

We are here today to honor Kathleen Sovia. Beloved wife of Frank ... as well as a beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and great-great grandmother.

What a wonderful lady. What a wonderful ... well-lived life.

She was born in January 1926. The big news back then was flooding on the Rhine River had hit the German city of Cologne, a new radio show premiered that would eventually become *Amos 'n' Andy*, and Turkey ... the nation, not the bird ... decided to finally switch to the Gregorian Calendar - like the rest of the world.

Later on that year, martial law would be declared in England because of labor strikes, the US Congress would decide to license airplanes and pilots, the Weimar Republic would join the League of Nations, and a hurricane would kill 650 people in Cuba.

Harry Houdini would die, US Route 66 would be established, and NBC would begin broadcasting with 24 stations - a consolidation of the Westinghouse, General Electric, and RCA networks. Henry Ford announces the 40-hour work-week. Mount Vesuvius would erupt, and the young Japanese emperor Hirohito would ascend to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

A world very different than our own ... yet a world very much like our own.

She lived through 15 US presidents, 8 popes, and countless changes.

After all, we all know that *"the more things change ... the more they stay the same."*

And more than honoring and memorializing Kathleen for a life well-lived ... we come here to accompany her as she journeys to eternity ... with our prayers. The connections made in this life don't end with death. Our prayers benefit her ... and her prayers benefit us, as well. And so, united in our common Faith, we join together today in prayer.

The reading from Isaiah speaks of God's banquet in eternity ... the Messianic banquet. We are assured that God *"will destroy death forever"* and *"will wipe away the tears from all faces"*.

Kathleen's Faith brought her often to this place to pray. She *"looked to[ward] God"* and *"he saved [her]"* ... and now He has called her to himself. We believe, as was heard in the Gospel that it is God's will that whoever believes in His Son will *"have eternal life"* and they will be raised up *"on the last day"* ... and so we console each other with assurances of Faith.

As we continue our liturgy ... and continue to pray for Kathleen ... and for each other ... let us remember her love for God, and know that God's love for her ... and for us ... is infinitely beyond our calculation.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord ...*