



## Mrs. M. Elaine May

August 22, 1955 - November 25, 2019

\*\*\*\*NOTE: Visitation, Service Times & Location Listed Below\*\*\*\*

Our dear sister, M. Elaine May was escorted to Glory by Angels early Monday morning, November 25, 2019. Elaine was born on August 22, 1955 to the union of Walter and Orlean Cunningham at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Elaine was the sixth of seven children, three girls and four boys.

In 1963, while Elaine was in grade school, her mother; Missionary Graves joined The Church of God Pentecostal in Kalamazoo, under the leadership of the late Bishop Lafayette W. Davis. When Elaine was 13 years old, she experienced a growth on her neck that later became a significant part of her testimony. Doctors wanted to do experimental surgery, but Missionary Graves encouraged Elaine to give her life to the Lord. After receiving the Holy Spirit, the following day, the growth was gone, to God be the glory! She had been running for the Lord ever since. Her life was proof to other young people that they can receive the precious Holy Spirit at a young age, and not surrender to the temptations of the world.

Elaine attended Kalamazoo Public Schools where she graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1973. She went on to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College where she received an Associate Degree in Finance, and later attended Western Michigan University to further her

education.

Elaine married R. B. May, Jr. in 1981, from Kalamazoo, Michigan. To this union, two children were born, Latashia Shanene and Robert Brysen May. Elaine was employed by First of America Bank for over 15 years. After leaving the bank, she went on to be employed by the Kalamazoo Public Schools where she later retired. Elaine also worked many years for the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission in the Women's Division.

Elaine loved the Lord, and always had a fire and passion to please God. It was no surprise to hear her say, "I have the pressure of duty" and "I've got to be on my post." She loved to "work the altar," and rejoiced when new souls came to Christ. Elaine held many positions working in Ministry: kitchen assistant, fundraiser, usher, media specialist, prayer band leader, choir president, transportation coordinator, praise team member, and many more. She loved to support the youth department in whatever way she could by transporting and traveling with the youth to youth meetings and national convocation. Under the pastoral leadership of Bishop Herbert B. Cunningham, she worked tirelessly and diligently as the business and finance manager. She was anointed in teaching the Word of God, and was a true Bible scholar. Elaine was the Sunday School teacher until she could no longer serve. She was dedicated, had spiritual gifts, and was faithful to God, and to the ministry. She would often be heard saying "if no one else is there, I will be."

In 2018, when Elaine faced health challenges, her children and family members were right there by her side until the Lord called her home. Several special family members and friends gave extra care during this time which included her sister Joyce, her brother Herbert, her cousin Eloise Dyson, Elder James and Missionary Mary Moore, and Mother Stella P. Davis.

The kind, loving, generous, faithful, open-hearted, sweet spirit of Elaine will be

greatly missed by her children, family, friends, and spiritual family. To know her was to love her. Her smile was infectious, and she loved the Lord and her family with her whole heart.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband, R.B. May, Jr.; her parents, Walter and Orlean Cunningham; step-father, Robert Graves, and two brothers, Walter, Jr. and Nathaniel Cunningham.

She leaves to cherish her memory: two children, Latashia Shanene May and Robert Brysen May both of Kalamazoo, MI; two brothers, Herbert B. (Belendria) Cunningham, and Coleman (Betty) Cunningham; two sisters, Joyce Cunningham and Kathleen Taylor-Singleton all of Kalamazoo, MI; one step-sister, Gwen Jefferson of Lansing MI, and half-brother, Walter Randle of Detroit, MI; three aunts, Ora Mae Kelly, Ethel Whitley, and Bernice Whitley, one uncle K. Z. Wallace all of Kalamazoo, MI; several special friends, along with a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, cousins, church family, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park

4037 South Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Church of God Pentecostal  
2929 E Main St  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Visitation

DEC 4. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Church of God Pentecostal  
2929 E Main St  
Kalamazoo, MI

## A Homegoing Celebration

DEC 4. 11:30 AM (ET)

Church of God Pentecostal  
2929 E Main St  
Kalamazoo, MI



# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May



Harper Funeral Home - December 02, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ Mrs. M. Elaine May

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mrs. M. Elaine May

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ My fondest Memory is when there was a Bat upstairs on Willard and Elaine ran and got Me, which I thought Probably a Moth, but "No" it was a Bat flying in circles until Elaine passed Me the Broom. 🙄 I Feel Bad Not seeing Her B4 She past but by the tym I found out She was ILL, It was 2 Late. She was the Essence of a Strong Black Lady and I AM a Better person 4 have knowing such a Fone Person.

