



## Ruth Ann Runyan

April 2, 1941 - June 4, 2022

Ruth Ann Runyan (nee Schoenbachler)

Ruth Ann Runyan, 81, of La Plata, MD, passed away June 4, 2022, in her home with her family by her side. She was born to the late Carl and Blandina Schoenbachler, April 2, 1941, in Louisville, KY. Ruth graduated from Assumption High School in 1959 and received dual bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Philosophy from Nazareth College in 1963.

She married Bob Runyan on February 19, 1966, at Mt. Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville MD, and they lived in Suitland and Camp Springs MD before relocating to La Plata MD.

Ruth worked at the Census Bureau in Suitland MD as a survey statistician/economist for 44 years and rose through the ranks to become the Assistant Division Chief of the Economic Census and Surveys Division, and later, the Company Statistics Division. It was there she met her husband Bob, and they made many mutual friends who became their extended family. After retiring from the Census Bureau, she performed volunteer work at several organizations including Catholic Charities and Charles County Hospice. She was also a member of the Richard R. Clark's Senior Council.

Ruth was a strong community leader in the Catholic Church at St. Philip the

Apostle in Camp Springs MD and Sacred Heart in La Plata MD. She coordinated and prepared meals for multiple church functions at both parishes including crab feasts at St. Philip's and bereavement repasts at Sacred Heart. She was also a lector and a Eucharistic minister. She was a member of the Cemetery Committee at Sacred Heart and was an enthusiastic advocate for the columbarium that was recently erected there. Ruth was also devoted to the Carmelite nuns of the Mount Carmel Monastery in La Plata MD. She was a long standing board member of the Restorers of Mount Carmel in Maryland, Inc and organized the group's primary fund raiser. Ruth was a pillar of the Catholic church, and to quote a friend, "We hope the church doesn't fall down without her!".

Ruth loved music! She played the piano, organ, and accordion. She loved singing and had a strong alto/tenor voice. She sang in and directed several church choirs including those at St. Philip's and Sacred Heart. She also enjoyed participating in a barbershop quartet and was a member of the Chesapeake Choral Arts Society.

Ruth enjoyed participating in recreational sports including volleyball and coed softball. She also enjoyed driving little sports cars including her original Triumph spitfire, Mazda RX7s, and Miatas.

Ruth loved hosting gatherings for family and friends including Thanksgiving and Easter celebrations and Kentucky Derby parties where her mint juleps often overshadowed the race!

Ruth was a survivor of the 911 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and of an F4 tornado in La Plata MD.

Ruth was a loving and devoted wife and a loving (albeit strict) mother and grandmother. She raised 3 children while working full time.

Ruth is survived by multiple family members including the following: her husband, Bob Runyan; her brother, Carl Schoenbachler (Colleen Schoenbachler); three children, Maria Parkhurst (Rick Parkhurst), Jama Hare (Craig Hare), and Mitchell Runyan; three grandchildren, Stephan Parkhurst, Amanda Parkhurst, and Hannah Runyan; four great-grandchildren, Camellia (CJ) Parkhurst, Danny, Toby, and Teddy Reifer; sister-in-law, Joan Murrell; brother-in-law, Tom Runyan (Jeni Lynch); five nieces and nephews, Tiffany Siple (Brent Siple), Melanie Brown (David Brown), Leslie Huntley, Eric Murrell (Amy Murrell), and Leah McWhorter; and 3 extended children and grandchildren, Scott Galloway, Liz Bailey (Patrick Bailey), and Elle Bailey. Ruth was predeceased by her sister, Rose Mary (Bootsie) Schoenbachler and nephew, Carl Schoenbachler III.

A Christian Burial Mass will be offered for Ruth on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 10 am at Sacred Heart in La Plata MD with a repast in the Friendship Hall immediately following. Three suggested charitable causes are The Sacred Heart Cemetery Fund in La Plata MD, Mary's Pantry at Sacred Heart in La Plata MD, and the Restorers of Mount Carmel in Maryland, Inc.

