



## Colleen Kausak

May 31, 1962 - April 7, 2024

Colleen Kausak, age 61, passed away on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

Colleen lived for her kids and was always there as a support system for others. No matter how difficult things got, she would always be a beacon for those around her. In her spiritual life, Colleen often referenced the prophet Job: no matter how difficult, don't lose faith.

Colleen was generous in sharing her strength with others who were dealing with loss. She was a longtime member of the bereavement committee at Prince of Peace Church. She also cared for her community through Adam's Night, the foundation she and her husband Don set up following the death of their son Adam.

She is survived by her sons Alex (Krisia) Kausak and Andy Kausak.

She was preceded in death by her husband Don and by her son Adam.

Colleen was also a sister to many siblings.

Visitation will be 3 - 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at Ringa Funeral Home in Lake Villa.

Additional visitation will be at Prince of Peace Church in Lake Villa on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 beginning at 9 a.m. until the funeral Mass which begins at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-2146  
info@ringafuneralhome.com  
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

APR 17. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
135 S. Milwaukee Ave  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-7915

## Funeral Mass

APR 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
135 S. Milwaukee Ave  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-7915

# Tribute Wall



“ It has taken me a while to be able to add to the memorial to Colleen. I have known Colleen since grade school. For over 50 years she was truly my best friend, my daughter’s godmother, and in my heart my sister. I have countless memories with Colleen and every one involves laughter, support and sisterhood. We were in each other’s wedding, and celebrated the new chapters in our life. We were there for each other to share in the joy of being children into our lives. We shared every joy and sorrow that life threw our way. Her son, Adam was my godson, and I cherished every moment I spent with him, Colleen and her family. The time I spent babysitting him, sleep overs, trips to the zoo and just hanging out were filled with memories I keep on my heart. Colleen experienced many challenges in her life; however, her faith always saw her through. She turned every challenging or sorrowful experience into something positive, and usually in a way that helped others. While life has also thrown many challenges my way, Colleen was my rock, my confidant, the person whose faith helped keep me going. Even though life, family obligations, and distance kept us from physically seeing each other as much as we would’ve liked, we always kept in touch, and every conversation began and ended with laughter. There is a huge void in my life now but I find comfort in knowing she was able to see Andy and Alex grow into kind, compassionate, and successful men. She is now able to be at peace surrounded by those she loved and lost: her son, husband, mother, father, and sisters. We have a very special angel in heaven who I am sure is dancing, laughing, and smiling down on all of us. Colleen’s passing left a huge hole in my heart but she left me with years of memories that will help see me through. Until we meet again, soar with the other Angels Colleen!!!!

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**Kathleen Duske** - May 28, 2024 at 08:58 AM

TP

“ Colleen was an incredible person. Her laugh made you want to laugh. I always enjoyed when I had an opportunity to see Colleen when she visited Donna in Bartlett back in the olden days.

*May Colleen’s Memory Be A Blessing.*

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**Terri Petry** - April 22, 2024 at 10:32 AM

TF

“ The Cheryl and Bruce Dethloff family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Colleen Kausak.

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**The Cheryl and Bruce Dethloff family** - April 16, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Colleen Kausak.*



April 16, 2024 at 08:25 AM

PB

“ *From: Paul & Janet Brakel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Colleen Kausak.*

Paul & Janet Brakel - April 16, 2024 at 08:25 AM

CB

“ *Such wonderful and true tributes to Colleen. It's easy to see that we all know and cherish the same person. A person who loved fiercely and always made lemonade out of the many lemons sent her way.*  
*Thank you Andy, for the meaningful post of your mom and dad dancing together. I am, and hope everyone is comforted by the thought of Colleen taking her last earthly breath and being lifted by angels to her first heavenly breath. After being greeted by God, Our Lord Jesus and His beloved Mother Mary, who Colleen had a great devotion to, she greeted Don and Adam. After that she and Don continued that dance of love free from illness and pain. Now that dance can last for eternity.*  
*Rest In Peace, Colleen. Well done good and faithful servant. You will always be missed, loved and admired here on Earth* 💜

Cindy Bauer - April 15, 2024 at 10:16 PM

CB

“ *Cindy Bauer lit a candle in memory of Colleen Kausak*



Cindy Bauer - April 15, 2024 at 10:05 PM

AC

“ *My deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved mom, Colleen. She was a lovely lady and I'm blessed to have known her. May she rest in the arms of the angels* 🙏

Ann Congoran - April 15, 2024 at 07:02 PM

“ Colleen and I met in early 2001. I had left my phone number with the secretary of my children’s doctor. I told the secretary that if any other families came in with a diagnosis of sudden cardiac arrhythmias, (my husband had died of this and my children were showing signs of) to give them my phone number to them and possibly we could search together for information on the diagnosis which at the time had a little information available. A few weeks later, Colleen called me.

