



## Constance Elaine Holden

September 9, 1946 - January 20, 2025

At daybreak on Monday, January 20, 2025, as the sun rose over a freshly fallen blanket of pure white snow, and with her husband Richard and other family members by her side, Constance Elaine Holden took the hand of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and peacefully passed from this earth, entering into His kingdom and receiving the reward of eternal life.

Constance was born on September 9, 1946, in Springfield, to the late Stephen and Anna (Gwozdz) Lak. Constance lived each and every day of her 78 years with dignity and grace, and with her love and devotion to her family at the center of everything she did. For the past seventeen years, she valiantly battled cancer on three separate occasions, and her strength and determination was a testament to everyone around her that nothing is impossible with God. Constance and Richard Holden are parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church in Hadley, where they have both actively served their church community.

First and foremost, Constance loved God and her family. She cherished hosting her extended family for the traditional Polish Wigilia on Christmas Eve, her family vacations to Cape Cod and traveling to new and exotic places with her husband. Constance and her husband Richard spent their honeymoon in Bermuda, returning there again to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They traveled together on European tours to Italy and Poland, cruises to

Alaska and the Caribbean, trips to Canada, camping and cross-country ski trips throughout the northeast and even attended Super Bowl XXI at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA.

As a native of Chicopee, Constance was a proud graduate of Chicopee High School and later Greenfield Community College where she earned her degree in nursing. She worked in nursing throughout the Pioneer Valley and Franklin County until her retirement.

Constance's love of polka music and dancing proved instrumental in first meeting her husband Richard and kicking off their life-long love affair. In more recent years, Constance's musical taste expanded as she became a super-fan of Freddie Mercury and the music of Queen, reading everything she could find about Freddie and the band, and having her grandchildren often find her in the car or at home enthusiastically (and loudly) listening to each every one of their recordings. Constance also loved gardening and was especially fond of any flower that filled the warm spring and summer air with its sweet fragrance. She always brought a vase-full of cuttings from her collection of fragrant peonies when vacationing on Cape Cod in June and told her granddaughters that lavender's delicate and soft aroma is, "Heaven's Scent".

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 3/4 years, Richard Holden of Hadley, she also leaves three children and six grandchildren; her daughter Julianne (Holden) Patterson and her husband Jeremiah of South Deerfield, and their two daughters Melanie and Anna (Patterson) Paige along with Anna's husband Nathan; Richard Holden Jr. and his girlfriend Missy Duprat and her daughter Liv of East Longmeadow, and his two daughters Yvonne and Joie Holden; Jeffrey Holden and his wife Avis of Springfield, and their daughter Savannah and son Ricky. Constance is also survived by her siblings; Stephen Lak and his wife Kathleen of Ottawa Canada; Richard Lak and his wife Ann of Dover, NH; Christine Lak of Easthampton, Maryanne Lak Senecal

of Chicopee, Theresa Lak and her husband Gary Iadarola of Essex, CT and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother John Lak and her son Richard Jr.'s former wife Michelle (Laporte) Holden.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025, from 4-6 PM at the DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME, 120 DAMON RD, NORTHAMPTON. A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 10 AM at Most Holy Redeemer Church, Hadley. Burial will be in the Spring in Holy Rosary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Constance's name to Most Holy Redeemer Parish, 120 Russell St., Hadley, MA 01035.

For more information, or to leave the family a personal condolence, please visit [DrozdalFuneralHome.com](http://DrozdalFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 31. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Drozdal Funeral Home  
120 Damon Rd.  
Northampton, MA 01060  
drozdalfh@aol.com  
<http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Mass

FEB 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Most Holy Redeemer Church  
Russell St.  
Hadley, MA 01035

# Tribute Wall



“ Love, Joy and Nicole purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Constance Elaine Holden.



Love, Joy and Nicole - January 30, 2025 at 09:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Constance Elaine Holden.



January 28, 2025 at 02:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Constance Elaine Holden.

January 26, 2025 at 07:12 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Constance Elaine Holden.



January 26, 2025 at 07:12 PM

CF

“ Carol Claughton family and Franco purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Constance Elaine Holden.



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**Carol Claughton family and Franco** - January 26, 2025 at 01:11 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Constance Elaine Holden.

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January 24, 2025 at 04:45 PM

CL

“ Although I am heartbroken that you are no longer with us, your loving family. I am so very happy and excited, that you my dearest sister, are now in the arms of our Lord Jesus, and our most holy Mother Mary, in Heaven.  
You will always be in my heart. Love you. Chris

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**Christine Lak** - January 24, 2025 at 04:17 PM

MW

“ On behalf of Massachusetts Nurses Honor Guard Ann Os Watch To the entire Holden Family know that we express our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies. Thank you, Nurse Constance, for your outstanding dedication, and service to nursing, a career that reflected your empathy, caring, kindness, and compassion. Thank you for your love and service to others. May you rest in peace. May fond memories of you live on.



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**MA. Nurses Honor Guard Ann Os Watch** - January 24, 2025 at 11:59 AM

CB

“ *Richie, I'm so sorry to hear of your wife passing. May you have fond memories and strength to carry on. Charlie Bray*

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**Charles H Bray** - January 24, 2025 at 10:31 AM

DL

“ *Connie fought her battle with cancer with incredible strength and determination. Her love for her family, both immediate and extended, was endless. She was the epitome of kindness, compassion, and love. Her devotion to those she cared about was unwavering, and her heart was always open to those around her. We will deeply miss her infectious enthusiasm and her radiant smile, which could light up any room. Her presence brought so much warmth and joy to everyone around her.*  
*Love,*  
*Rich and Ann Lak*

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**Dick and Ann Lak** - January 23, 2025 at 06:48 PM

DP

*Richie. I was shocked to read about Connie's passing. It seems like yesterday I saw the two of u at Atkins enjoying their coffee and pastry and had a brief conversation. Connie had a rough time with cancer and I pray that she will rest in peace. And you take care.*  
*Dotty Blasko Pascoe*

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**Dorothy Pascoe** - January 24, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Constance Elaine Holden.*

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January 23, 2025 at 05:20 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Constance Elaine Holden.*



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January 23, 2025 at 05:20 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Constance Elaine Holden.*



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January 23, 2025 at 03:46 PM