

## Josephine Kwapiszeski

March 19, 1912 - Nov. 22, 2009

**HARLAN** — Josephine Marie Kwapiszeski, daughter of William and Josephine (Rosenthal) Schulte, was born on March 19, 1912, in Bloomfield, NE. After her mother's death in 1914, the family moved to Westphalia. It was there that her father married his sister-in-law, Anna Rosenthal. Josephine graduated from St. Boniface Catholic School in Westphalia in 1931. She received her teacher's certificate the following summer and began teaching country school for five years in Cass and Shelby Counties.

June 22, 1937, Josephine was united in marriage to Raymond Michael Kwapiszeski at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Two children were born to this union;

JoAnn who married Jerry Lapke and Ralph who married Janet Arkfeld. After their wedding, they farmed near Panama, until Ray's death in 1957. In the fall of 1960, Josephine went back to teaching at a country school. The next year, she started teaching fifth grade at St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama, in the little white school house. She continued to teach there for six years, before moving over to teach third grade at St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama. She stayed in that position until her retirement in 1978. Josephine was an avid reader, especially when it came to current events. She was very active in the church and community. She was a lector, communion minister, and a long time choir member at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama and took part in the community chorus plays for many years. She was also the president of the Home and School Organization, the Rosary Society, the sewing circle, and the Senior Citizens organization. She was also a member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Katherine Court No. 266 of Earling, where she also held the position of secretary. Josephine conducted tours for groups who visited the church in Panama, giving its history. Josephine died on Sunday, November 22, 2009, at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of ninety-seven years, eight months, and three days.

Josephine is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ray; her siblings: Cecelia, Frances, Ellen, Lawrence, John, Helen, Raymond, Howard, and Bernice. She is survived by her children: JoAnn and her husband Jerry Lapke of Harlan; Ralph Kwapiszeski and his wife Janet of Overland Park, KS; twelve grandchildren; thirty great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; her sisters Alice Carey of Harlan; Theresa Blum of Walnut; Agnes and her husband Leo Gaul of Harlan; her brother Paul Schulte and his wife Agnes of Carroll; nieces; nephews; other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, November 25, 2009, at St. Mi-



chael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. Bob Hoefler celebrating the 11:00 AM service. Interment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Jim Lapke, Keith Kwapiszeski, Jeff Lapke, Mark Lakers, Mark Kwapiszeski, and Brad Kwapiszeski serving as casket bearers.

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