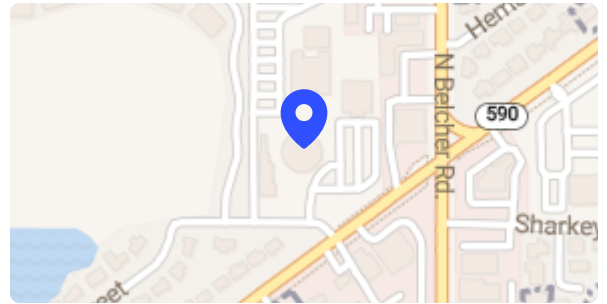
SEP 3, 1959 - FEB 11, 2023

## Memorial Mass

 **Wednesday**, February 15, 2023

 1:00 PM ET

 **Light of Christ Catholic Church**  
2176 Marilyn St, Clearwater FL 33765-2532





## Tribute Wall

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**Michèle Weibel** lit a candle in honor of Jean.



To say I am stunned is an understatement. For some reason, Jeannie, you have been on my mind in recent months. I wonder if my heart knew you left before I read the notices of Phil's and then your passing on the Alma College In Memoriam page. I remember meeting you the first week of our freshman year when we and so many others (Laurie, Sandy (Sam), Sophia, Pat (Turkey Legs), Madison, et al lived on the Garden Level of Newberry Hall (aka the basement) because there were more freshmen women than there were rooms available. I remember you returning from your job at Saga with a Coke in a glass each night. Those glasses became the homes of so many spider plants. You were able to get them to grow so easily. I remember helping you return all the glasses to the cafeteria at the end of the school year. I remember trips to town for pizza, time in the Student Union, and discussions with Phil and others about religion in front of the fire. I am glad of the times we had together; wish there had been more -- especially after we graduated. Rest in Peace, dear lady. God bless you and your family. Michèle (Mitchell) Weibel, Alma College class of 1981

June 2 at 12:19 PM



**Sylvia Ropp** posted:

Phil and family, I was so sorry to learn of Jean's passing. I want you to know you will all be in my prayers. Love, Sylvia

February 26 at 11:51 AM



**Cheryl Voglesong** posted:

I have no doubt that Jean and Glen have found each other in the ever after and are deep in discussion as I write. Phil and family, we are all holding you all in love and prayers. Cheri Voglesong & family

February 15 at 5:55 AM



**Margie Teall** posted:

Jean was my dearest friend, starting in our junior high youth group, then high school, and then to Alma College, where I had met Phil the year before she entered college. She called me Mutt, and she was my Jeff. I will always love and miss her energetic presence and her smile that could light up any room. I know you miss her as well. Sending deep condolences to your community, and to each of the girls. We are all blessed to have had her in our lives. I love you Jean, and I know you're in the arms of the angels. -Margie White Teall

February 14 at 11:41 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Josue Arias** shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

This was the last time we spent together at a church trip to Tarpon Springs. Thank you so much for your friendship and being an inspiration to others. My prayers goes to the family during this difficult time. Rest in peace Jean.



February 13 at 4:12 PM



**Karen Renee Krebs** posted:

How do i share a memory of someone I cared so much about and who was such a huge part of my life so long ago. We met at First Presbyterian church during Annie Get your Gun where you took care of the 'screwdriver' in the props room. We threw frisbees in Linden Park and hopped the wall at Cranbrook. We made pigs of ourselves at Farrell's and preached together at the youth services. I remember clearly the night we were at Mitch's house and your foot got run over. How many Yes and Genesis concerts did we attend together? Who could forget the Deep Purple concert, our one and only date! Skyline, Focus, The mission trip to Kentucky, First Theater guild, Christmas Hand in Hand, every memory of those years you were there. I tried for years to reconnect with you but it wasn't to be. Although we haven't seen each other since the late seventies you were always in my heart. Rest in Peace, old friend. Someday I'll join you and we'll play some Euchre! Karen Renee(Bill) Krebs

February 14 at 7:55 AM



**Lynne De Bruin** July 11 at 7:21 AM

I was re-reading tributes to Jean this morning and saw yours. It was so wonderful to read-thank-you for posting a tribute. This is Lynne, Jean's sister. I'm not sure if you remember me, but I remember you, esp. what a good friend you were to Jean. Jean loved you so, so very much. She never forgot those early days and on occasion would remember them with us family members. I don't know why your attempts to reconnect didn't work but be assured Jean never stopped being your dear friend as well. God bless you Karen Renee (Bill) Krebs! Lynne Defebaugh De Bruin



**Mike And Linda Peno** posted:

Jean was a dear friend. She was always ready to help and free with her compliments. She was an inspiration to me, an example of God's grace and a light to everyone she came in contact with. It just won't be the same Light of Christ without her. I can't get used to the fact that she won't be here anymore. We love you Jean, Mike and Linda Peno

February 13 at 4:17 PM



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**Linda Quirk** posted:

I was just looking at old photos of Phil, Jean, Jack, me and our "second" family of littles. I have fond memories of Jean as a sweet and funny lady. I'm so sad for the family. Peace of Christ be with you in this very sad time.

February 13 at 4:12 PM



Josue Arias shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 14 at 8:14 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jean by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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