



Mary W. Mooney

November 23, 1934 - July 27, 2026

Mary W. Mooney, affectionately known to everyone as Mimi, passed peacefully on Monday, July 27, 2026, in Houston, Texas. Born on November 23, 1934, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Louis and Mary Walsh, she lived a life defined by faith, devotion to family, compassion for others, and a joyful spirit that drew people close.

Mimi attended Carnegie Mellon University, where she pursued a degree in design and was a member of the Chi Omega sorority. In 1956, she married Francis Xavier "Frank" Mooney in Pittsburgh. With whom this year, they would have celebrated 70 years of marriage. Their life together first took them to Queens, New York, and then, in 1960, to Odessa, Texas, where they built their home and raised their four children.

With four children ranging in age from infancy to ten years old, and Frank traveling part of the time for his sales career, Mimi became the steady and loving center of a very active household. She managed school schedules, sporting events, family responsibilities, and church activities with energy and grace. Her children knew her as a deeply dedicated mother whose care was constant and whose faith shaped the rhythm of family life.

That faith was central to who Mimi was. At St. Mary's Catholic Church in Odessa, she served for many years as president of the parish's Legion of

Mary, a ministry devoted to prayer, devotion to the Blessed Mother, and active service within the community. She also worked at Parks Senior Living in Odessa, where her gentle manner, warmth, and compassion brought comfort to the residents she served.

Mimi had a gift for making family life feel celebratory. She delighted in preparing holiday meals and gatherings that brought together relatives and close friends. She and Frank also began a memory-filled tradition of annual trips to Port Aransas with the Emerson family, combining their love of family with their love of the beach and sea. That tradition has endured across generations and continues through the children and grandchildren of both families.

After nearly 60 years in Odessa and following Frank's passing, Mimi moved to Houston to live with her daughter Karen and husband Bob. Although her surroundings changed, her ability to maintain and form meaningful connections did not. She continued to offer spiritual insight, encouragement, and genuine guidance to family members and everyone around her. The remarkable number of phone calls and text messages, especially from the grandkids, which she made and received, was a testament to how deeply involved she remained in the lives of others and how profoundly she was loved in return.

In Houston, Mimi remained active at Holy Rosary Catholic Church and with organizations including the John Paul II Foundation. She was especially cherished by her Rosary Group, whose members and priests were continually uplifted by her faith, positive outlook, quick wit, and infectious laugh. One of Karen's close friend's confidence was so inspired and encouraged by Mimi's thoughts and guidance that she was able to overcome her self-doubts and accept the president position of a local chapter of the Legion of Mary.

Just days before her passing, Mimi experienced the grace of a physical rally that allowed her to receive Holy Communion and spend precious time with all four of her children and their spouses. Her final words expressed the faith and love that had guided her life: "God has blessed us with a wonderful and loving family. He also assured me that He would take care of everyone."

To those who knew her, Mimi was more than a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She was recognized as a truly holy person - someone whose faith was lived openly, whose love was generous, and whose presence brought reassurance, joy, and peace.

Mimi was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Francis Xavier Mooney; her parents, Louis V. Walsh II and Mary Walsh; her sister, Cathryn Vetteral, and her husband, John; her sister-in-law, Mary Kay Walsh; and her grandson, Joshua Paul Parkinson.

She is lovingly remembered by her family, her four children and their families.

Her son Francis Xavier Mooney and his wife, Sandy, survive her, along with their daughter, Miriam Martin, and her husband, Austin; and Mimi's great-grandchildren, Lorelei Mae Martin and Sebastian Xavier Martin.

She is also survived by her daughter Kathy McNeil and her husband, Gary; their children, Elizabeth Arnold and her husband, Doug, Matthew Parkinson, Carie McNeil, Scott McNeil and his wife, Cheyenne, Jamie Self and her husband, Casey, and Taylar McNeil and her husband, Aaron Bryant; and Mimi's great-grandchildren, Eleanor Noel Arnold, Jackson McNeil, Hayden McNeil, Tori Stewart, and Caleb Franklin.

Mimi is further survived by her daughter Karen Mooney Nimon and her

husband, Bob; their daughters, Emily Nimon and Martha Fay and her husband, Michael; and Mimi's great-grandchildren, Felix Fay and Arlo Fay.

She is also survived by her son James Mooney and his wife, Monica; their daughters, Taryn Homfeld and her husband, Nick, and Ashli Olivas and her husband, Adrian; and Mimi's great-grandchildren, Braylee Homfeld, Bronson Homfeld, Joshua Olivas, and Isabelle Olivas.

Mimi is additionally survived by her brother Louis V. Walsh III and his family; the family of her sister Cathryn; and her brother Dan Walsh, his wife, Peggy, and their family.

Her faith was steadfast, her love was generous, and her family was her greatest joy.

