



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

Previous 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

DL

“ Claire was always welcoming and kind. She invited us to her home on the lake for family cookouts and came to mine . She immediately brought food to us when my Dad died and sang the most beautiful Ave Maria at his funeral. I have always thought her to be sweet, generous and beautiful. A special spirit in heaven now.

Donna A. S. Leon - June 09 at 10:43 AM

JD

“ Claire was a kind caring person. She loved her family and was always there to help her friends. May she rest in peace.”

Jean DuPont - June 07 at 02:52 PM

JS

“ *Mass of Christian Burial, Celebration of Life Claire Garrity Neas
June 6, 2026*

*Today I have experienced the most beautiful funeral tribute I have ever attended. The love that Claire embellished throughout her lifetime was truly evident in what we saw. Many words have been said and written in her behalf but today's celebration was authentic evidence of its truth. As her son Jimmy said in his exquisite eulogy, his mom told her children that love was defined by three things, the third of which was "showing up". Today the enormous cathedral was full to capacity. Each and every family member participated in the Mass, her musician friends accompanied her celebration with instruments and song, a fitting tribute to one who shared her beautiful gift of voice with the world. The quality of her essence was very obviously reflected in the behavior of all her children. As I watched the proceedings, the deep faith and caring she spread was evident in those participating and the miracle that transpires in that action will be spread for many, many years to people we will never know or meet. Claire believed strongly in the words of St. Theresa of Avila: "Christ has no body on earth now but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world." Claire profoundly impacted my life and that of so many others, consistently exemplifying God's teachings through her daily actions. She simply and humbly used her eyes, her feet, her hands.
A genuine "true and faithful servant", may she rest in peace.*

Joan Syriopoulos - June 06 at 04:44 PM

FW

“ *Such a good person. I was so grateful to have met her when I was at St. John's in Townsend. I really liked her and her music, and especially the inspiring concert she promoted each year, "Praise Him All Ways." May she rests in the peace of Heaven.*

Fr. Jason Worthley - June 05 at 10:15 PM

PA

“ *Pete and Karen Anagnos purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.*



Pete and Karen Anagnos - June 05 at 10:23 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.*



June 05 at 08:21 AM



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

June 05 at 08:21 AM

TJ

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

Thomas J. - June 04 at 11:08 PM

DL

“ One of the most beautiful voices in my life has been silenced - at least in an earthly sense.

Claire Garrity Neas was exceedingly far more than a gifted vocalist and cantor. She was a dear friend to many, whose kindness, warmth, faith, and generosity touched everyone fortunate enough to know her. For about twenty-five years her and I shared music, liturgy, laughter, and friendship. From personal observation and experience, I can attest to the fact that she had that rare ability to make every person feel welcomed, valued, and loved.

As an organist, I have accompanied many singers over the years. But Claire was unique: Her voice was beautiful, but even more beautiful was the spirit behind it. She sang not only with beauty but with deep sincerity, conviction, and faith. She understood that sacred music is not a performance but a ministry, and she offered that ministry with grace and sensitivity every time she sang.

The church at large will not sound - or be - the same without her. Neither will my life.

I am profoundly grateful for the years of friendship we shared and for the countless memories that remain. My heart is with her family and all who loved her.

Rest in peace, dear Claire. Thank you for your friendship, your faith, your laughter, and your song. The music continues, but it will never be quite the same without you. Please pray for me and for those still living that had the unbounded fortune to be your friends. And try, against all odds, to save me a place in the heavenly choir.

— David Lasky
West Lebanon, New Hampshire

David Lasky - June 04 at 09:09 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.*



June 04 at 11:03 AM



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

June 04 at 11:03 AM



“ *Patrick & Becky Garrity Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.*



Patrick & Becky Garrity Family - June 04 at 08:43 AM



“ *Elena Valeri & Joey purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.*



Elena Valeri & Joey - June 03 at 06:59 PM

TG

“ TC Control Group purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.



TC Control Group - June 03 at 01:20 PM

TG

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

TC Control Group - June 03 at 01:20 PM

HH

“ *The world has lost a shining star. I feel so blessed to have known Claire from an early age. She was the sweetest, kindest soul.*

From early childhood sleepovers with Mary, to standing backstage at my first Guild recital calming my nerves as a young child, Claire was always there with warmth and care. Even after years apart, she would greet you with the biggest hug, as if no time had passed.

She truly embodied what it means to be a genuine, loving human being. Her smile and laugh could light up a room, and her singing voice was truly a gift that made so many events more memorable. My thoughts and prayers are with the Garrity family during this difficult time.

Hannah Hewitt - June 03 at 08:12 AM

HG

“ *Humbly, Evelyn (Chavez) Gibson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Claire M. Garrity Neas, 70, formerly of Lunenburg.*



Humbly, Evelyn (Chavez) Gibson - June 02 at 08:33 PM

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 - June 02 at 05:53 PM



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



June 02 at 05:36 PM



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

June 02 at 05:36 PM

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 - June 02 at 05:18 PM

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 - June 02 at 04:53 PM

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 - June 02 at 04:24 PM

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 - June 02 at 09:28 AM

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 - June 01 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 - June 01 at 07:09 PM

EB

Claire was the epitome of the perfect Christian! She and I spent many hours supplying music for many church services. It was a great pleasure for me to accompany that glorious voice! I know she is in a very special place. My heart is broken to lose this wonderful friend.

Ellen Blackwell - June 04 at 06:19 PM

JG

a lovely talented and gracious woman - she was god's gift to us all

john gaizick - June 05 at 08:10 PM