

Mary Rauterkus, 81

April 20, 1930 - July 2, 2011

HARLAN — Mary Beth Rauterkus was born on April 20, 1930, to Anton and Ilo (Mulligan) Jensen in Irwin. She attended Irwin schools and graduated with the Class of 1948. She attended Barnes Beauty School.

February 18, 1951, Mary was united in marriage to Jerome Rauterkus at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Seven children were born to this union: Debra, Richard, Jeanette, Samuel, Renee, Robert, and Cheryl. Mary attended daily Mass and helped with Meals on Wheels for several years. She taught religious education and served as Guild president at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. She traveled to Europe, Russia, China, Sweden, Poland, Germany, and Paris, and hosted two foreign exchange students from Sweden and Chile. She was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. She painted the statues in church and at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery. She enjoyed being with her family and attending her grandchildren's events. Mary died on Saturday, July 2, 2011, at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE, having attained the age of eighty-one years, two months, and twelve days.



Mary was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Jerome Rauterkus of Harlan; children: Debra and her husband Chris Martin of Seadrift, TX, Richard Rauterkus of Manilla, Jeanette and her husband Steve Drey of Storm Lake, Samuel Rauterkus and his wife Julie of Manilla, Renee and her husband Dan Brown of Petoskey, MI, Robert Rauterkus of Manilla, and Cheryl and her husband Ramon Martinez of Kyle, TX; ten grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister Rosie Sondag of Irwin; other family members and friends.

Rev. John Frost celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Serving as casket bearers were Stacy Hendrick, Chevelle Rauterkus, Sean Rauterkus, Tyrel Drew, T. J. Christensen, Tasha Drey, Seth Rauterkus, and Kiley Rauterkus. Interment was held at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Manilla.

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