



Helen Budzynski

October 23, 1922 - April 10, 2018

Helen Eva (Baibak) Budzynski, aged 95 and long-time resident of Fountain passed from this world to be with her beloved Savior, husband, parents, departed family and friends in Heaven on April 10, 2018.

Helen was born October 23, 1922 on her family's Mason County dairy farm, beloved second child of Lithuanian immigrants Zigmont and Helen (Monchunski) Baibak. Although she lived much of her youth on the south side of Detroit, her childhood summers and adult life were joyfully spent on the family farm in Mason County. As the family's sole daughter, she spoke frankly and confidently to all with sass and spunk and was always a commanding presence in her family.

Helen went to elementary school under the loving guidance of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Detroit, and to Mason County Eastern high school, graduating in 1940 along with many other first-gen American children of Lithuanian immigrants. Tragically, her father died one year later. With her mother, she worked to keep the family's dairy farm going for three years while helping raise her baby brother John. Though her mother preferred her to marry a nice Lithuanian boy, she met Anthony "Tony" Budzynski, the love of her life, in 1942 and married him on April 22, 1944. Together Helen and Tony ran the family dairy farm for 38 years, raised three sons, faithfully served the parishes of St. Joseph at Round Lake and St. Mary in Custer, Michigan, and supported

the community in Sheridan Township. In 2004 they celebrated 60 blessed years of marriage. Tony considered himself the luckiest man alive to have Helen as his wife.

She had a beautiful soprano voice and sang the Ave Maria at countless area weddings, funerals and ceremonies. She served 25+ years on the St. Joseph/St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Councils, was a member of St. Mary's choir and Altar Society and worked countless church chicken dinner fundraisers. Helen's mighty faith and great heart enabled her to serve as a second mother to those in need, a confidante and comforter in all matters of compassion and friendship. She served on the Holmes School Board (prior to annexation by Mason County Eastern School), as well as holding the posts of Sheridan Township Clerk for 27 years, Mason County Planning Commission, and State Boundaries Commission member. Her outspoken, intelligent, and giving nature served her constituents and her family well.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents and older brother Stan Baibak, as well as her beloved husband Tony in 2005. Helen will be remembered in love by her three sons, Thomas (Gayle) of Leonard, Michigan, George (Jill) of Fountain, and John (Andrea) of Riverview, Michigan.; her granddaughter Greta (Dan) Wolford, great-granddaughter Savannah Wolford and great-grandson Mason Wolford of Maple Grove, Minnesota, and devoted family friend/"adopted" daughter Pat (John) Papes of Fountain; her brother John (Donna) Baibak of DeWitt; and many, many nieces, nephews and cousins from the Baibak and Budzynski families, and friends from the area, across the state of Michigan, US and Lithuania. They will miss her strength of character and determination, stalwart Catholic faith, boundless love, positive personality and delicious Lithuanian cooking at holidays. Ma, you will live in our hearts daily, we'll toast you every Christmas Kucha over Kugelis, Kukulis, Ausukes and Pierogies, and keep your stories alive.

Friends may meet with her family for a visitation and rosary on Friday, April 13 from 6 to 8pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Custer. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Helen at 11:00 am on Saturday, April 14 at St. Mary's Church. Helen will be interred at the Custer Cemetery next to her beloved husband, parents, and family members. Her sons have asked that memorials be sent to the St. Rose Altar Society of St. Mary's Catholic Church, to Great Lakes Caring Hospice, or to EWTN. They thank the many, many dear friends who attended her in her final years.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

1000 South Custer Road
Custer, MI 49405

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **13**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Tribute Wall

AS

“ We will miss Helen very much but I know she is so happy now .She was a great lady and I will miss her so much. She was very wise and very loving. She talked about her family all the time and how much she loved them. She was like a mother to me and her wisdom and advice helped get me through so tough times. I loved to sit and talk to her for hours as she told me about the history of her family and the people of Mason Co. I was very blessed to have known her and have her in my life. I can't wait to see her again. Our condolences to her family. Art and Joyce Strejcek

Art and Joyce Strejcek - April 16, 2018 at 12:23 PM

KS

“ It was a sincere pleasure and gift to have served Helen. I wish you all peace in knowing how many people's lives she touched. She will be missed by me and so many others.