TheKableMAN - February 20, 2022 at 12:59 PM

MF

“ *MATTIE Fields And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



**MATTIE Fields and family** - December 13, 2019 at 08:10 AM

EF

“ *Earline Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



**Earline Fields** - December 13, 2019 at 08:08 AM

MW

“ *Michael & Barbara Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



**Michael & Barbara Watson** - December 07, 2019 at 06:51 PM

ES

“ *Ellen Spencer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



**Ellen Spencer** - December 06, 2019 at 07:35 PM

M(

“ 12/05/2019

*To the entire family, my deepest sympathy for the loss of Mrs. Elaine Cunningham-May. So sad to hear the news, sorry I was not able to attend.*

*Your Cousin,  
Michael Whitley  
Hilo, Hawaii*

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**Michael Whitey (Cousin)** - December 05, 2019 at 04:47 PM

M(

“ *Michael Whitey (Cousin) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



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**Michael Whitey (Cousin)** - December 05, 2019 at 04:47 PM

BP

“ *Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



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**Barbara Phillips** - December 05, 2019 at 10:14 AM

YH

“ Yvonne Reese Heltzel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May



Yvonne Reese Heltzel - December 04, 2019 at 03:36 PM

MY

“ Michelle Young lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May



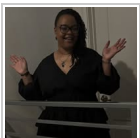
Michelle Young - December 04, 2019 at 03:35 PM

HS

“ Hilda Snell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May



Hilda snell - December 03, 2019 at 09:18 PM



“ Our Thoughts and Prayers goes to the family  
🙏 From The Church of God Pentecostal INC.  
Senior Bishop Johnny J. Young and Bishop  
Charles H. Bradford



Shaneka Brown - December 03, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all.* ”

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**Shaneka Brown** - December 03, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ *Janice F Overton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May* ”



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**Janice F Overton** - December 02, 2019 at 09:19 PM



“ *Sonia Barbee-Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May* ”



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**Sonia Barbee-Wilkerson** - December 02, 2019 at 05:53 PM



“ *Jerry Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May* ”



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**Jerry Harris** - December 02, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. M. Elaine May.



December 02, 2019 at 01:49 PM



“ Mrs. May was a huge supporter of Linden Groves' Athletics. At the end of her work day she would always be seen sitting at the back of the bleachers cheering on our teams. I have truly missed not having her be a part of our program. Her kindness, strong spirit and hardwork was always present at Linden Grove. Linden Grove has lost a wonderful woman!

vestina hawkins - December 02, 2019 at 12:37 PM



“ Annette Whitley-Scott lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May



Annette Whitley-Scott - December 02, 2019 at 11:42 AM



“ Sending condolences and prayer to Elaine and family. Much love ❤️❤️



Darlene Liggins - December 02, 2019 at 10:36 AM

CO

“ *Cori lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



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**Cori** - December 01, 2019 at 07:38 PM

MP

“ *Mollie Peterson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



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**Mollie Peterson** - December 01, 2019 at 01:35 PM

RW

“ *Ray Whitley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. M. Elaine May.*



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**Ray Whitley** - December 01, 2019 at 09:23 AM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



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**Pauline Gardner** - November 30, 2019 at 11:15 AM

HB

“ *Helen (Barbee) Brooks sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. M. Elaine May*



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**Helen (Barbee) Brooks** - November 30, 2019 at 10:56 AM

SC

*Sylvester Carver lit a candle in memory of MRS.ELAINE MAY*

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**SYLVESTER CARVER** - December 02, 2019 at 09:03 PM

GJ

*Praying for the family during this time. I was Elaine former co-worker at First National Bank (during the 80's).*

*Greg Jones*

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**Greg Jones** - December 06, 2019 at 04:33 PM