



Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg

December 9, 1955 - May 31, 2026

LUNENBURG: Claire M. (Kakos) Garrity Neas, 70, a former resident of Lunenburg, died Sunday, May 31, 2026 at her home following a struggle with cancer. Claire was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, December 9th, 1955, the beloved daughter of Leon and Mary Kakos. Claire had five siblings- Jim, Peter, Karen, Leigh and the youngest, Valerie. From the very beginning, Claire lived a life rooted in compassion, generosity, and unwavering love for others. She carried herself with quiet grace and gave endlessly of her heart to everyone, fortunate enough to know her.

Claire had a rare gift for making people feel safe, welcomed and deeply cared for. She instinctively knew when someone needed comfort, encouragement, or simply a listening ear. Her warmth was immediate and genuine, whether shared with lifelong friends, family members, neighbors or strangers she had just met. Her kindness left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.

Family was the center of Claire's world. She devoted herself wholeheartedly to her four children- Brian, Mary, Jim and Patrick. No matter where they traveled together, they built a home filled with love, laughter and compassion. With her former husband of 26 years, Brian Garrity, they taught through both words and example how to love deeply, care for others and always put family first.

Nothing brought Claire greater joy than being surrounded by her

grandchildren. She poured endless love into Colin, Christian, Maliha, Ali, Faith, Moriah, Owen, Sarah, Jocelyn, James and Amelia, cherishing every moment spent with them. To her grandchildren, she was not only a grandmother, but a source of comfort, guidance, joy and unconditional love. She made each of them feel uniquely special and endlessly supported. Claire eventually found love again and married Barry J. Neas, whom she cared for until his last days.

Claire also found joy in the arts and in bringing beauty into the lives of others. She supported the Guild Dancers for many years, loved singing in the chorale and carried music with her wherever she went. Whether through song, creativity, laughter or conversation, Claire had a way of lifting the spirits of those around her.

She was quick to laugh and even quicker to make others smile. Her gentle nature, generous heart and radiant spirit brought people together and made the world feel softer and kinder. So many considered her a second mother, a trusted friend and a constant source of love and reassurance.

To know Claire was to know true selflessness. She lived not for herself, but for the people she loved. Her legacy is one of compassion, devotion and unconditional love — a legacy that will continue to live on through her family and through the countless lives she touched.

Claire could not be spoken of accurately without remembering those she lost earlier than expected. Her closest friend, Martha Browne, her Grandson, Christian Garrity, her niece, Cynthia Kakos and her greatest loss, Brian Emmett, her first born.

She will be missed beyond words and loved forever.

Claire's family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours from 4-7 PM Friday, June 5, 2026 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, (Rte 119) Townsend Center.

Her funeral Mass will be celebrated 10 AM Saturday, June 6, 2026 at St. Cecelia's Church, 180 Mechanic Street, Leominster followed by interment at North Cemetery, Lunenburg.

Cemetery Details

North Cemetery

Holman St.
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Upcoming Events

Calling Hours

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend
250 Main Street ~ Route 119
Townsend, MA 01469
(978) 597-2692

Funeral Mass

JUN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Cecelia's Church
180 Mechanc Street
Leominster, MA

Tribute Wall

SG

“ Every word written about my sister in law Claire is true. We sang together at my brother Patrick’s wedding and it was beautiful. We have always been true friends, even when we needed heart felt sharing in our lives. Love you Claire

Sean Garrity - 37 minutes ago



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.



54 minutes ago



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.

54 minutes ago

PB

“ You will never be forgotten our beautiful friend Claire
We loved you like family.
The kindness , love and beauty you gave to the world will be part of
your children and grandchildren throughout thier lives.
Paulette and Dick Beardmore

Paulette Beardmore - 1 hour ago

SH

“ So difficult to hear about Claire. She was a second mother to all of her children’s friends. I know my two children adored her. She was so very kind and touched so many families in the community of Lunenburg. She was such an incredible person. My family sends our sympathy and thinking of you during this difficult time.
Sarah, Frank, Frankie and Hannah (Hewitt) Stein

Sarah Hewitt - 1 hour ago

KO

“ Claire was the sweetest of souls with the voice of an angel. I am so glad that I had the chance to know her through the Chorale. I am heartbroken that she left all of us far too soon. My deepest sympathies to her family.
Katy Ostroff

Katy Ostroff - 2 hours ago

DC

“ Such a tremendous loss for our community, our faith family, her countless friends and, most importantly, her family and loved ones. Claire's beautiful voice was rivaled only by her beautiful spirit. To know Claire was to know the best of humanity - she lived for others and we are all better for having had her in our lives. Praying for comfort and strength for Claire's family in the days ahead. Rest in peace with the angels dear Claire.

Debbie Chapdelaine - 9 hours ago

SC

“ I am deeply saddened on hearing this news. Her singing brought me so much joy. I would know it was her singing at various parishes and upon hearing it I lifted my spirits and touched my heart. I remember when we first heard her back in the 80's when my husband and I moved to Lunenburg. She was so active in the church and in bringing everyone together. She was so joy filled. We will all miss her.

Sue Cote - Yesterday at 09:33 PM

JS

“ I am sending my deepest condolences to Claire's children and family members. My heart is broken in losing my closest friend. Claire was the most loving and giving person I have ever known, the epitome of kindness and generosity. All of her actions were guided by her deep faith and dedication to helping others, especially those in need. She shared her gift of a beautiful voice by touching people's souls through her singing in church and other functions. She shared her gift of cooking by making food and delivering it to shelter homes. She assisted priests in arranging church fairs and activities for fundraising. She was a faithful member for years of the non-profit Montachusett Chorale which provided many area concerts in order to benefit area charities. Her devotion to her family was unequalled. Claire and I endured highs and lows together as grief and suffering come to everyone, but we were promised eternal life and will leave our physical bodies behind and triumphantly enjoy eternal love. I will never forget the qualities I learned from Claire. She has profoundly impacted my life and that of many others. She has constantly spread God's teachings through her daily actions. She exemplified the hymn "Here I Am Lord" send me, and was revered by all. Be assured she is singing with the angels in heaven.

Joan Syriopoulos - Yesterday at 07:09 PM