



## JoAnn M. Johnston

February 9, 1955 - May 13, 2024

FITCHBURG: JoAnn Mary Johnston, 69, of Fitchburg, formerly of Shirley, died Monday, May 13, 2024, at Health Alliance – Leominster Hospital.

JoAnn was born in Worcester, February 9, 1955, the youngest of three children born to the late Samuel C. and Ruth B. “Beverly” (Coyle) Johnston and grew up in Shirley. She has resided in Fitchburg for more than twenty years.

She was a 1973 graduate of Ayer High School and in 1977 received a bachelor’s degree in education from Fitchburg State College.

For more than 30 years, JoAnn taught fourth grade at the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School in Lancaster, retiring in 2014. Following her retirement, she continued to work as a teacher’s aide at the Lura White Elementary School in Shirley.

JoAnn volunteered at the Lancaster Humane Society and enjoyed reading. She was also a member of several local choirs and stayed busy dog walking and pet sitting.

JoAnn is survived by her daughter Tahmi Johnston of Fitchburg; her sister and brother-in-law Donna and Nick Laggis of Ayer; and her two nieces Jennifer

Robinson and Kristen Pedroli Pierce and her husband John Pierce. She also leaves a great niece Alexa Robinson and three great nephews Tyler Robinson, Nick Pedroli, and Matt Pedroli.

She was predeceased by her brother and sister in-law, Kevin and Lili Johnston of Shirley.

Her Funeral Mass will be held 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony's Church, 14 Phoenix Street, Shirley. Burial will follow at The Village Cemetery, Shirley.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, Ayer is assisting the family with arrangements. For additional information or to post an online condolence, please visit their website at [www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Village Cemetery

Harvard Road  
Shirley, MA

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Anthony of Padua Church  
14 Phoenix St  
Shirley, MA 01464-2507  
(978) 772-2414

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ I am a AHS friend of JoAnn and have shared many memorable memories with her. She was an enduring and kind person. I am so glad I was able to see her at our AHS reunion last summer. I miss her tremendously  
My thoughts and heart go out to her family and friends.  
Cherish those happy memories with her  
Debbie Parmeter Fentress

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**Debbie Parmeter Fentress** - June 08, 2024 at 12:54 PM

TR

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to JoAnn's family, friends, and colleagues at LAW Elementary School. May her loving memories bring you strength and comfort during this most difficult. God Bless  
Terri Rollins

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**Terri Rollins** - May 20, 2024 at 11:43 AM

DA

“ I was extremely saddened to hear of your passing. JoAnn, your warm smile and sense of humor will be sorely missed.  
With heartfelt sympathy, Deb Austin



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**Deb Austin** - May 20, 2024 at 10:56 AM

DC

“ I was lucky enough to have been one of many from Shirley to share in the laughs and craziest memories with JoAnn, from our 1st Communion Group (which I believe was the entire population of Shirley) thru Lura White and finishing with Ayer HS Graduation. Funny, Smart, Passionate and Compassionate JoAnn was blessed with so many gifts. The kindest of hearts and laughter to fill a room! I am deeply saddened by this senseless and untimely loss and express my deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to JoAnn's entire family, both personally and professionally in education. Thank you JoAnn and Pam for a Birthday well enjoyed long ago, driving around to nowhere and doing nothing in particular, best!

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**Darlene Christiansen** - May 19, 2024 at 02:28 PM

DS

“ Tahmi, Donna, Nick & family, I am so saddened to read of JoAnn's passing. Tahmi, my heart aches for you that you lost your mom so suddenly. I will remember her beautiful smile & her sweet personality. Sending hugs to you all



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**Denise Stepleton** - May 19, 2024 at 10:23 AM

JM

“ Joanne Melanson Migrants lit a candle in memory of JoAnn M. Johnston



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**Joanne Melanson Migrants** - May 18, 2024 at 06:37 PM

CM

“ *Tahmi, Donna, Nick and family. I send my deepest condolences for the loss of your JoAnn. I will remember her warm smile, wonderful laugh and genuine kindness. She was a great friend. I will hold on to my memories of her as classmate at AHS and I am so happy that I was able to catch up with her last June at our high school reunion. May you find comfort in your own memories and the loving support of family and friends.*

*Fondly, Cathy (Nolan) McMullen*

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**Cathy McMullen** - May 17, 2024 at 07:33 AM

LS

“ *JoAnn shared her warm smile and snappy personality with all of us at Lura A. White School in Shirley for many years. She is already missed by students and staff. Prayers and hugs to her family and friends. Thanks for sharing her with us. Fondly, Laurie Collins*

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**Laurie Segar-Collins** - May 16, 2024 at 10:33 PM