



Janet Ann Penns-White

May 11, 2026

Janet Ann Penns-White, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother and faithful servant of God, was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the age of 86.

Janet was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, to the late Rev. James Anderson Penns Sr. and Luella Collins Penns. Janet was one of thirteen children and the elder twin of the late James Anderson Penns Jr.

Janet was the beloved wife of the late James L. White Sr., and loving mother of four children; Gwendolyn White-Norwood (Kelvin), James Louis White Jr. (Jennifer), Paquita White-Williams (James), and Michael Theodore White. She was a proud grandmother of 14, great-grandmother of 20, and great-great-grandmother of 4.

A dedicated educator, Janet graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, Delgado Community College, and Southern University at New Orleans. She retired from the Orleans Parish School Board after teaching for more than 30 years.

Janet was a faithful servant of God who dedicated her life to the Lord. She was a powerful dynamic, spiritual speaker, a true prayer warrior who wore many HATS in the spiritual realm. Throughout her life she was the organist for

numerous churches and organizations. At the time of her passing, she was a member and the organist of First African Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Leonard St. Cyr.

Janet was known for her joyful spirit, unwavering faith, and signature phrase, "I'm Super Good and Getting Better." She often reminded everyone, "Don't let anyone or anything steal your joy." Her love, kindness, and legacy will continue to live on through all who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her husband, father, mother, six sisters, and two brothers.

Funeral services will be held at St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, 1737 L B Landry Ave, New Orleans, LA 70114 on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. Final resting place Providence Memorial Park and Mausoleum, located at 8200 Airline Drive, Metairie, LA 70003. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave. New Orleans, La 70125. Please visit www.rhodefuneral.com to sign the online guestbook.

Cemetery Details

Providence Park Cemetery

8200 Airline Dr.
Metairie, LA 70003

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **23**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephens Baptist Church
1738 L.B. Landry Avenue
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

Funeral Service

MAY **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephens Baptist Church
1738 L.B. Landry Avenue
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Janet White was a POWERHOUSE, of FAITH and STRENGTH and LOVEShe was my great aunt and my godmother..... I called her Nanny.... I wanted to share three values she taught me..... #1 Something about the name Something about the name, JESUS.... Oh.... What A powerful name.... , SHE USED TO SAID TO ME.....through JESUS Anything is Possible..... #2 was the power of PRAYER....ASK, and you shall RECEIVEhave FAITH in him.... I'm a living testimony of that.....the final and last value, she taught meHOW TO BOSS MY my BODY. I love you, Nanny, I know you are not here with us in your physical form, but you will live forever in our memories....

Shaquita Williams - May 25 at 03:31 PM

DD

“ God gave you to me for 3 years. I remember the first day you became my client. Your daughter Gwendolyn heard me on the prayer line. I serviced you on May 1, 2023 and the last day you walked in my salon saying you weren't feeling well and I said Mama you could have told me and you said " I needed to be here" It all makes sense to me now. I truly believe that this was a divine setup by God. Your last day with me was on May 1, 2026. Im grateful to God he gave me another opportunity to do your hair at the funeral home. Mama Janet I remember when you asked me "can I call my daughter ?" And I said yes. Your face lit up with a smile saying " your my inherited daughter" . When my mother introduced me as her daughter and you looked at her and immediately said I know thats your daughter, but Denise is my INHERITED daughter.😭
Mama Janet im so Grateful that we have met .We have shared many stories, You believing and supporting my calling coming out to hear me preach and listening to me preach in the salon 🙏, have sang together and have prayed together. Hearing your voice saying to me " I learned so much from you my baby" that meant so much to me. And I have learned a lot from you. Mama Janet our bond was so real that I felt you leaving me in spirit on Mother's day when I called you. And God called you home the next day. Im grateful to God for the memories and also becoming a part of your family. Loving people who has welcomed me. Forever in my heart. I love you Mama Janet.❤️❤️❤️❤️

Denise Jones (Inherited daughter) - May 25 at 08:52 AM

IB

“ My prayers are with all who knew and loved “Sister White”, as she was so affectionately called at Greater Antioch MBC, as she served as our organist (and much more), under the leadership of the late Pastor Leroy Crinel. She was a member of my first conference call prayer group in the 80’s. There are no words to fully describe what she was and what she meant to me. She was a giant in the Kingdom of God. God blessed us to reconnect several months ago after not seeing or speaking to each other for decades. We must have talked on the phone for over an hour. GOD IS GREAT AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED! We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that she has received her crown! WELL DONE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!!! 🙏🙏🙏

Ida Theresa Ross Barr - May 19 at 08:58 PM

DR

“ Sister Janet Penns White will be definitely missed, from our women Auxiliary fellowship circle, leading "What A Fellowship ". Her beautiful spirit, her pleasant voice and of course her beautiful array of hats, suits and shoes all matching, that adorned her tiny body, like she just jumped out off the page in Vogue magazine. She was a wonderful Christian person, prayer warrior, awesome singer with a mighty voice and a great friend to all she met, day in and out. Family she will be a loving legend because her legacy will on through you and thousands of Women Auxiliary ladies that affectionately loved her dearly. May God comfort you during this trying time and remember, you are not alone in this. Peace be with you. Donna K. Robertson



Donna Robertson - May 19 at 01:22 PM