



Mrs. Catherine Saunders

December 14, 1941 - December 7, 2023

Catherine Rodwell Alford Saunders was born on Sunday, December 14, 1941, in Detroit,

Michigan to Carrie Daisy Ophelia Boyd Alford and Bennie Alford, Sr.

At the age of nine, Catherine acknowledged her growing love of Christ, was baptized, and became an active member of Saunders Memorial A.M.E. Church, where she sang in the children's choir, participated in the Sunday School, and enjoyed the worship and other activities available.

A product of the public schools of Detroit, Catherine graduated from Southeastern High School in 1960, and promptly took on the challenges of college life at Wayne State University where she met the love of her life, The Reverend P. David Saunders, Sr. They wed on June 27, 1964 and shared 59 wonderful years together. Their union was blessed with three extraordinarily gifted children: Phelmon David Saunders, Jr., Karen Nicole Saunders Washington, and Benjamin Alford Saunders.

Catherine was a member of the Women's Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church for more than 60 years and was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Saginaw Alumnae Chapter. In addition, Catherine supported the work of several community/religious organizations, including the First Ward Community Center, Church Women United, and King's Daughters

of Saginaw County.

Catherine was called home on December 7, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her six siblings. Remaining to cherish her memory are her husband of 59 years, The Reverend P. David Saunders, Sr.; her children Phelmon, Jr. (Gwen), Karen Washington (Chris), and Benjamin (Jessica); sisters-in-law Brenda Fields, Sheri Goodwyn, and Dorcas Alford; eight grandchildren, two great-grand-children, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates charitable donations to the Alzheimer's Association at P.O. Box 96011 Washington, DC 20090-6011, or online at <https://www.alz.org/get-involved-now/donate>.

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. with the memorial service commencing at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, December 14, 2023 at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 535 Cathay St., Saginaw, MI 48601. Pastor, Douglas Banks will officiate. Rev. Dr. Dennis Laffoon Host Pastor.

Previous Events

Family Hour

DEC 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Church
535 Cathay Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

Memorial Service

DEC 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Church
535 Cathay Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

Tribute Wall



“ *Joanie Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders* ”



Joanie Williams - December 20, 2023 at 05:07 AM

SF

“ *Stephanie Ford sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders* ”



Stephanie Ford - December 18, 2023 at 07:48 PM

ES

“ *Ethel Nadiyah Shaheed lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders* ”



Ethel Nadiyah Shaheed - December 15, 2023 at 10:24 PM

DM

“ *Derrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders* ”



Derrell Martin - December 15, 2023 at 04:17 PM

VP

“ *Sending sincere condolences to the Saunders family for a beautiful life well lived.*



Valerie Packard - December 15, 2023 at 10:18 AM

LS

“ *Lillie B. Strong & family Lit a candle 🕯️ in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Lillie B. Strong - December 14, 2023 at 08:33 PM

LS

“ *Lillie B. Strong sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Lillie B. Strong - December 14, 2023 at 08:26 PM

CS

“ *Chris Snow-Jernigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Chris Snow-Jernigan - December 14, 2023 at 07:18 PM

DS

“ *Dawn Suitor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Dawn Suitor - December 14, 2023 at 06:43 PM

DD

“ *Debra Drake lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Debra Drake - December 14, 2023 at 06:43 PM

MJ

“ *Ms. Amelia Genwright Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Ms. Amelia Genwright Johnson - December 14, 2023 at 05:37 PM

MM

“ *Michelle Macon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Michelle Macon - December 14, 2023 at 03:38 PM

LM

“ *Larry Martin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Larry Martin - December 14, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Catherine Saunders.

December 14, 2023 at 09:59 AM

SW

“ *Sara Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Sara Walker - December 14, 2023 at 09:02 AM



“ *Frank Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Frank Johnson - December 13, 2023 at 09:46 PM

AF

“ Annie Ruth Speight Fuller lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Annie Ruth Speight Fuller - December 13, 2023 at 06:48 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mrs. Catherine Saunders.