Service Details

- Mass of the Resurrection

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 1:00 PM with a pre-service Rosary at 12:30 PM

Location: St. Mary's Catholic Church 612 E. 18th St., Odessa, TX 79761

- Mass of Remembrance

Date: TBD later in the month of August

Location: Holy Rosary Catholic Church 3617 Milam, St. Houston, TX 77002

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either

St. Mary's Central Catholic School in Odessa, Texas <https://smccsodessa.org/>
or the John Paul II Foundation in Houston, Texas <https://forlifeandfamily.org/#>

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 11. 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
612 E. 18th St.
Odessa, TX 77002

Mass of the Resurrection

AUG 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
612 E. 18th St.
Odessa, TX 77002

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *I am sorry to see our sweetest Aunt go to the Lord. She will be sorely missed.*

Mary Mooney - August 11 at 04:24 PM

VP

“ *Victoria P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary W. Mooney.*

Victoria P. - August 10 at 12:58 PM

RD

“ I have so many great memories at Frank and Mimi’s. Some of my favorite childhood memories were made there. I can still hear the sound of that iron gate opening as we made our way into the backyard, greeted by that amazing swimming pool before heading into the covered, screened-in patio. I remember all the swimming games we played and, of course, the countless games of no-shoes basketball. Those days were truly special, and I’ll always be grateful for them.

Your family created more than just a house...they created a place where everyone felt welcome and where lifelong memories were made. Frank and Mimi’s home was one of those places that always felt full of life, laughter, and friendship. I know I’m just one of many whose life was enriched by the time spent there.

I’ll always be thankful for those years, for Mimi’s kindness, and for the warmth and love that filled your home. My heartfelt condolences go out to your entire family. Thank you for sharing Frank, Mimi, and your home with so many of us over the years. Those memories are a gift I’ll carry with me always.

❤️, Ricky Dansby

RICKY DANSBY - August 07 at 07:25 PM

B

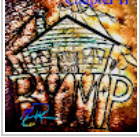
“ *From Louis Walsh, Mimi's brother:*

*When we were young Mimi would tell me stories at night that scared
the stuffing out of me.*

*When Mimi was fading
away, I told her old reminiscences that we both could enjoy.*

Love - Louis

Bob Nimon - August 07 at 12:46 AM



“When I think of grandma and the memories I’ve had the privilege of creating and sharing, only one stands out to me the most! “Key is in the ignition,” then getting completely blindsided by probably one of the first automatic seatbelt features to debut and to be introduced to the world starting with my grandmother. Thanks a lot to the team that masterminded that mechanical let down! All jokes aside, while my mother was in nursing school, my grandparents helped out with my brother and I tremendously! I was grandma’s helper every week day and her and I had quite the work load each day. By lunchtime we had already accomplished breakfast and cleanup, errands to the “supermarket” and town and country drug store on grandview ave. More than likely 8:00 mass, and then back to either do some sort of arts and crafts or prepping a feast for later that evening. Then afternoon pick ups, drop offs, and anything else you can accomplish on a normal Tuesday. My grandma was a different kind of special. She was capable of making you feel untouchable, fearless, and loved unconditionally. She’d Tuck you in at night saying our bedtime prayers followed by a bedtime story from her big book of fairy tales and nursery rhymes till falling asleep dreaming of adventure, optimistic towards the future and our faith, and curious to know what tomorrow has to offer! It’d be unrealistic to single out only one memory to share because each and everyday I had the privilege of spending with my grandma was just as special and unique as the last one. From Mojo games on Friday nights to backyard cookouts and swim parties, and the unforgettable summer beach vacations! She introduced me to my faith and to my guardian angel. She taught me the importance of family and friendship. I was a priest for a weekend and held a mass on her back porch for the family and that might be the one memory that outweighs them all just because I had never seen her so happy and proud of me in my entire life. She kept that memory as well because every year at least once she’d bring that up saying that was my purpose in life. I thought about it and took my thoughts seriously too. Life just had other plans for me instead. With all that being said, I feel blessed to have had so many years full of so many wonderful experiences that created memories that will be with me forever! The last time I saw her, we

had a private dinner just the two of us, and she told me to never give up faith in God, and something special is coming into my life very soon. She said just continue to get to church and God has a special plan in the days to come. I believe that whatever it is, it's nothing compared to what he's already blessed me with having a grandma and the love she has provided me with all of my life! Thanks for allowing me to share.

*Love,
Matt Parkinson*

Matthew Parkinson - August 06 at 07:19 AM



“*Mary will be remembered with love and warmth. May her soul rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to Karen and the entire family. May God give you strength and comfort during this difficult time, and may the love and memories you shared with Mary stay with you always.*

Hatem Ammari - August 06 at 05:30 AM



“*A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary W. Mooney.*

August 05 at 10:44 PM