# Cemetery Details

## Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery

410 St. Mary's Avenue  
La Plata, MD 20646

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JUN 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
201 St Marys Ave  
La Plata, MD 20646  
(301) 934-2261

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Ann Runyan*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Ruth Ann Runyan*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Ruth will surely be missed. I first met her at my job which was called Genesis, saying a prayer for the residents with Scared Hearth fellowship. Then I went on Handy which is a Independent contractor for housecleaning. I claimed a house in LA Plata. Once I got there I recognized her. She loved my services/ She then wanted me to continue cleaning for her. Since She's gone her husband Bob still wants me to to clean their house monthly. I will still continue even though Ruth is no longer with us. I will miss talking to her when I will go there. She was such a very nice out spoken person. R.I.P Ruth Joyce Johnson*

**Joyce Johnson** - June 19, 2022 at 12:16 AM



“ *Delores Moses lit a candle in memory of Ruth Ann Runyan*



**Delores Moses** - June 10, 2022 at 11:49 AM



*Thank you Delores.  
-Ruth's family*

Sadie Lee - June 11, 2022 at 06:52 PM

DM

“ *Condolences to the family. I met Ruth at our Council meeting. We joined around the same time. Ruth was a faithful member of the Clark Senior Council - always going that extra mile to help us out. No matter how difficult the task was. She will be missed.*

Delores Moses - June 10, 2022 at 11:48 AM



*Thank you Delores. Your kind words are very comforting.*

Sadie Lee - June 11, 2022 at 06:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



June 09, 2022 at 01:47 PM

SN

“ *Surgery Branch, NCI purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



Surgery Branch, NCI - June 09, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



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June 09, 2022 at 11:20 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



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June 09, 2022 at 10:59 AM



“ *Ruth was the first person I met when I went to work at Census some 55 years ago. She became a good friend and remained so through our many adventures together at Census. I remembered fondly that she was one of the first to bring donuts to our Division meetings. She had good leadership skills, excellent listening abilities and hard working capabilities. I enjoyed the Derby Day Parties she so generously put together until COVID shut them down. She kept us all informed about what was happening with the Old Census Crowd. I will miss her greatly but she is with Jesus now, probably bringing donuts.*

*Wayne McCaughey and Judy McCaughey*

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**Wayne McCaughey** - June 08, 2022 at 08:51 PM



*Thank you for the kind words and memories. You will laugh when you know that the donut tradition has continued at home as well!*

**Sadie Lee** - June 11, 2022 at 06:54 PM

AE

“ Ashley & Eddie purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.



**Ashley & Eddie** - June 08, 2022 at 08:25 PM

LM

“ I loved my Aunt Ruth and will miss her. All my love and prayers to Uncle Bob, Maria, Jama and Mitchell. Extended family as well. So many good memories. Blessings, Leah McWhorter

**Leah McWhorter** - June 08, 2022 at 07:21 PM



*Thank you Leah! She loved you too!*

**Sadie Lee** - June 11, 2022 at 06:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.



June 08, 2022 at 06:11 PM

DB

“ Please accept my condolences. I remember fondly working with Ruth on a small project at Census about 25 years ago. She was always gracious and helpful and had a great sense of humor!

David Beede - June 08, 2022 at 05:15 PM



Thank you David. She taught us all to laugh and shared that joy with so many.

-Ruth's family

Sadie Lee - June 11, 2022 at 06:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.



June 08, 2022 at 04:53 PM

SC

“ Sending condolences to your family! I was lucky enough to be the Richard R. Clark Senior Center Coordinator for a few years and I truly enjoyed working with her. So hard working, dependable, supportive, smart, and kind. She will be missed! 🌸

Shana Chancellor

Shana Chancellor - June 08, 2022 at 04:52 PM

KD

“ We knew Ruth from both our Census Bureau work and as fellow parishioners at St, Philip. She was truly a wonderful, caring, and genuine individual who saw value in each person she met. We pray comfort for the family and friends she left behind.

*Chris and Karen Deaver and family*

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**Karen Deaver** - June 08, 2022 at 04:11 PM

SB

“ Ruth was the ultimate example of "giving back"! May your family be comforted by the precious memories of all the fun times together as a family. My deepest condolences.

