

Obituary

Born: Saturday, February 9, 1924

Died: Thursday, August 12, 2021

Beatrice Salomea (Kowalski) Ignasiak, 97, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Aug. 12, after a brief illness. She was born on February 9, 1924, the youngest child of Jozef "Joe" Kowalski and Salomea "Sadie" (Owczarzak) Kowalski. Beatrice grew up in the Scott Park area of Toledo, and was a member of St. Hyacinth Parish, starting with her grade school years, and continuing her membership in that congregation until her death.

During World War II, Beatrice worked in the Quality Control Department of both Acklin and Bingham Stamping Corporations, inspecting shell casings, as part of the legion of young women who worked in the factories while the men of her generation were in the armed forces. She was proud of the role she played in the war effort, and kept a small, empty reject casing as a memento of her employment.

After the war, Beatrice married her returning soldier-sweetheart, Clemens H. Ignasiak. They had only one child, a daughter, Mary Ellen. Widowed at a relatively young age, Beatrice returned to work, and was a cook and cashier in the cafeteria at Mercy Hospital for many years.

Beatrice loved to crochet and was very adept and prolific. She made, at the very least, 100 hats and scarves every year, especially for women and children, and donated them to women's and children's shelters, schools and churches. She made her final 100 at age 94, when her arthritis overcame her love for the craft.

With her sister, Delphine, Beatrice enjoyed going to parish festivals and various parties which had Polish bands, and she was a good dancer. She met Robert Brauer at a festival, when he asked her to dance with him, and the two formed a great friendship and dancing couple for several years.

In addition to her parents and husband, Beatrice was preceded in death by her beloved sisters, Delphine (Grzeszczak), and Irene (Gurzynski), and brother, Joseph (Alice) Kowalski, Jr.; nephews, Thomas (Barbara) Grzeszczak, Sr. and Richard (Linda) Kowalski, niece, Lorraine Ann (Kowalski) Kusz, infant nephew, Terrence Gurzynski, infant niece, Sally Marie Gurzynski; sister-in-law, Helen Ignasiak; and close friend, Robert Brauer.

Beatrice is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ellen and John Wozny, who Beatrice always regarded as her daughter and son, not a son-in-law. Surviving also are her nephew's spouse, Barbara Grzeszczak, and nephew Charles (Lorraine) Kowalski, great nieces, including Denise, Brittany, and Brianna Dunphy, and Darlene (Joe) Stettler, and great nephews, including Thomas Grzeszczak, Jr., and a close circle of friends.

Visitation will be in the vestibule of St. Hyacinth Church, Parkside Blvd., from 10 to 11 a.m., on Monday, August 16, followed by a Funeral Mass. Internment will be in Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the parish, 719 Evesham Ave., Toledo, OH 43607. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, limitation of person-to-person contact will be in effect. The family wishes to thank the staff of Senior Care Management, Inc., including LaDonya, Bob and Laurie, and all at Orchard Villa, especially Casey and Sarah, for the care and compassion accorded to Beatrice and her family.

Service Summary

Visitation

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Mon Aug 16, 2021

St. Hyacinth Catholic Church

719 Evesham

Toledo, Ohio 43607

Funeral Mass

11:00 AM Mon Aug 16, 2021

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