December 13, 2023 at 02:55 PM

GP

“ Gail And Dennis Porter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Gail and Dennis Porter - December 13, 2023 at 01:28 PM

JH

“ It has been my privilege to know you and spend time with you. We had many happy, fun times together. I will truly miss you.

Jackie Hall - December 13, 2023 at 12:29 PM

MS

“ *Mrs. Reatha L. Smith & Ms. Ileta Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Mrs. Reatha L. Smith & Ms. Ileta Smith - December 13, 2023 at 11:13 AM

DC

“ *Deborah A Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Deborah A Coleman - December 13, 2023 at 10:02 AM

BC

“ *Brandi Coates sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Brandi Coates - December 12, 2023 at 11:00 PM

BC

Dear Reverend Saunders and Family - my hope for you is that you can be at peace knowing that Mrs. Saunders lived richly and was loved deeply as you submit her to the care of our loving God and celebrate the grace that allowed her to spend so many wonderful years with you. The Coates family is here for you as you pay homage to a soul that will never be forgotten. -Brandi

Brandi Coates - December 12, 2023 at 11:05 PM

BT

Dear Reverend Saunders and Family, know that you are loved by me and so many others because of the kindness, faith and support you and Lady Catherine demonstrated over the years. Whenever Bishop Bob closed his Eulogy for friends and loved ones, he would say, "Reunion afterwhile." Because we have this hope, we celebrate Catherine's Homegoing. Love Mother Beverly Thomas

Beverly Thomas - December 13, 2023 at 06:26 PM

PH

*Dear Rev. Saunders and Family,
Evangelist John and I were so saddened to read of the transition of Lady Catherine. She was truly a Woman of God, who shared her love to everyone she met. As a leader in the WMS on the local and Conference level, she did not hesitate to share her expertise in health and wellness. Celebrate the life that she lived with joy and gladness, for the life that she lived was her living testimony, never to be forgotten. We find comfort and joy in knowing that she will suffer no more and that she is Safe In the Arms of Jesus.*

*Evangelist John and Pastor Bobette Hampton
12/14/23 at 1:30 AM*

Pastor Bobette Hampton - December 14, 2023 at 01:37 AM

GL

“ Gary&Allene Loster lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Gary&Allene Loster - December 12, 2023 at 10:20 PM

CM

“ Charles And Dale Mitchner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Charles and Dale Mitchner - December 12, 2023 at 09:15 PM

AF

“ Alice Rainey Wilson And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Alice Rainey Wilson and Family - December 12, 2023 at 08:06 PM



“ Elizabeth Hudspeth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Elizabeth Hudspeth - December 12, 2023 at 05:03 PM

KB

“ Kai Bailey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Kai Bailey - December 12, 2023 at 03:12 PM

CL

“ Calvin And Phyllis Little lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Calvin and Phyllis Little - December 12, 2023 at 02:36 PM

FH

“ Florence Hall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Florence Hall - December 12, 2023 at 01:05 PM

RS

We thank God for 59 years of Friendship and loving kindness.

Rev & Mrs. Stanley U. Sims - December 13, 2023 at 03:59 PM

AV

“ Alfred N Vinson & Brenda Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Alfred N Vinson & Brenda Vinson - December 12, 2023 at 12:57 PM

FF

“ *Fazilet Bond And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Fazilet Bond and Family - December 12, 2023 at 12:47 PM

AC

“ *Arwanda Conner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Arwanda Conner - December 12, 2023 at 12:16 PM

DA

“ *Dona Austin-Bigby lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Dona Austin-Bigby - December 12, 2023 at 11:20 AM

DW

“ *Deborah Morris - Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Deborah Morris - Williams - December 12, 2023 at 10:22 AM