*Sharon Bowie*

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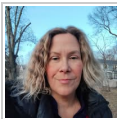
**Sharon Bowie** - June 08, 2022 at 03:55 PM

SP

“ Sorry to hear of Ruth's passing, to say she was a pillar at the Census Bureau is an understatement. She cared deeply about the lives of her employees. Besides her deep survey knowledge, she was a grand host at our division Christmas parties including her delicious egg nog. Prayers for her husband and family, she will be missed.

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**Sara Prebble** - June 08, 2022 at 01:15 PM



*I had heard about the Egg Nog. My Dad used to talk about that too.*

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**Michele Bugenhagen** - June 08, 2022 at 02:07 PM

TK

“ Hi Maria, I am sorry for your loss. Tameika



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**Tameika Kastner** - June 08, 2022 at 12:18 PM

TK

“ Hi Maria, I am so sorry for your loss.

Tameika K.



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**Tameika Kastner** - June 08, 2022 at 12:16 PM

FK

“ Frank and Jane Bush and kids. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.



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**Frank and Jane Bush and kids.** - June 08, 2022 at 10:40 AM



“ Michele Bugenhagen purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.



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**Michele Bugenhagen** - June 08, 2022 at 10:12 AM

RF

“ *Roza & family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



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**Roza & family** - June 08, 2022 at 09:46 AM

JH

“ *I am very sorry for your loss. Ruth was my supervisor in 1989 and she was a very caring boss. She made a big impact on my work life and I appreciated her very much. I know she will be missed by many at the Census Bureau.*

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**Joann Hotchkiss** - June 08, 2022 at 09:27 AM



“ *I will always remember Ruth as a very faithful friend of our family. As a youngster growing up in Clinton, she and Bob frequently invited our family to their home in Camp Springs for meals. When my mother passed away, Ruth brought meals and a listening ear to my father. Because of my work in Papua New Guinea, my wife and I did not have the opportunity to join in her famous Kentucky Derby parties, but I know they were a highlight for my father, mother, and sister, who always anticipated them eagerly! Towards the end of my father's life, when he was living in an assisted care facility, she often made the long trip from southern Maryland to Annapolis to visit and spend time with him there. I know that my father very much valued Ruth's contribution as an employee at the Census Bureau, but she was far more than that. She was a true friend. We pray God's comfort for all of her family in this time of loss. Ruth is now with her God whom she so faithfully served, rejoicing before his throne. Bob (and Salme) Bugenhagen.*

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**Salme Bugenhagen** - June 08, 2022 at 03:49 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



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June 07, 2022 at 07:36 PM



“ *Bob & Family,  
Sorry to hear about Ruth Ann's passing.  
Please accept our deepest sympathy.  
Sincerely,  
Sam & Janelle Ogle*

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**Sam Ogle** - June 07, 2022 at 06:38 PM



“ *So many nice memories of Ruth over the years at the Kentucky Derby party that she and Bob held at their home in La Plata. She also invited me and my Dad to her home for Easter and Thanksgiving along with several others. She was so loving and fun. She was a wonderful and kind spirit who loved all and all loved her. I am thinking of all of you, Bob, Jama, Maria and Mitchell. May God comfort you at this difficult time. Much Love to you always, Michele Bugenhagen*

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**Michele Bugenhagen** - June 07, 2022 at 05:41 PM

AR

“ She hosted all of us for many years at the Annual Derby Party. She taught me to make the very best Mint Julips for 150 people. She was a very special lady.  
Thank you Ruth for all the good times.  
Joel, George, Ruth. Carl. any many others will be there to welcome you to heaven

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**Ann Register** - June 07, 2022 at 04:36 PM

AA

“ Ruth and Bob have been friends of ours' for many years. We will always remember the Kentucky Derby Day parties that they held at their place near LaPlata. Ruth was such a great hostess at these parties and other gatherings over the years. Whether the gatherings were at her house, the Jacob's house, our even ours. I will always remember that about her. Your friends will miss you Ruth. From Arlet Aanestad

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**Arlet Aanestad** - June 07, 2022 at 04:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.



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June 07, 2022 at 03:17 PM

LN

“ *Len Norry purchased the Basket Full of Wishes  
for the family of Ruth Ann Runyan.*



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**Len Norry** - June 07, 2022 at 03:06 PM