



## Maria Peret

July 7, 1923 - January 20, 2021

Maria (Sajdlowski) Peret, 97, of Northampton, passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Stare Miasto Lezajsk, Poland to the late Joseph and Paulina (Pustelny) Sajdlowski. Maria was raised working on her family farm alongside her sisters and brother before she immigrated to the US.

Maria had fond memories of her brother Michael, who was a house builder who would sometimes leave the farm for many months working around the countryside. Maria would sometimes travel with Michael, which she enjoyed very much. When Maria was a young child, she would often polish her father's boots on Sunday, so that they could go horseback riding together. At the age of 19 she was assigned by the German occupant of Poland, to working in Berlin, Germany for a wealthy family as a housekeeper. After several months because Berlin was being bombed, Maria and the family she worked for had to move to Austria. There she met Walter Peret, who later would become her husband. He worked on a horse farm as a horseback-riding instructor and farm manager. When WWII ended, Maria and Walter moved to a refugee camp where they married. While living in Austria, they had two children: Walter and Helga. They originally had intentions of immigrating to France, but Helga became very sick and they had to delay the trip. With ships coming from various countries to help war refugees, Maria, Walter, and their two children ended up boarding the USS General Hershey and headed to the US. In a couple of weeks, they arrived at the port of New Orleans. They ended up

living in Mississippi for a few months, where Maria had a job picking cotton and Walter drove a tractor on the farm.

In 1950 the family moved to Hatfield and lived with relatives and then finally settled in Northampton a few years later and purchased their home. It took several years to renovate their home and during those years Maria and Walter raised six children. Over these many years, Maria and Walter would communicate by letter with their family back in Poland and were always trying to help them out by sending packages. Maria loved family holidays, she was an excellent Polish cook, making breads, pies, Ponchkies, and her hobbies included knitting and gardening. Anyone that visited her home, were always pleased with her excellent Polish cooking and drink. Maria worked in food service for Smith College for 17 years, after she had raised her children. Maria was an active member in the Woman's Club of the former St. John Cantius Church and a devout church goer and later a member of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. After Maria retired, she travelled back to Poland several times to visit her family, along with members of her family.

Maria is survived by her children; John and his wife Sandra of Chicopee, Roman and his wife Debra of Westfield, Walter and his wife Judy, Helga Nielsen and her husband Scott of Easthampton, Marion Peret of West Springfield, her grandchildren; Timothy and Keven Peret, Alexandra and Christopher Nielsen, Michael, Priscilla, and Jacklyn Peret, 3 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her loving husband of 46 years Wladyslaw "Walter" Peret, before his passing in 1991, her daughter Janina "Jean" Peret, and her siblings; Michael, Stephania Patruska, Anielya Waskiewicz, Anna Baj.

All services and burial will be private. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with her services.

Maria's family would like to extend their appreciation to the caregivers that were involved in the care of their mother toward the end of her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Maria's memory to the St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 85 Beacon St., Florence, MA 01062.

Due to Covid-19, masks and social distancing are required at all times. For more information, or to leave a message of personal condolence please visit [Drozdalfuneralhome.com](http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **St. Mary's Cemetery**

235 North Elm St.  
Northampton, MA 01060

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ I remember when we were kids, our parents took my sister (Jan) and I with them to visit your home often, and each time, there was an abundance of food and hospitality. Maria, Walter, Madeline and Joe enjoyed the commonality of their language, and culture. I recall Maria as being a kind, generous, and gentle woman. May she Rest In Peace.

*With Sympathy ~ Rosemarie Filipkowski Hanley*

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**Rosemarie Hanley** - January 24, 2021 at 09:20 PM

SN

*Rosemarie,*

*Thank you for remembering my mother in such a kind way. We also very much enjoyed your company and visiting with your family in Greenfield to share our Polish traditions. It helps to soften the pain of losing a parent, when old friends remember our mother with such fond memories, which we will always hold in our hearts.*

*The Peret Family*

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**Scott Nielsen** - February 04, 2021 at 07:35 PM

JC

“ *Jacqueline & Robert Colby purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Maria Peret.*



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**Jacqueline & Robert Colby** - January 24, 2021 at 09:44 AM

JF

“ *What a remarkable lady. My mom (Madeline Filipkowski Dubois) always cherished their friendship. We are sure she has gone to a better place. Our condolences on your loss.*

*Joe & Donna Filipkowski*

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**Joe Filipkowski** - January 23, 2021 at 05:05 PM

SN

*Joe and Donna,*

*Thank you for remembering my mother Maria (Marysia) and thank you for your kind words when words mean so much at a time like this from old friends. She was a remarkable woman and mother, as was yours and had accomplished so much with empty pockets when she first arrived. She had a heart and mind full of dreams and a deep faith. Along with other families in the same position, we all came together and became an extended family of which you were part of. We will never forget the good memories.*

*Thank you,  
The Perets*

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**Scott Nielsen** - February 04, 2021 at 07:18 PM

LK

“ *Very sorry to hear of Maria Peret's passing. We were neighbors and friends of the family for many years but have since lost touch...but I will never forget her chicken soup, homemade bread and doughnuts which she insisted I eat because she said "I was too skinny":) 😊 It's very difficult to accept just how quickly time passes and how memories fade but I will always remember her kindness to me. RIP Maria.. 🙏🌸🙏*

*With my Deepest Sympathy , Linda (Borowski) Ksieniewicz*

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**linda Ksieniewicz** - January 23, 2021 at 01:42 PM

SN

*Linda,*

*There is never a right time to say good-bye to someone you love, no matter the age but hearing from old friends, somehow eases the sadness and lifts a little bit of the burden while we share the moment together, as we continue with our life with a missing piece that can never be replaced. Thank you remembering our mother.*

*The Perets*

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**Scott Nielsen** - February 04, 2021 at 07:30 PM