



Rosemary DeBakker

May 1, 1929 - October 30, 2012

Rosemary Elizabeth DeBakker, 83, passed away on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at St. Francis Nursing Home in Fond du Lac, WI.

Rosemary was born on May 1, 1929 in Chicago, IL, daughter of John and Mary (Bergen) Ropelle. She graduated from Norway High School with the class of 1947 and then attended Miss Brown's Business School in Milwaukee. On January 28, 1950, she married Donald DeBakker at St. Barbara's Catholic Church in Vulcan.

A woman of strong faith, she was a member of St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford and attended daily mass at St. Francis Home where she resided until the time of her death. She devoted many years of volunteer clerical service to Holy Spirit School and was a member of the Daughters of Isabella. Dear to her was an HIV positive orphan, Fern, whom she sponsored at Sarnelli House Orphanage in Nongkai, Thailand.

Rosemary was also a member of the Norway Women's Club and the Hospital Auxiliary. She was an avid Michigan State and Green Bay Packer fan. She enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles and the beaches of South Carolina. After her children were grown, she took up the sport of golf and spent many years trying to perfect her game. She was a member of Oak Crest Golf Course. In her life, family always came first. She dedicated her life to raising her children and greatly enjoyed milestone celebrations with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Holidays were special to her, spending hours cooking and baking to carry on family traditions. Her most appreciated

gift was to have family around her table.

She is survived by her son, Michael (Kristin) DeBakker; daughters, Cynthia (Hub) King and Jayne (Al) Kimichik; sister, Jeanette Erspamer; grandchildren, Melissa (Paul) Menghini, Matthew (fiancé, Jamie) Laydon, Lindsey (Erick) Fabyan, Nicholas (Anna) DeBakker, Haley DeBakker, Jordan DeBakker, Ayinde Starling, Andrew (Jess) Kimichik, Joseph Kimichik, and Kassandra Kimichik; great grandchildren, Samuel, Lily, Magdalaina, and Kinley. She is also survived by a special first cousin, Mary Trudeau.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her husband, Donald on January 10, 1991.

Friends and family are invited to attend her funeral services on Tuesday, November 6th at 11:00 A.M. at St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford. Fr. Michael Woempner will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in the Norway Township Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her memory to the Holy Spirit School in Norway.

The family wishes to thank the staff of St. Francis Nursing Home for the loving care, kindness, compassion, and preservation of dignity extended to Rosemary while she was a resident.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Rosemary DeBakker online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church
432 Edsel
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Looking back on so many great memories with my Grandma during this tough time. Her passing two days following my birthday isn't what I wished for, but the good memories certainly outweigh the current sadness. Through her own actions, my grandma taught me that the greatest gift one can have is their family. No materialistic items can provide the great memories that you share with your family. I'll always remember her willingness to care about what was happening in my life. Whether it be sports, studies, clubs, jokes, you name it, she listened and always seemed to care. I'm sure going to miss that shining smile of hers around the holidays. Though she has passed, I will continue to cherish those memories that we shared together.

Love you, Gram.

Joe Kimichik - East Lansing, MI - Grandson - November 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Jayne and family,
Earl and I were sorry to read of your Mom's passing....just wanted to let you know we are thinking of you. Our condolences as well, for the loss of Al's dad last fall. It's hard to watch this going on with all our parents. Love and prayers to you all.

Jill

Jill Huotari - GURNEE, IL - Friend - November 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Dear Cindy and family,

We send our sincere sympathy and hope that your happy memories will far outweigh your sadness at this time. Your mom was a kind-hearted lady and I enjoyed chatting with her about you and your kids while my class moved through the lunch line!

*Sincerely,
Pat and Gregg Stanchina*

Pat and Gregg Stanchina - November 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *There are so many great memories with my grandmother that I could not possibly write them all here. She was so sweet to everyone and I always looked forward to going to her house for a trip. When she used to visit at our house, my brothers and I thought it would be funny to pop out of nowhere and scare her! As little children, we got a real kick out of scaring our grandma out of her skin; looking back on it now though, it probably was not the best idea to do to an aging woman! I will miss my grandma with all my heart. She was always there with a loving hug and to not be able to have one more hug is heartbreaking. I was actually in a car accident on the day she died, where the car hit the passenger side where I was sitting. It's lucky that no one was hurt, but I know that my grandma was looking over me that day and making sure that I was not hurt. I have another guardian angel looking out for me in heaven and if she can't be with me here, I'm happy she will be surrounded by God and my grandpa, and her family and friends that have passed on before her!*

Kassie Kimichik - Williamston, MI - granddaughter - November 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ So sorry to hear about your moms passing!! She is in a happier place for sure!!
Nancy and I lost our mom Gloria Aug 30th this yr of Alz....Bill lost his mom this Feb..also with Alz.
So us old friends, all lost our moms this same year....
But again ~~ they are all in happier places!!
love to all
Susie & Rick Holland

Cindy I am working 9 to 5 Tuesday, so I will miss this.. I am so sorry!! Keep in touch~~Sues

Susie Holland - Iron Mtn, MI - friend - November 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Very sorry to hear about Rosemary's passing

So many great memories of our golf trips and card games

Having Rosemary and Don in our lives for those years was a real blessing

Bill and Ellen Roberts - Norway, MI - Friends - November 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM