



## Laurette (Smith) Cribbins

July 27, 2020

Laurette (Smith) Cribbins, age 95, of Ross Township, passed away at the Community of Holy Family Manor on Monday, July 27, 2020. She was the beloved wife of the late Lawrence J. Cribbins, devoted mother to Dennis (Helen), Michael (Pat) and Kathleen Cribbins; grandmother of nine; great grandmother of 24; and great-great grandmother of one. She is also survived by sister-in-law, Helen Smith, and many loving nieces and nephews. She was the daughter of the late Peter and Bridget Connelly Smith; was predeceased by sister, Dolores (the late Bill); brothers, Bud and Buzz (Helen) and granddaughter, Kristie. Mrs. Cribbins was born August 10, 1924 on Mt. Washington. She was an educator, administrator, writer, artist, and poet. Mrs. Cribbins was respected all over the diocese of Pittsburgh, eventually becoming principal of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary School (renamed Risen Lord) for 26 years. She would always say she never met a "bad child". Family and friends will be received Sunday, August 2, 2020, 2:00-4:00pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at the Lawrence T. Miller Funeral Home, Inc., 460 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue (face masks required). Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, St. Teresa of Avila Church, 10:00 am on Monday, August 3, 2020. (Friends, please meet at the church, face masks required). Burial will follow at Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, 204 Cemetery Lane, 15237.

# Cemetery

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**Christ Our Redeemer**  
204 Cemetery Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15237

# Events

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**AUG 2** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM  

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**2**  
Lawrence T. Miller Funeral Home, Inc.  
460 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, US, 15202

**AUG 2** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM  

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**2**  
Lawrence T. Miller Funeral Home  
460 Lincoln Ave, Bellevue, PA, US, 15202

**AUG 3** **Mass** 10:00AM - 11:00AM  

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**3**  
St. Teresa of Avila Church  
1000 Avila Ct, Pittsburgh, PA, US, 15237

# Comments

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“ My husband, Bernie Gralish taught for many years with her at Rizen Lord School. He always loved and admired Mrs. Cribbins. I'm sure they are in heaven planning their next show. God bless her and her wonderful family!

**Diane Gralish** - August 02, 2020 at 02:50 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Laurette (Smith) Cribbins.



August 01, 2020 at 11:33 AM

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“ Another of my heroes is now gone. She treated me like a member of her family, but that was no big deal since she treated everyone that way. She was the focal point of our 2019 St. Boniface Grade School Reunion. While she had many talents, her greatest may have been to get the boys in class to participate in music and drama...in grade school and in 1967! Every time I hear the national anthem and "possum song" I will think of her. To her family and all who every encountered her, I share your deep sense of loss, but joy that she has gone to her reward...hi away, hi away home.

**Jack Miller** - July 30, 2020 at 07:48 PM

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“ Mrs. Cribbins was the first teacher to recognize my love of art. She got me into the Carnegie Mellon Museum Saturday Classes during my 7th & 8th grade years. Something I will always cherish! She was a great teacher! Thanks Mrs. Cribbins.  
Christine O'Brien

**Christine O'Brien** - July 30, 2020 at 01:38 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Laurette (Smith) Cribbins.



July 29, 2020 at 09:24 PM

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“ I ran I to her a few years ago at Kuhns in Bellevue. We chatted quite a while in the aisle. She wanted it to be known that she 'loved each and everyone of those kids' at the school.

They don't make them like her anymore. God bless dear lady.

**MARGIE (KERNAN) BAUER** - July 29, 2020 at 09:05 PM

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“ I met Laurette many years ago at a workshop for teachers at Carlow. We had an icebreaker where we were supposed to pick another name with the same first letter as our 1st name. It was so cute because she picked Larry. We started chatting when we discovered that I was teaching some of her former students!

Little did we imagine that down the road her son would be a coworker of mine and that several grandchildren would also pass through the halls of NC.

Through it all, anytime I saw her, I always called her Laurette and Larry.

My sympathy to all of you on the loss of such a sweet woman. May she rest in peace as she and Larry are together again

**Kathy Phillips Morus** - July 29, 2020 at 08:49 PM

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“ I first came to know Mrs. Cribbins when I was in the sixth grade. She was my morning homeroom teacher, at a time when she split homeroom duties with another faculty member, Sister Cordellia. At the time, I thought Mrs. Cribbins was pretty scary. She was strict, but little did an 11-year-old know at the time how very much she loved us.

Fast-forward 25 years or so, and I am the mother of my own five-year-old, making his way to St. Francis Xavier to begin the same journey, and now, Mrs. Cribbins is the school's principal. Over the next six years, I would work side-by-side with Mrs. Cribbins on various school events to raise money to keep the doors of St. Francis Xavier open. It was a time of great joy in my life, especially because she always exuded so much hope.

Mrs. Cribbins -- it's hard to put into words a heart that loved so many children, and she never stopped loving us.

A grown woman, in my early thirties, as my son was approaching his final year year at St. Francis (which by then had morphed into Risen Lord), I was just as much the beloved disciple of Mrs. Cribbins as I was when I was 11 years old. I very much still felt like "one of her kids." It takes a very special person to give so much love over such a long and well lived life. Laurette (Smith) Cribbins exemplified everything that is Christ-like, and for that, I grew to love and admire her in ways I never expected.

My entire family has been blessed by her presence in our lives. Rest easy, Mrs. Cribbins. Your "kids" are better for having been loved by you. I know that if I can exemplify your gentle ways, I'll get there, and, I'll find you ready with a hug, and a kind word, when I too, hopefully, join you in the Promised Land. Till then, may your family take great solace in the heroine you were to so many.

**Rose McKain** - July 29, 2020 at 07:46 PM

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“ I have very fond memories of Mrs Cribbins from St Francis especially from singing in the choir. She always was so caring and encouraging to me. Sympathy to the Cribbins family. May she rest in peace.  
Ray DiLallo Jr

**Raymond DiLallo Jr** - July 29, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ Thank you, Ray

**Kathleen Anne Cribbins** - July 29, 2020 at 07:44 PM