



## Irenaeus ( MacDonald) Sullivan

April 3, 1936 - August 16, 2025

It is with sadness that we announce the death of our beloved mother, Irenaeus (MacDonald) Sullivan, age 89, on August 16, 2025 at St. Vincent's Nursing Home in Halifax. She was the loving wife of the late Paul A. Sullivan, devoted mother, dear sister, sister-in-law, and friend of many. Irenaeus is survived by her children; Michael (Julie Dickson) of Ottawa, John (Jennifer Downie), Paula (Brian Layton), Brian, all of Halifax, and James of Vancouver, and sister-in-law, Maura Sullivan. She is also survived by her nine grandchildren; Roy and Summer Sullivan of Ottawa, Emily Worthen (Chris), Thomas Sullivan, Ian, Hugh (Maya Kovacs), and Stuart Layton all of Halifax, and Paula and Sophie Sullivan of Gibsons, BC, as well as two great grandchildren; Luca Worthen and Graham Layton of Halifax. Irenaeus was predeceased by her cherished husband, Paul Sullivan, and beloved son, Gregory Sullivan, her parents, Emily and John T. MacDonald, her in-laws Captain Roy and Agnes Sullivan, sister Joan Ryan, sister-in-laws Jean Sullivan and Joan Sullivan, and brothers-in-law Donald and Stuart Sullivan, and Leonard Ryan.

Born in Sydney Mines, NS in 1936, Irenaeus grew up in Mulgrave, NS. She enjoyed an idyllic childhood spent skating, sledding, swimming, and biking with an abundance of friends. Irenaeus

completed her high school education in Mabou, Cape Breton at St. Joseph Convent and then attended Mount St. Bernard College at St. Francis Xavier University, completing her studies at Mount St. Vincent College in Halifax.

After working in Sydney, she moved to Halifax and worked at CFB

Shearwater. Mom met her husband, Paul, at the St. Thomas Aquinas Social Club where they enjoyed dancing, theatrical productions, and met many of their future lifetime friends including many ladies whom would become the “knitting club”.

Our kind, fun loving, and good-natured mother enjoyed her brood of six children and adored her nine grandchildren. Her cookie jar was always full and friends of all ages were always welcomed in our home on Beech Street. Starting from when their youngest children were preschoolers, our parents relished their annual couple vacation in Bermuda. At one time, Irenaeus drove her youngest, Jamie, to preschool before dropping off her eldest, Michael, at Saint Mary’s University! In her later years she treasured her cottage life at Piggott Lake with her family and grandchildren. As an active volunteer she was involved with Heart and Stroke campaigns, Meals on Wheels, and she especially loved her time at the Stork Shop at the IWK Grace Hospital. Mom was a member of the Altar Society at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and very involved in the CWL both there and at St. John the Baptist Parish. In the winter months, our parents enjoyed their time spent with the senior citizen skating club and had many trips abroad to Europe and Cuba. Their network of friends sprawled across the Maritimes and they loved meeting new people. Our mother was so attentive to our father, Paul, as his health declined even though she herself was beginning to show the effects of Alzheimer’s disease. She always put her family’s needs before her own.

Our family would like to thank the staff of Melville Heights along with the second and sixth floor staff of St. Vincent’s Nursing Home for their care and attentiveness. Also, thank you to Dr. Peggy Leighton and Dr. Claire Nowlan for their support over the years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Halifax Meals on Wheels or a charity of your choice.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at Good Shepherd Parish at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, 1725 Oxford Street, on Friday, August 22 at 10am with a reception to follow. Internment will occur at St. Paul's Cemetery, Herring Cove, afterwards.

# Tribute Wall

KG

“ Dear Paula and Sullivan family,  
My condolences on the passing of your Mother. A woman who kept you entertained, organized, together & loved - recognizing each of you for the specialness you brought to the world.  
May her memory be a blessing - Kristen Glenister

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**Kristen Glenister** - September 11, 2025 at 07:13 PM

PR

“ So sad to hear the news and apologies I could not make it back from the US in time for the service. I do however agree that the two sisters (Joan and Irenaeus) are once again having tea right about now and laughing as they loved to do. The one thing I remember about your mom as a young Ryan making the annual pilgrimage to Nova Scotia from our native Quebec at the time, was the big smile and warm hugs with a cookie or two on arrival at Beech Street. She was a gem, even walked a few of us to the Candy Bowl one summer day just to make sure we were properly spoiled!

And as with any passing it's the good stuff that keeps us smiling and such is the memory of your mom and a verse found on an Irish headstone; "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal".

She will be missed, but memories of her beautiful smile and energy will remain forever. Pat "Ryan".

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**Pat Ryan** - August 25, 2025 at 05:31 PM

LP

“ Irenaeus was my godmother and I loved her. Great memories of days in Mulgrave. When I was at Dal we met up at Mass . Imagine the fun reunion with Joan and Aunt Marie Hartigan.

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**Laura Peck** - August 24, 2025 at 06:14 PM

LY

“ Dear Sullivan family,

*Jeanette, Robert and I have many cherished memories of Irenaeus and Paul.*

*We always heard the stories and laughter when they visited Mayfield or the cottage!*

*They were both very kind to us over the years and we know Mom and Dad (Paul and Dana Murray) cherished their time with your parents.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Lynn Edwards  
Robert Murray  
Jeanette McDermott*

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**lynn** - August 21, 2025 at 10:28 PM

CD

“ Mike, you've been so very dutiful for many years in caring for your mother. Grief is hard work, go gently with yourself. May your memories of her be vivid and long lasting. Our condolences to you and your family. Clair and Jan

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**Clair Duff** - August 21, 2025 at 11:08 AM

JL

“ *Fond memories of my mother Anne Bradshaw and Irenaeus as they shared laughter and fun times serving on the CWL at St Thomas Aquinas. Always in our thoughts is Paul Sullivan as he guided our mother in her financial planning in her later years. A truly remarkable couple.*

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**JANE LEVANGIE** - August 21, 2025 at 09:29 AM

SC

“ *Sending condolences on behalf of my mother, Joan Cunningham, and myself.*

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**Sharon Cunningham** - August 21, 2025 at 04:01 AM

YD

“ *Dear Paula and family,  
I have nothing but very fond memories of your dear mother. She was very supportive of me as I was of her during our CWL years at St. Thomas Aquinas. I loved her dearly and have thought of her so very often since I left Nova Scotia. No Kinder soul you will ever meet.*

*Sincere condolences.*

*Yvonne Cosgrove*

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**Yvonne Dinardo** - August 19, 2025 at 06:11 PM

PL

*Thank you, Yvonne, for your kind words. I have many fond memories of you and my mom sitting at the kitchen table over countless cups of tea and many shared laughs. Hope life is good to you these days, my mother sure missed you when you moved away.*  
❤️ *Paula*

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**Paula Layton** - August 20, 2025 at 01:31 PM



*Paula , sending you and all the family all good wishes and prayers.*

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**Laura Peck** - September 09, 2025 at 06:38 AM