Sincerely,
Karyn Hill-Silky
BSBP

Karyn Silky - April 15, 2018 at 05:03 PM

LB

“ Love Debbie Hoffman Byrne purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Helen Budzynski.



Love Debbie Hoffman Byrne - April 13, 2018 at 09:44 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Budzynski.*



April 13, 2018 at 12:46 PM



“ *A wonderful and beautiful soul has entered into Heaven as, without a doubt, one of God's most beautiful Angels. When I heard of Aunt Helen's passing, I cried, feeling badly for those of us she was leaving behind. Then I smile. She has been reunited with those who have gone before her. I can see her now, telling all of Heaven's Residents everything that has happened over the years, with a smile on her face. She was a kind and loving soul, supporting us as we were adopting Brian and George. She and Uncle Tony were always there for us, helping with the boys, and loving us, as she did her own kids. There are so many stories, all that make us smile. God graced us all with her presence for 95 years. If we all accomplished half of what this wonderful Lady did, we would surprise ourselves. Aunt Helen, may you rest in peace, although, I know that now, you have probably shaken Heaven up a little bit. Our love to you all; thank you for allowing us to have been a part of your lives. The memories of Aunt Helen and Uncle Tony will live in our heart forever. Sending you all our love and sympathies.*

Bob and Bev

Bev and Bob Budzynski - April 13, 2018 at 10:24 AM

YM

“ Your loving Goddaughter, Ruth McClellan purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Helen Budzynski.



Your loving Goddaughter, Ruth McClellan - April 12, 2018 at 11:10 PM

JP

“ Helen was truly one of the loveliest people I have known and such a good friend to my mother, Margarette Reader. I will be planting trees through the Arbor Society in her memory as she sent me a card and a tree once and introduced me to the idea. The Reader family will miss Helen.

Jane Reader Peterson

Jane Reader Peterson - April 12, 2018 at 06:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Helen Budzynski.



April 12, 2018 at 04:03 PM

GM

“ Condolences to the Budzynski family. I will miss my visits with Aunt Helen. The things that I learned! She truly was one of a kind. May God's grace shine on her.

Gerri (Baibak) McIntosh - April 12, 2018 at 02:00 PM

MS

“ GOD Bless you both George and Jill in this hard time. I know that your mama is in GOD, Jesus and my papa. Wishing you all my best,
Michael Swiger



Michael Swiger - April 12, 2018 at 01:26 PM

BB

“ Dearest Jill and George, I made a donation to Great Lakes Caring Hospice in your mother's honor. I send you love and peace during this time of great sadness yet I am so grateful to Helen for being such a role model for us all. What a beautiful spirit and what a beautiful son she has given to the world. Jill and George's love is shown to everyone and I am so grateful to be part of their journey in this life. Thank you Helen for raising such generous and loving children and for Jill's generosity and spirit together with George, that has rocked my world. (pun intended as I know you love rocks!) Your kindness to me at a difficult time will never, ever be forgotten.
Love Barb Berg.

Barbara Berg - April 12, 2018 at 12:41 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Helen Budzynski.



April 12, 2018 at 12:32 PM

JD

“ *A beautiful lady! And now a new Angel to sing in the Choir!*
Joe Dollaway Mesa, AZ Last time I saw Helen was at the Open House at Geo and Jill's.



Joseph Dollaway - April 11, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Helen Budzynski.*



April 11, 2018 at 10:32 AM

NS

“ *Dearest Aunt Helen.... You will be missed. Your ability to think in the positive and listen were a welcome blessing at every visit. Your love encompassed many. I was lucky to be one of those.*
Nancy Budzynski Selby

Nancy Selby - April 11, 2018 at 10:21 AM

BC

“ *Brent Caldwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Budzynski*



Brent Caldwell - April 11, 2018 at 01:21 AM

JC

“ *Joyce Caldwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Budzynski*



Joyce Caldwell - April 11, 2018 at 01:15 AM

LS

“ *Love, Joyce, Brent and little Carmel Sunday purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Helen Budzynski.*



Love, Joyce, Brent and little Carmel Sunday - April 11, 2018 at 01:10 AM

CW

“ *Chuck & Cindy Cryderman Luke & Stacey Williams purchased the A Full Life for the family of Helen Budzynski.*



Chuck & Cindy Cryderman Luke & Stacey Williams - April 10, 2018 at 01:59 PM