This was in late 2001, Colleen and I met a few times by ourselves and shared information. We did not get enough information however, because shortly after this, their son Adam died. Colleen and I spent hours on the phone, and met a few times, trying to figure out what happened to Adam and my husband, Mike, and we were instrumental to each other, in deciding the Implanted cardiac defibrillator question for and with each of our families. I had the pleasure of meeting Don, Andy, and Alex a few times after this. I learned that Don was as committed as Colleen to fighting what was causing these cardiac arrhythmias, finding a cure, and/or away to live with them. In the course of time, Colleen met other people who were dealing with this and reached out to their families. Together she and Don, held fundraisers for the Sads Foundation, aka Sudden Arrhythmic Death Foundation. She and Don were committed to trying to help prevent another family from going through what they were going through.

Colleen and I spoke on the phone quite a few times each year. Over the years we were able to see each other a few times. I was able to join them for their 25th Wedding anniversary celebration. I spoke with her many times as she was trying to work with Don on his health problems and their sons. Her love and dedication to Don and their family came through clearly in each and every communication we had. Between 2001 and now, there were so many medical emergencies that we became the lifeline for each other. I knew that as long as Colleen was keeping going, I could too. And I know she felt the same way about me. I will miss Colleen very deeply, and I know many days I will think of calling her and reaching out or wonder why I haven’t heard from her and then I will remember why.



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janice Todd - April 13, 2024 at 05:18 PM

LT

“ Colleen was a true friend. She was my friend since sixth grade. We were locker partners in high school at Thornridge. Our birthdays were four days apart and she would always remind me that I was the older one. She was better than me at calling each other. She wasn't crazy about texting, which is what I liked to do. She was a person of strong faith that I know helped her in her life, and she helped me too. She went through so many challenges in her life, more than a person should. When I think of her, I'll remember that we always made each other laugh, no matter what was going on in our lives and how bad our moods may have been when we started talking. Her last text to me was “Pick yourself up by the bootstraps and dust yourself off”. So that is what I will do my friend, no matter what happens in my life. I love you like a sister and I will miss you always!

Love,  
Laura

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Laura Tomaszewski - April 12, 2024 at 03:22 PM

GK

“ I don't even know where to start to describe how much I will miss you Colleen. You are an amazing and beautiful person! Paul & I and our kids were truly blessed to have you in our lives. You have truly made the world a better place with your loving and giving heart. There are people whose lives will be saved because of you and Don. You always had a smile on your face even though you have been through so much heartache. I will always be forever grateful for your help when my back went out and for helping take care of our dogs. I am very blessed to have had you in my life. You will be missed forever Colleen! I love you my friend! 💜💚  
Gina & Paul Kruk

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Gina Kruk - April 12, 2024 at 06:31 AM

LT

“ Laura T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Colleen Kausak.

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Laura T. - April 11, 2024 at 06:37 PM

AC

“ 1 file added to the album *Beautiful Colleen*



Amanda Congoran - April 11, 2024 at 11:22 AM

AC

“ Aunt Colleen was more than just an aunt to me. She was the one I called for advice, support and just to hear her uplifting voice because no matter what she was going through which was more than one person should have to ever go through she always cared more about how I was doing and how my daughters and family were. She was truly my best friend and my link to my childhood memories. She never judged and always loved unconditionally. She was an amazing mother and friend. I keep wanting to call her to tell her how much I love her and I pray that she knew how much she meant to me and to this world. She will be deeply missed. My heart goes out to Andy and Alex because I know how much she loved them. My thoughts and prayers go out to all that were blessed to have Aunt Colleen in their life because I know that this is a loss that has effected all of us deeply. Much too young to go but always will be remembered. Love you, Aunt Colleen.

Amanda Congoran - April 11, 2024 at 11:14 AM

DP

“ Diann Pomeroy lit a candle in memory of Colleen Kausak



Diann Pomeroy - April 09, 2024 at 08:40 PM

AN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Andy - April 09, 2024 at 07:06 PM

JT

*What a beautiful tribute. Colleen and Don defined marriage by their life every day. Holding each other up and being there for their children in every way they could.*

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**janice Todd** - April 13, 2024 at 10:22 AM

CD

“ *We were Kmart coworkers who grew into lifetime best friends. We followed each other's kids grow up. I shared my grandchildren and their adventures with you. We both went through life's ups and downs. We laughed, we cried and then we laughed again. I love you and i will sincerely miss you forever. Now you are back with Don and Adam. Keep the love and laughter going. And Bruce says hi hun.....and goodbye hun going to miss you.*  
*Forever Cheryl*

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**Cheryl Dethloff** - April 09, 2024 at 06:08 PM