



Mother Viola Massey

April 30, 1931 - April 22, 2026

MASSEY, Mother Viola - Age 94, passed away Wednesday, April 21, 2026, at Willowbrook Manor. Family hour 10:00 AM Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at Southeast Christian Church, 4171 Lapeer Rd., Burton, MI. with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM, Suffragan Bishop Pastor Kenneth Brown, officiating. Interment River Rest Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 10:30 AM Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Mother Massey will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd and may be viewed from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Viola Massey, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and faithful servant of God, was called from labor to reward on April 22, 2026, in Flint, Michigan. Born on April 30, 1931, to Nick and Elizabeth (Tolbert) Relerford, Viola was a lifelong resident of Flint and a proud 1949 graduate of Northern High School. Her life was defined by an unwavering devotion to her family and her deep-seated faith.

A longtime member of Bethlehem Temple Church and later Southeast Christian Church, "Sister Massey" gave generously of her time and spirit. She sang joyfully in the Missionary Choir, served diligently on the Usher Board, worked tirelessly in the church kitchen, and lovingly directed many Christmas programs. Her presence was a steady, uplifting force in both congregations,

where she was always ready to lend a helping hand or offer a word of encouragement. Outside of her ministry, Viola found joy in life's simple pleasures—hunting for treasures while shopping and enthusiastically cheering on her Detroit Pistons. Her laughter, warmth, and quiet strength will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Viola was preceded in death by her parents, Nick and Elizabeth Relerford; husband, Sonnie Massey; son, Van Gregory Massey; daughter, Sonya Dee Humphrey; great-grandson, Darius Howell; sisters, Doris Cotton, Mabel Smith, Roberta Buycks, Oris Smith, and Tomie Mae Crawford; and her brothers, Jack Willis Relerford, Adam Relerford, and Frank Relerford.

Viola Massey leaves behind a legacy of love and resilience, cherished by her brother, Dennis Relerford; daughters, Yvonne (Linnel) Howell of Burton, Michigan, and Pamela Massey of Flint, Michigan; and son-in-law, Ricelor Humphrey of Flint Township, Michigan. Her memory will be carried forward with pride and affection by her grandchildren: Linnel "Anthony" Howell, Antoine T. Massey, Gregory Howell, Rosondra Humphrey, and Ricelor Humphrey III. She is also survived by a host of great-grandchildren, her goddaughter, Regina Young, and numerous nieces and nephews. Viola Massey's life was a testament to faith, family, and service. Her legacy lives on in the hearts she touched and the many lives she uplifted.

Cemetery Details

River Rest Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.
Flint, MI 48504

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 5. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-6666
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

MAY 6. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Southeast Christian Church
4171 Lapeer Rd.
Burton, MI 48509

Funeral Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Southeast Christian Church
4171 Lapeer Rd.
Burton, MI 48509

Tribute Wall

VL

“ *keeping you all in prayer. Ivy and Violet LeGardye.*



violet legardye - May 05 at 11:27 AM

RY

“ *To my GODMOTHER, FOREVER IN MY HEART!
LOVE REGINA*

Regina T Young - May 05 at 05:27 AM

BS

“ *Dear cousins Pam & Yvonne, I'm not sure what to say to you at this difficult time. I want you to know that I care about you and I share in your sadness. Wishing you comfort, peace and strength in the days ahead. May your memories bring you comfort. Sending Love, Prayers & Hugs.*

Beverley Smith - May 02 at 09:48 PM

TF

“ *The Cardwell Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



The Cardwell Family - May 02 at 08:19 PM

CW

“ To the Massey Family, our thoughts, and our prayers are with you through this difficult time. Our families have always shared wonderful times together. God bless you.
Cleo White and Family



Cleophas Milton White - April 24 at 05:21 PM

FL

“ Our Love and Prayers to my Family. Rest well Aunt Viola.



Freda Leverette, Gene - April 24 at 01:16 AM

BP

“ Prayers and condolences. May God bless and keep the Massey family in their time of need

Briana Perez - April 24 at 01:02 AM

JP

“ June Smiley Perkins. lit a candle in memory of Mother Viola Massey



June Smiley Perkins. - April 23 at 11:26 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Aileen Spence - April 23 at 07:21 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence lit a candle in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Aileen Spence - April 23 at 07:21 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Aileen Spence - April 23 at 07:21 PM

BS

“ *Rest Peacefully Aunt Vi. So glad I have so many wonderful memories of you & our family. I'm at Peace because I know she's in Heaven surrounded by Love.*



Beverley Smith - April 23 at 05:36 PM

BS

“ *Beverley Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Beverley Smith - April 23 at 05:24 PM

MR

“ *Rest Dear Auntie in Heavenly peace 🙏*



Marsha Ross - April 23 at 04:40 PM

KB

“ *kevin buycks lit a candle in memory of Viola Massey*



kevin buycks - April 23 at 03:14 PM

ML

“ *Monica Leverette lit a candle in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Monica Leverette - April 23 at 02:07 PM

TJ

“ *Tanya Jefferson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Tanya Jefferson - April 23 at 01:54 PM

BD

“ *Brenda Dilworth lit a candle in memory of Mother Viola Massey*



Brenda Dilworth - April 23 at 12:26 PM

LL

“ *Laura Legardye lit a candle in memory of Viola Massey*



Laura Legardye - April 23 at 11:42 AM

KR

“ *Viola was a Beautiful Soul! I will always keep her memory in my heart. Please know that...Father God has her in his loving arms....and We are praying for the entire family..during this time of loss. Bless you all. 🙏*

Karen Russell-Woods - April 23 at 08:58 AM

KR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Russell-Woods - April 23 at 08:52 AM

DR

“ Rest in sweet heaven auntie. ☐

Darrius Redwine - April 23 at 02:12 AM

ZW

“ I'm so heartbroken right now the last time I talked to Sis Massey I told her that I started singing in the choir and ushering she smiled and told me she had to see this and we laughed but she would never come to see it Sis Massey will be truly miss by all RIH



Zackery White - April 22 at 07:14 PM

AW

“ To the Family of Mother Viola Massey, She was a Great Woman of God. Her and her husband Brother Sonny Massey were Wonderful examples of a Man and Woman of God...

*Blessings,
Apostle Derrick Williams*

Apostle Derrick Williams - April 22 at 05:31 PM

TN

“ *Tanya Neely lit a candle in memory of Mother
Viola Massey*



Tanya Neely - April 22 at 04:26 PM