SH

“ *My Heartfelt prayers & Condolences to Rev. Saunders and family. May this difficult time be rewarded with beautiful memories.*



Stephanie Hall - December 12, 2023 at 10:18 AM

KH

“ *Kim Harrold lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Kim Harrold - December 12, 2023 at 07:53 AM

JP

“ *Janice Powell-Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Janice Powell-Coleman - December 12, 2023 at 03:24 AM

JP

“ *Pastor P. David Saunders and family we will miss Mrs. Catherine Sauners we love you. Jones and Coleman family*



Janice Powell-Coleman - December 12, 2023 at 03:22 AM

OC

“ *Ona Chaney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Ona Chaney - December 12, 2023 at 03:14 AM

MR

“ *I shall always be grateful to Mrs. Saunders for her guidance, kindness and wisdom she always freely bestowed upon me.*



Mickie Rouse - December 11, 2023 at 09:28 PM

TG

“ *Tammie M Gillespie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Tammie M Gillespie - December 11, 2023 at 09:27 PM

AP

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. All praises to our GOD for one who touched so many in a very positive way with her smile, humility and kindness. I will continue to keep you lifted in prayer for comfort during this very difficult time.*

Alberta Pruitt - December 11, 2023 at 09:10 PM

JL

“ *Jenise Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



jenise lewis - December 11, 2023 at 08:43 PM

JW

“ *Jimmie And Beverly Westbrook sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Jimmie and Beverly Westbrook - December 11, 2023 at 08:02 PM

TB

“ *Tonja S Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Tonja S Brown - December 11, 2023 at 06:57 PM

GW

“ *Gracie M Witherspoon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Gracie M Witherspoon - December 11, 2023 at 06:54 PM

DH

“ *Delphine Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Delphine Hopkins - December 11, 2023 at 06:21 PM

YS

“ *Yvonne Scott lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Yvonne Scott - December 11, 2023 at 06:11 PM

GA

“ *You have our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one.*

George & Marilyn Adams..



George & Marilyn Adams - December 11, 2023 at 05:28 PM

BJ

“ *Brenda Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Brenda Jones - December 11, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ *Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Carol Walker - December 11, 2023 at 05:23 PM

BL

“ *Barbara Land-Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Barbara Land-Jones - December 11, 2023 at 04:41 PM

TY

“ *Pastor Saunders & family, we send our deepest condolences to you during this very difficult time! May God comfort, strengthen & keep you while on this journey. Hold on to the fond memories of Mrs. Saunders & may she rest in peace!*

The Scott Family; Mark, James & Yvonne - December 11, 2023 at 04:40 PM

CQ

“ *Celeste Quiney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Celeste Quiney - December 11, 2023 at 03:43 PM

IC

“ IRMA CHISM lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



IRMA CHISM - December 11, 2023 at 03:34 PM

VJ

“ Val J lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Val J - December 11, 2023 at 02:20 PM

SM

“ Sam And Deborah Mack sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Sam and Deborah Mack - December 11, 2023 at 01:41 PM

BB

“ Belinda Barlow-Poole lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Belinda Barlow-Poole - December 11, 2023 at 10:17 AM

DH

“ *Deyonis & Naseralyn Hinton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Deyonis & Naseralyn Hinton - December 11, 2023 at 06:11 AM

MM

“ *My condolences to Pastor P. David Saunders, my sorority sister, Brittany Saunders, the entire family, as well as Bethel AME Church family. Be comforted in knowing that absence from the body is presence with the Lord. I am praying with you.*

Mary McDonald - December 11, 2023 at 03:52 AM

JM

“ *John & Beatrice McAfee lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



John & Beatrice McAfee - December 10, 2023 at 10:10 PM

CB

“ *Condolences 🙏*



Charline Bodiford - December 10, 2023 at 07:59 PM

BA

“ *BarbaraHill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



BarbaraHill - December 10, 2023 at 07:07 PM

BA

“ *To Reverend P.D. Saunders & The entire Family, we wish to express our heartfelt condolences. You all were very blessed to have had her and so were we. Her kind spirit, many quiet talents and a beautiful smile that lit up the room and warmed our hearts will always be remembered.*

