



## Mary Teresa Carpenter

July 12, 1943 - October 1, 2025

Mary T. Carpenter (Terry), passed peacefully on October 1, 2025, following a courageous battle with Stage 4 kidney disease. Terry was born in Baltimore, Ireland, on July 12, 1943, the daughter of Patrick and Kathleen O'Neill. She was a resident of Loganville, GA, for the past 20 years, relocating to Hoschton, GA, earlier this year. She is survived by her sister, Joan A. O'Neill; her daughter, Tara Jones, and her husband Geoff; and her beloved grandson, Brennan, all of Hoschton, GA. After graduating from St. Mary's High School in Brookline, MA, Terry served briefly in the United States Air Force. She then spent approximately 10 years in the private sector as an administrative assistant to CEOs. In 1978, she returned to public service as secretary to the Chief of Police in Merrimack, NH, where she also served as a special police officer, assisting with the escort of female suspects after hours. When her family relocated to Georgia in 1980, Terry worked a few years in the private sector before her passion for helping others led her to become a City of Decatur Police dispatcher—a role that marked the beginning of her distinguished 45-year career in Law Enforcement. Terry advanced through the ranks, completing the Police Academy at the age of 39, serving as a beat officer on the streets of Decatur, and later as a Homicide Detective. Upon retiring from the City of Decatur Police Department, she continued her service as an investigator for the Dekalb County Public Defender's Office. After retiring from Dekalb County, she volunteered at the Snellville Police Department before becoming a paid investigator, specializing in Internet and

identity theft crimes. Terry fully retired from law enforcement in 2025 due to health reasons, a decision that was truly difficult for her. A devout Catholic, Terry was a dedicated member of St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church in Snellville, where she served as a eucharistic minister, sang in the choir, and played bells. Terry was known for her remarkable strength and resilience, overcoming numerous health challenges with determination and grace. Her steadfast work ethic, generosity, and willingness to help others defined her character and left a lasting impact on all who knew her. She dedicated her life to her family, service, and community. Terry was a devoted mother, a cherished friend, and a respected mentor whose memory will be forever treasured. May she rest in eternal peace. A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church in Snellville, Georgia, with a reception to follow. All who knew and loved Terry are invited to attend and celebrate her life.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

NOV 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church  
3200 Brooks Drive  
Snellville, GA 30078

# Tribute Wall

TO

“ *Deepest sympathy to the family on the passing of my first cousin.  
Treasured memories  
Teddy O'Driscoll, Ireland*

Timothy O'Driscoll - January 07 at 08:18 AM

LP

“ *Love you all Barb and Frank Parsons purchased  
the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Teresa  
Carpenter.*



Love you all Barb and Frank Parsons - November 12, 2025 at  
12:07 PM

LP

“ *Love you all Barb and Frank Parsons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in  
honor of Mary Teresa Carpenter.*

Love you all Barb and Frank Parsons - November 12, 2025 at 12:07 PM