



Bernice E. Mullen

September 26, 1924 - March 3, 2021

Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother

(née Chmielewski)

Age 96, of West St. Paul.

Went to the Lord on March 3, 2021.

Bernice E. Mullen (nee Chmielewski), age 96, beloved wife of Harry and devoted mother and grandmother, passed peacefully into eternal life with the Lord on March 3, 2021 at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Bernice was born in Sturgeon Lake, MN to Tony and Tillie Chmielewski, the eighth of 15 children.

Bernice is preceded in death by daughter, Geralyn and 13 siblings. She is survived by her loving husband of 73 years, Harold (Harry), children: Kathleen (Doris Beresford), Mary (Roger) Braun, Michael (Sheila), Susan (Paul) Boudreau, Pat (Jay) Schemmel, Tom (Donna Ostby); 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren; brother, Florian Chmielewski; and many other family and friends.

Bernice graduated valedictorian of the Class of 1944 at Willow River High School and accepted a position as a bookkeeper in Minneapolis after graduation. As a young woman, she loved dancing, roller-skating and ice cream. Bernice met Harry in 1946 at a roller rink. Harry invited her out for ice cream that evening and when she also discovered he was Catholic, she was smitten. They married May 17, 1947 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Sturgeon Lake, MN. Their union was blessed with seven children and many years of happy family life. One thorn in her life was the loss of her sweet daughter Geralyn to leukemia in 1963.

Bernice was a devoted homemaker as well as a generous volunteer and gracious hostess. The home was filled with regular family game nights, sing-a-longs, and annual vacation trips around the US. She was an accomplished seamstress and would make matching mother-daughter dresses for special occasions. She and Harry provided their family with a rich spiritual life. Family traditions around the Christmas and Easter seasons

were favorites. By sacrificing luxuries, the children were able to attend Catholic school from elementary school through college.

Bernice was generous with her time and her talents. For many years she counted the Sunday offerings, volunteered for parish events, and taught CCD classes. She and Harry also hosted many friends, extended family and church groups, often inviting seminarians and the parish priests to share their family life.

Bernice and Harry enjoyed their retirement years traveling around the United States and the world. Together over the years, they visited all 50 U.S. states, the provinces of Canada, Mexico, Ireland, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Israel, and Italy. Besides travel, Bernice loved to read, dance, research genealogy, camp, play cards, and share her faith. She was a real ace at Wheel of Fortune, crossword puzzles, cryptograms, and word jumbles. She also knitted, crocheted, and tried her hand at tatting and basket weaving. Her most favorite times though were spent with family.

Bernice devoutly practiced her Catholic faith and was an inspiration to all. She had a particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son, Jesus. She and Harry prayed the rosary every day, received the sacraments regularly to fortify their spiritual life, and participated in daily Mass. On her dying bed she asked for the "holy bread and holy wine." NOTE: The crown of roses in Bernice's casket represents her journey from the crown of thorns of earthly life (grapevine wreath base) to the glorious crown of eternal life (roses and gold).

Mass of Christian Burial 11 AM Tuesday, March 9th at the Church of St. Joseph, 1154 Seminole Ave, West St. Paul. The Mass will be livestreamed on the Church of St. Joseph website:

<https://churchofstjoseph.org/>

Visitation 4-6 PM Monday at Klecatsky & Sons West Chapel, 1051 So. Robert St., West St. Paul.

Interment Resurrection Cemetery.

Special Thanks to the staff at Southview Senior Living and The Willows of Ramsey Hill for their loving care and support.

In lieu of flowers, offerings for Masses are preferred, or memorials to St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, SD.

Cemetery

Resurrection Cemetery

2101 Lexington Avenue
South
Mendota Heights, MN,
55120

Events

MAR **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

8

Klecatsky & Sons West Chapel
1051 South Robert Street, West St Paul, MN, US,
55118

MAR **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

9

Church of St. Joseph
1154 Seminole Avenue, West Saint Paul, MN, US,
55118

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Joseph S. Klecatsky & Sons Funeral & Cremation Services - March 04 at 03:06 PM



“ what a great tribute

jerry - March 13 at 05:10 PM



“ Kathy Mullen is following this tribute.

Kathy Mullen - March 08 at 12:19 PM



“ Always had a sweet smile and kind words when Gary and I saw her. Enjoyed watching your Mom and Dad dancing to Uncle Florian's music.

Barbara Dahlstrom - March 05 at 12:30 PM



“ Ken & Linda purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Bernice E. Mullen.



Ken & Linda - March 05 at 10:00 AM



“ 69 files added to the album LifeTributes



Joseph S. Klecatsky & Sons Funeral & Cremation Services - March 04 at 02:55 PM