



Theresa Waldschmitt

May 18, 1940 - December 2, 2024

The family and friends of Theresa Sarah (Lopez) Waldschmitt share the news of the passing of their wife, sister, aunt, cousin and dear friend on Monday, December 2nd, 2024, after living an amazing journey of life of 84 years. Theresa was the first of six children born to Sarah and Tony Lopez, Sr. at Riverside Community Hospital in Riverside, California on May 18, 1940. She was a long-time resident of the Inland Empire, most recently living 52 years in Grand Terrace with the love of her life, husband Arnold "Arnie" Waldschmitt.

Theresa was educated at local schools, including St. Francis de Sales Girls High School, Riverside and Riverside City College. She excelled in her studies and was an accomplished organist, playing at her life-long Riverside Catholic parishes of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine and St. Francis de Sales Parish. She had a love for music and art, but most especially had a deep love for her family and her friends, always showing great generosity with a caring and compassionate heart for other people.

Teri began work right out of high school and entered public service, first at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino and then at the City of Riverside Public Utilities Water Department from where she retired in 2005 with illustrious recommendations from the Mayor and City Manager. She rose up the clerical ranks to the position of water permits manager, a job in which she was responsible for the approval of all water applications for housing and

building projects in the growing City of Riverside.

Teri's greatest passion was found in her volunteer ministry at various Catholic parishes in the Inland Empire, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine and St. Francis de Sales Parish in Riverside, as well as Immaculate Conception Parish in Colton and Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, San Bernardino. Her love for her faith and her priests was a strong source of her community involvement for over 80 decades. She was preceded in death by paternal and maternal grandparents, aunts and uncles, and parents, Sarah and Tony, and a younger sister, Patricia Y. Lopez. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Arnie Waldschmitt of Grand Terrace; sister Ramona Braaten of Arlington, Washington; brother David Lopez of Bakersfield; brothers Lt. Col. (retired) Anthony Lopez, Jr. and Msgr. Gerry Lopez of Riverside; as well as numerous nephews, nieces, great nephews and great nieces living in Alabama, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington State. Also, survived by her faithful caregivers, Alma and Jackie Zamano, whom she saw as her daughter and granddaughter.

Teri's family invites you to join them in celebrating her life in faith at the following Roman Catholic liturgies: a Vigil and Rosary will be prayed on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, 2858 Ninth Street, Riverside 92507. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 11:30 AM at St. Francis de Sales Parish, 4268 Lime Street, Riverside 92501. A reception will be held after the funeral Mass at the Riverside Marriott Hotel, 3400 Market Street, Riverside 92501 . Interment will be privately arranged for immediate family. Funeral services and floral deliveries will be conducted by Preston and Simons Mortuary, 3358 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside 92501. May Theresa rest in Our Lord's peace and joy.

Previous Events

Rosary

DEC **15**. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Pst)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shine
2858 9th Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Mass

DEC **16**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Pst)

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
4268 Lime St
Riverside, CA 92501

Tribute Wall

PA

“ Guardamos enorme gratitud a Teresita. Fundadora del Ministerio Hispano en su parroquia y también acompañante pastoral en los ministerios. Su ejemplo de fe viva, de fidelidad a la Iglesia y amor a los pobres queda en nuestros corazones.
Petra Alexander

Petra Alexander - December 17, 2024 at 10:57 AM

TJ

“ The staff of Life, Dignity, and Justice purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Theresa Waldschmitt.



The staff of Life, Dignity, and Justice - December 13, 2024 at 11:31 PM

LK

“ Lucynda Kondrat planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theresa Waldschmitt.

Lucynda Kondrat - December 11, 2024 at 01:55 PM

LK

“ Lucynda Kondrat purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Theresa Waldschmitt.



Lucynda Kondrat - December 11, 2024 at 01:55 PM

SD

“ *Ms. Theresa was an ardent Catholic Christian who found great joy in service of God and humanity.*

She shared in the graces of those great and holy women whom she shared same name.

St Theresa of Lisieux, St. Teresa of Avilla and St. Teresa of Calcutta. I am very sure her namesakes are interceding for her in heaven.

My condolences to the family she has left behind to mourn her. In baptism she died with Christ, may she also share in Jesus's Resurrection. May Mary, our mother of mercy continue to advocate for the whole family.

God bless you all.

Sr. Chilee Okoko



Sr. Chilee Okoko, D.M.M.M - December 10, 2024 at 09:18 PM

BN

“ *Benedict N. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Theresa Waldschmitt.*



Benedict N. - December 10, 2024 at 03:48 PM

FO

“ Msgr. Lopez called and informed me that the sister Theresa was admitted in Kaiser permanente medical center Fontana. I went immediately to visit her because I was already in the hospital. When I got to her room she was so happy to see me. She requested for the Anointing of the sick and Holy communion. I had great discussion with her and I gave her consoling words to keep in mind especially to be patient in everything. I kept on visiting with her everyday. Each day, she will request for Holy communion even when she was finding it difficult to swallow anything. I discovered she loves the Holy Eucharist a lot and trusted in the mercy of Jesus Christ. I heard twice her confessions. She was so devoted to her faith that she wanted me around her bed side always. A few days before she passed she requested me to stay with her always. I gave her assurance that I will though that I have a long lists of other patients to visit for the sacrament of the church. However, the next day I visited her in ICU when she was already finding difficult to keep her eyes open. Anthony repeatedly called her attention that I was in the room and she struggled to open her eyes a little bit to look but was so weak and tired. She suffered patiently because the sickness couldn't allow her to eat for a few days. At this point, I agreed with Anthony to give her the last rite and blessing. The next day which was her last day in the hospital, I visited her, pray together with her husband and some family members and blessed her again. Honestly, I had good time to pray and talk with her. Theresa was so nice and a great woman of faith. I'll continue to keep her and the entire family members in my prayers. Please, accept my sincere condolences 🙏. May God grant Theresa eternal life, peace and rest. Amen.

