

*In Loving Memory of*



*Gussie M. Kelly*

*April 1, 1926 - March 25, 2016*

**Friday, April 1, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**

537 Grove Street • Irvington, New Jersey

**Rev. James J. McConnell, SMA, Officiating**

## **MOMMY**

**Note that all of your children feel the same way**

**To: My Mommy (Gussie M. Kelly)**

Before I glimpsed or knew life  
took my first breath of life  
touched your face the first time in my life  
smiled my first smile...cried my first tear  
You were in my life

*You have been in my life...forever.*

Like sun rays which beam sunshine  
like dark clouds misting rain  
like a raging spirited storm  
and the sea when it calms

*You have always been in my life...forever.*

Though I write this poem  
in tribute to you  
words can never express  
the life I owe explicitly to you  
I would do the same for you

*I have been in your life forever...  
I will love you forever.*

**From: Your Daughter (Valerie A. Kelly)**

A little Black girl  
who you dressed like a doll

A little Black girl  
who you taught self esteem

A little Black girl  
who you taught she can dream

A little Black girl  
who you taught how to love.

A little Black girl  
who deeply returns that love.

Celebration of Life  
Gussie M. Kelly  
Rev. James McConnell, S.M.A. - Officiating

Mass

Gathering Rite:

Entrance.....Please Stand

Organist.....Mario Williams

Penitential Rite

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading.....Please be seated  
Brenda Caldwell

A Reading from Is: 25:6a, 7-9

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-6

Second Reading.....Lori Caughman

A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Word of the Lord.....All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation.....Please Stand  
Lori Caughman

All: Alleluia

Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me,  
Even though that person dies, will live

“And whoever lives and believes in me will never die,

Do you believe this?

(John 11:25-26)

All: Alleluia

Gospel.....Fr. James McConnell, S.M.A.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John, Chapter 14, verses 1-6

Homily.....Fr. James McConnell, S.M.A.

General Intercession

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Meditation.....Erika Williams  
“Amazing Grace”

Words of Remembrance

Concluding Rite

Concluding Hymn..... Fellowship Empowerment Ctr Choir

**INTERMENT**

Evergreen Cemetery  
Hillside, New Jersey

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Always a mother first, not only for the children she bore, but any child who passed her way.

**Gussie M. Kelly** was the only child gifted to the late Johnnie Mae Jackson and Gus Clay on April 1, 1926, in Kistler, West Virginia. Her name Gussie came about because she was named after her father. She attended the local school system in West Virginia and because she attended school in the south she was well versed in African American history.

Gussie came with her family to Newark, New Jersey to live as the city offered many opportunities for employment. She first worked for a laundry service and moved on to domestic work. She met and married Samuel Kelly August 17, 1946. Sam relocated to the city after being discharged from the Navy. She bore three girls and Samuel did not want his wife to work after she began having their children. First and foremost a mother, Gussie was the beloved mother of her children, her children's friends and later on, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren. She was a devout Christian, attended Queen of Angel's Church and later, St. Ann's Catholic Church as her children attended school there. She taught all of them to attend Sunday service.

Gussie loved to cook and make holidays special. It was the gathering place for both family and village and so her house was nicknamed, "do drop in" as everyone loved being there. Gussie was a shopper and liked to spend money. She was known to have an eye for style and liked to dress her children. She could also be found in supermarkets more than once a week. She did not like living on a budget and just window shopping so she returned to work until her retirement. She was a doer, a mover, one who accomplished what she set out to do. She learned to drive later in life and obtained her driver's license. Gussie and Sam believed in preparing their

children for life and enrolled them in extracurricular activities and classes. Music and the arts were a large part of their family life. She also made sure they knew their roots and took them with her when she returned to West Virginia to care for her father.

Sam and Gussie left Newark and moved to Irvington, New Jersey where she has resided for the last thirty-eight years. Gussie has been sick for a long time, which was not easily visible to most. A strong resilient and courageous woman, she never stopped living life to the fullest. She was one to keep up with all the news, especially black news. She could tell you what was going on with who, new songs, films, etc. Her wisdom was imparted lovingly, but it was her laughter that drew everyone in. She was often the center of attention wherever she was.

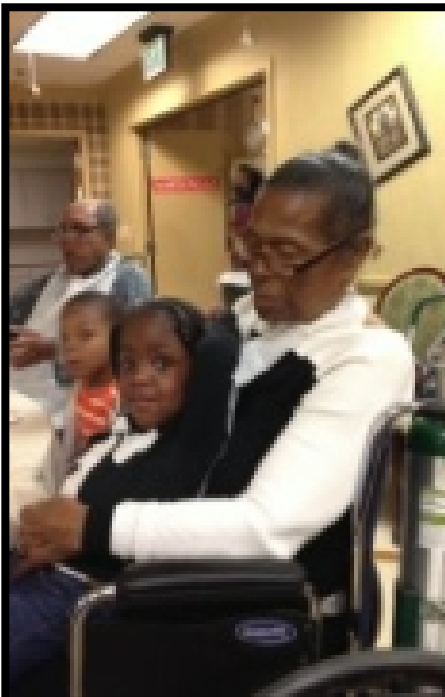
On Good Friday, March 25, 2016, she departed this life at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

She is predeceased by her husband, Samuel Kelly.

She is survived by five children and grandchildren, Valerie, Michelle, Vivian, Samuel, and Stephanie; two great grandchildren, Kyler and Kaylee, a son-in-law, Ricky Adams, a daughter-in-law, Monica Kelly, a brother-in-law, Freddie Kelly, sister-in-law, Carrie Kelly and a host of other relatives, first cousins, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many, many long time friends.

Born on April 1, 1926, laid to rest April 1, 2016. Her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrated by those who love her. Gussie Kelly, Mommy, Big Mommy and Grandma, are the names she was called by her children who will always cherish her memory.

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# *The Master Called*

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.  
My loved ones, oh so dear.  
But you see, the Master called me,  
His voice was very clear!  
I had made my reservation  
A heaven bound ticket for one,  
And I knew that He would call me  
When He felt my work was done.  
I know that your hearts are heavy  
Because I have gone away,  
But when the Master called me,  
I knew that I could not stay.  
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you  
My loved ones, oh so dear,  
But, you see, the Master called me  
And, now I'm resting here.  
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory  
And to you all I say  
Just stay in the hands of Jesus  
And we'll meet again someday.*

-Author unknown

## *Acknowledgement*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

### Professional Services Provided By

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