



"Mother of the Church" Bernice (Guildord) Bass

June 25, 1927 - May 20, 2026

N. UTICA – Lovingly known as “Mother of the Church,” Bernice (Guildord) Bass, age 98, was embraced by Christ’s hands, as He greeted her with unbounded love and amazing grace, when she entered into rest on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Her children found caring for her effortless and each day they made it as pleasant as possible for her. They were by her side at the time of her peaceful passing.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Payne’s Temple COGIC, 811 John St., where her faith and devotion touched many, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Mother Bernice’s Celebration of Life will commence on Friday, June 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at Redeemer Church, 931 Herkimer Rd., N. Utica. Interment will follow in Forest Hill Cemetery alongside her beloved husband Clifton.

A complete obituary will follow.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Payne's Temple COGIC
811 John St.
Utica, NY 13501
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Celebration of Life

JUN 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

Redeemer Church
931 Herkimer Road
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Susan Bynum lit a candle in memory of
"Mother of the Church" Bernice (Guildord)
Bass*



Susan Bynum - 2 hours ago