*Fr. James Onyenani
Priest chaplain Kaiser Fontana.*

Fr. James Onyenani - December 06, 2024 at 09:24 PM

CA

Dearest Theresa, rest in Jesus's arms with your head on His loving heart. I love you. Carlotta

Carlotta Arredondo - December 07, 2024 at 11:47 AM

LU

Dearest Theresa ,your death came unexpectedly while I was still hoping to see you before my long trip. But the Lord called you to His heavenly place ... Unable to see you any longer, I find consolation in knowing that you, re suffering no more . May He Whom you loved and served so well grant you eternal rest! I love you,my sweet Friend .Lucynda

Lucinda - December 10, 2024 at 01:35 AM

KB

“ My mother Thelma Bledsoe considered Teri one of her best friends. Until mom passed in 2023, throughout the pandemic, they talked almost every night, sometimes well into the night. I'll never forget Teri's kindness and love. Teri, I know when you see mom she'll be glad to see you. Give her a hug for me and thank you for being wonderful, lovely you.

Katrina L. Bledsoe - December 05, 2024 at 05:51 PM

MB

“ Much love, Katrina Bledsoe purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Theresa Waldschmitt.



Much love, Katrina Bledsoe - December 05, 2024 at 05:45 PM

MB

“ Much love, Katrina Bledsoe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theresa Waldschmitt.

Much love, Katrina Bledsoe - December 05, 2024 at 05:45 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Theresa Waldschmitt.



December 05, 2024 at 02:36 PM

FT

“ Fr. Geoffrey Eboh (Adopted child to the planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theresa Waldschmitt.

Fr. Geoffrey Eboh (Adopted child to the - December 04, 2024 at 08:59 PM

FT

“ Fr. Geoffrey Eboh (Adopted child to the purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Theresa Waldschmitt.



Fr. Geoffrey Eboh (Adopted child to the - December 04, 2024 at 08:59 PM

RR

“ Although I am not in the US at this time, I wish to join Theresa's family in prayer for her eternal rest and offer my deeply felt condolences. I remember Theresa well. I met her several times, sometimes in the supermarket. May she rest in the peace of the Risen Lord, joining with her parents and other members of her family who have died. Sincerely, +Rutilio

Rutilio J. del Riego - December 04, 2024 at 04:22 PM

TB

“ When we would visit I remember my Aunt Teri taking us to the mall; we loved going to the big malls in San Bernardino; then she would take us to Carls Jr... it was pretty special as a kid, awesome! I do miss you Aunt Teri, we love you very much!

Your nephew,
Timothy Braaten

Romans 12:15, Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.....

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13) The end of the matter, all that has been heard: fear God and keep His commandments, because this is the end of the matter for all mankind.

14) For God will bring every work to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

I pray for all my relatives (Aunts, Uncles, cousins) there in CA, for their hearts, minds, and emotions to be comforted and at peace. And especially for my mother who was very close to my Aunt Teri. My Aunt Teri was a self-sacrificing woman who gave all of herself to take care of my nana and papa. My Aunt Teri was truly an amazing woman and will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know her.

timothy braaten - December 04, 2024 at 12:50 PM

DL

“ Miss my sister!!Love you Teri!!!

Dave Lopez - December 03, 2024 at 07:45 PM

LM

I met Teri in Fr. Dominic di Pasquale's youth group back in the '70s, and we quickly became good friends. Fast forward to the pandemic period... Teri was a huge comfort to our friend Thelma Bledsoe in her last years, calling her late at night for a long chat almost nightly... Thelma really looked forward to the calls... On Thelma's 92nd birthday, Teri came to Thelma's front yard with me, masked and keeping a good distance, but packing flowers and practically an entire bakery of different kinds of cakes and pastries for Thelma and joining in with goofy Happy Birthday songs amplified by a block rocker. Thelma sat on the porch and was so happy to see Teri In person. I would see her at St. Francis volunteering in the kitchen many times, and she did much of the caregiving for her parents In their later years. A very spiritual and giving, selfless woman, Teri was definitely an example of the love that our faith gives us. We will really miss Teri. Rest in God's peace, Teri.

Laurie Mena - December 04, 2024 at 11:10 AM

FO

Msgr. Lopez informed me that the sister Theresa was admitted in Kaiser permanente medical center Fontana. I went immediately to visit her because I was already in the hospital. When I got to her room in 739, she was so happy. She requested for Anointing of the sick and Holy communion. I had great discussions with her and I gave her consoling words to keep in mind especially to be patient. I kept on visiting with her every day. On everyday she will request for Holy communion even when she was finding it difficult to swallow anything. I discovered she loves the Holy Eucharistic a lot and trusted in the mercy of Jesus. I heard twice her confessions. She was so devoted to her faith that she wanted me to around her always beside her sick hospital bed. At one time she requested me to stay with her always but I told I had a long lists of other patients to visit for the sacraments. However, I was privileged to give her the last rite of the church when she was finding difficult to open her eyes. On that day, Anthony called her repeatedly that I came to her and even two other the family members were there. When she heard Father is here to bless you, she opened her eyes and closed it again. I gave her the last rite and blessed. Consequently, her final day, I visited her and prayed for her and consoled her husband. Theresa, was so nice and a great woman of faith. I will continue to prayer for her repose. And to the entire family, please accept my sincere condolences 🙏. May God grant Theresa eternal life, peace and rest 🙏.

Fr. James Onyenani - December 06, 2024 at 05:30 PM