Barbara Hill & Family



BarbaraHill - December 10, 2023 at 07:06 PM

JA

“ *JJ Akins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



JJ Akins - December 10, 2023 at 06:21 PM

JR

“ *My condolences Rev. Saunders and family.*



Jerrold Rance - December 10, 2023 at 05:22 PM

TA

“ Tammy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Tammy - December 10, 2023 at 03:07 PM

CK

“ Condolences to Rev.P.David Saunders and Family. Peace and Love 🙏



Carolyn and Kelly - December 10, 2023 at 02:43 PM

ER

“ Eddie Rance lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Eddie Rance - December 10, 2023 at 12:10 PM

IT

“ Inez Tyson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Inez Tyson - December 10, 2023 at 11:39 AM

LJ

“ Prayers for the family



Leon Jackson - December 10, 2023 at 06:51 AM

CD

“ Chon Dugan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Chon Dugan - December 09, 2023 at 11:04 PM

DA

“ Debra Austin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Debra Austin - December 09, 2023 at 10:17 PM

JC

“ Judge Terry L. Clark lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Judge Terry L. Clark - December 09, 2023 at 09:59 PM

PD

“ Philip Drake lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Philip Drake - December 09, 2023 at 08:10 PM

CP

“ Carrie Polk lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Carrie Polk - December 09, 2023 at 08:02 PM



“ Yvette Wofford lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Yvette Wofford - December 09, 2023 at 07:32 PM

HJ

“ *First Lady Catherine Saunders will truly be missed. She was a loving, soft spoken, straight forward woman with a beautiful smile and a heart of gold. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pastor P. David Saunders and Family at this difficult time. God's Blessings and Love To All 💕. "To God Be The Glory!"*
Houston and Elaine Jackson, Jr. & Family



Houston Jackson, Jr. - December 09, 2023 at 03:37 PM

GP

“ *Gerald And Lillian Prophet lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Gerald and Lillian Prophet - December 09, 2023 at 12:23 PM

RW

“ *Rodney And Barbara Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Rodney and Barbara Walker - December 09, 2023 at 11:07 AM

BC

“ *Bobbie Crosby-Locke lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Bobbie Crosby-Locke - December 09, 2023 at 09:48 AM

JP

“ *To The Family of Mrs. Saunders*

*I'm so Sorry to Hear of Your Loss.
Praying The Lord Will Give You Peace and
Comfort.*

*Love, The Pope Family
Johnathan, Chandra, Sydney, and Savannah*



Johnathan and Chandra Pope - December 08, 2023 at 09:37 PM

BK

“ *May the memories you shared with Catherine comfort the Saunders family and bring joy to your hearts.*



Beatrice King - December 08, 2023 at 09:11 PM

DD

“ *Debra Drake lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Debra Drake - December 08, 2023 at 08:08 PM

DB

“ *Debra Drake Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Debra Drake Brown - December 08, 2023 at 08:07 PM

MM

“ *Melleretha Moses-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Melleretha Moses-Johnson - December 08, 2023 at 07:41 PM

DH

“ *Delta Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders*



Delta Hawkins - December 08, 2023 at 05:31 PM

VJ

“ Val J lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Val J - December 08, 2023 at 05:15 PM

WF

“ Wanda Faye Reynolds And Reynolds Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Wanda Faye Reynolds and Reynolds Family - December 08, 2023 at 04:32 PM

KJ

“ KimberlyFay JacksonWoodley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



KimberlyFay JacksonWoodley - December 08, 2023 at 04:10 PM

TM

“ Tedi Morris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Catherine Saunders



Tedi Morris - December 08, 2023 at 03:58 PM