

*In Loving Memory of*



*Barbara Rivers*

*Sunrise*  
May 5, 1930

*Sunset*  
May 22, 2013

Service  
Saturday, May 25, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.

**ST. JOSEPH R.C. CHURCH**  
1949 Bathgate Avenue • Bronx, NY

## Obituary

**Barbara Mae Rivers** was born May 5, 1930 to Lillian Steele Mingo and Frank Eugene Mingo in Harlem, New York. She was extremely proud of her Harlem roots and often told stories about growing up near the landmark Dunbar Apartments and people watching from her bedroom window.

Barbara was a “depression era” baby and the impact of that difficult economic time influenced her approach to life. She understood the value of a dollar and worked wonders in turning simple things into memorable pleasures. One of the ways she did this was by entertaining herself by reading and making frequent trips to the public library. Given her fondness for reading, it really was no surprise when she excelled in school; making the honor roll while in elementary school and graduating with honors when she earned her second Master’s degree, in what else, the field of reading. Her professional life, that she put on hold while she raised her three birthed and two foster children, included working as a library clerk with the New York Public Library System, as a secretary to psychologists, Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark, as a para-professional, a certified teacher and at the end of her teaching career as a school librarian with the New York Public School System. She also counted among her accomplishments serving as President of the Bronx Reading Council and as an adjunct reading professor at Manhattan College.

Not surprisingly, Barbara was also a news junkie about affairs foreign and domestic. She may not have traveled to many places around the world but she could tell you the connection between the ancient kingdoms of Africa and their impact on the modern day politics of the emerging African nations. An ardent champion of civil rights, she made a point of making sure her children knew what the struggle was about by requiring that the two eldest read newspaper articles from the NY Times and Amsterdam News and answer questions about the stories as summer enrichment activities. Lest one think Barbara was all work and no play, Halloween was her favorite holiday, her granddaughter Alana, aka Sugar Dumpling could tell you about the tea parties she and Baba had that featured fancy hats, tops and lots of costume jewelry, while grandson, Lil’ Frank might still remember the two-steps he and Nanacita did to Herb Alpert’s “Rise”.

No recounting of Barbara’s life would be accurate without an acknowledgement of her creativity, that was also influenced by her sensibilities of thrift. She stayed up late many nights putting finishing touches on items she made ranging from clothing based on designer patterns to household items such as draperies and bedspreads created after studying similar items in department stores. She had a knack for doing needlework, and in mid-life she discovered she had talent in painting as well. Several pieces of her work have graced the walls of hers and her children’s homes. Barbara also loved gardening; nothing gave her more pleasure than getting up early in the morning to go to a nursery for plants that she would rush home to plant later that afternoon.

Barbara faced her share of loss and disappointment; her beloved father died two days before the birth of her first son, Frank. She lost her third child, Gregory when he was only thirty-three and her husband, Frank a year into his retirement. While she and Frank did not always see eye to eye they both worked as partners to create a home where family and friends always felt welcomed and definitely felt loved.

Barbara is survived by: her children, Frank and Adrienne; her beloved foster children, Renee and Michael; her grandchildren, Frank III and Alana; her sister, Muriel; and nieces and nephews who sorely miss her.

# *Order of Service*

Musical Prelude

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting at Church Door and Call to Worship

Blessing with Holy Water

*Processional Hymn*

Entrance Procession

Placing of Pall and Christian Symbols

Opening Prayer

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Reading #1 (Old Testament) Isaiah 25*

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23)

*Reading #2 (New Testament) 2 Timothy 2:8-13*

Gospel Reading and Homily - Celebrant

General Intercessions

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Offertory Hymn*

Eucharistic Prayer

*Communion Hymn*

*Communion Meditation*

Eulogy/Remarks

## Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Silence

Incensation and Song of Farewell

Prayers of Commendation

Dismissal

*Recessional Hymn*

### **Interment**

Ferncliff Cemetery  
Hartsdale, New York

# *You Live Always*

*It's true we bring nothing into this world, and nothing we take when we pass. So the time in between we must use carefully, for only the memories will last. We hurt because you left us, we cry because you're gone; with sorrow we must say goodbye. But your memory lives on. Because of what you mean to us the loneliness will always remain. But because of all the love you gave, in our hearts you'll live always.*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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