

ESSENCE

OF HEAVEN

BORN

APRIL 6, 1962

TRANSCENDED

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

BEAUTIFUL

MEMORIES

WE'LL ALWAYS

CHERISH

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SHELIA DENISE

Prather

**YOUR LAUGHTER
STILL ECHOES IN
EVERY HEART
YOU TOUCHED**



PRICELESS

HER STORY

Shelia Denise Prather, lovingly known as “Jacky,” passed away peacefully on November 16, 2025, at the age of 63, surrounded by the love of her family. After facing pancreatic cancer with remarkable strength and grace, she transitioned from this life, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and unwavering love.

Born on April 6, 1962, in Ripley, Mississippi, Shelia moved with her family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the age of three. She was the cherished daughter of Fred H. Prather, Jr. and Victoria Prather, and the loving sister of Fred H. Prather III and Lisa Morris. Shelia grew up in a close-knit family that shaped the kind, strong, and vibrant woman she became.

Shelia graduated from Custer High School in 1979. She later pursued her passion for beauty and style by attending cosmetology school, becoming a licensed cosmetologist. Confident and elegant, Shelia also followed her dreams of modeling in her early twenties, embracing every opportunity with her signature poise and sparkle.

Shelia was engaged to the love of her life, Gary Joseph, with whom she shared countless memories, quiet moments, and deep devotion. She was a proud mother to her daughter Kawyanda Prather and step-son Gary Joseph, Jr., both of whom meant the world to her.

Shelia took joy in gardening, tending to her plants with the same care she gave to the people in her life. She loved spending time with Gary, enjoyed intimate moments of shopping, trying new foods, attending festivals, and being surrounded by her family. Known for her humor and bold spirit, Shelia brought joy into any room she entered. She treasured her work family at Landmark Credit Union, where she was deeply loved and admired. Her co-workers were more than colleagues—many became lifelong friends.

A devoted woman of faith, Shelia’s Christian journey began at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Oscar Bond. As she grew spiritually, she later transitioned to Holy Temple First Born, where she served under the leadership of Bishop Lezar Burnside. Throughout her life, Shelia’s faith remained a steady foundation. She approached every season—good or hard—with grace, strength, and a heart full of gratitude.

Shelia will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, kindness, and resilience. She had a gift for lifting others up, making people laugh, and dancing wherever joy found her. She loved traveling, especially her trips to Texas to visit her daughter, where she created some of her most cherished memories.

She was preceded in death by: Victoria Prather (mother), Fred Prather III (brother), Fred Prather, Sr (grandfather), Juanita Prather (grandmother), James Stricklin (grandfather), and Josephine Stricklin (grandmother).

Those who remain to honor her memory include her daughter, Kawyanda Prather; fiancé Gary Joseph, her step-son, Gary Joseph, Jr.; her parents, Fred H. Prather, Jr. (Patricia); her sister, Lisa Morris (Ray); her brothers, Rondell Gainer and Bobby Hambright; her aunts, Betty Crockett, Glanda Jeanes, and Mary Gosia; her uncles, Charles Stricklin (Patricia) and Franklin Prather; along with a loving host of nieces, nephews, cousins, god children, her Landmark Credit Union family, and dear friends.

In addition to the many lives she touched, Shelia’s love and laughter live on in every memory shared, every story told, and every heart she warmed.

We are forever grateful for the light, love, and joy Shelia brought into our lives. May her memory continue to inspire kindness, strength, and compassion in all who knew her. May she rest in eternal peace.

ORDER OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025 | 11 AM

Holy Temple First Born

4960 N. 18th Street, Milwaukee, WI

Processional	Clergy & Family
Old & New Testament Reading.....	Clergy
Prayer of Comfort.....	Clergy
Song Selection.....	The Legendary Holy Gospel Singers
Obituary Reading, Acknowledgments and Cards	Jill Collier
Remarks (2 minutes please)	Family, Friends, Co- Workers
Special Tribute Poem.....	Kawyanda Prather Victoria Reed "SugaMama"(BFF)
Musical Selection / Solo.....	Terry Jeanes Jr.
Farewell from Shelia	Babett Reed
Eulogy	Bishop Lezar Burnside
Closing Prayer & Recessional.....	Bishop Lezar Burnside



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER



A mother's love is God's greatest gift,
and her daughter carries that light into the world.

- Unknown



FOREVER IN MY HEART



I thank God for the years He allowed me to walk beside Shelia. She was my partner, my comfort, and the blessing I never took for granted.

We faced life together, its storms, its laughter, its quiet days, and through it all, God kept our love strong.

Her faith inspired me, her strength amazed me, and her kindness touched everyone around her.

Even though she is now resting with the Lord, the love we shared has not ended. God is holding her in His arms, and He is holding me up as I carry her memory forward.

I will always thank God for Shelia, for the life we built, for the love we knew, and for the promise that one day, by His grace, we will meet again.



NOW I AM FREE

Please don't cry for me too long,
For God has called me home.
The pain I carried has been lifted,
And I no longer walk alone.

I'm free now—free from every burden,
Free from struggle, worry, and fear.
God held my hand and whispered softly,
"Your work is done... Come rest, My dear."
I know there were moments on this journey
When I seemed far away, hard to reach.
I'm sorry if my silence left you hurting—

My love for you was deeper than
my speech.

Though my body grew quiet and tired,
My heart never left your side.
Every prayer you whispered for me
Became the strength I carried inside.

Now peace surrounds me like sunlight,
A gentle warmth I cannot describe.
I am whole again, held in God's presence,
Where love and joy forever abide.

So live on with courage and tenderness,
And remember this when you think of me—
I am with God, I am at peace,
I am healed... I am whole...
I am free.

— Shelia Prather

ESSENCE

OF HEAVEN



PALLBEARERS

GARY JOSEPH, JR
ELIJAH JONES
LANCE REED
STEVE WILSON
MIDOU GUEYE
FRED PRATHER IV

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

VINCENT COX
ANDRANA WILSON
WENDELL WILSON

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family of Shelia Denise Prather sincerely thanks everyone for your prayers, love, and support during our time of loss. Your calls, visits, messages, and acts of kindness have brought comfort and strength to our family. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

—The Prather Family



REPAST

Missing Peace MKE
3248 W. Brown Street
Milwaukee, WI
53208

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO



New Pitts Mortuary
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Milwaukee, WI, 53206



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