



Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle

April 20, 1935 - May 5, 2024

Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle, Helen Jean went to God on May 5, 2024. Helen Jean was born on Holy Saturday, April 20th, 1935 in Covington, Kentucky to Marce and Helen Smain, loving parents. Except for the first three years of grade school, she attended the Benedictine Academy called Villa Madonna. In 1953 she was awarded the highest honor of the Academy by the student body. It was during these years she adopted as her life's motto the words of St. Benedict, "pray and work and prefer nothing whatsoever in Christ". In 1957 she received her BA from Villa Madonna College (now called Thomas More University). She excelled in academics and while a student, planned and executed a series of lecture programs for the general public and was in "Who's Who in American Colleges" in 1956-57. After graduation she worked as the first social worker for St. John's orphanage in Fort Mitchell, Ky. In 1958, Helen Jean married her soul mate Paul Bluemle and they were blessed with 5 children who were reared in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. She was a stay at home mother for years, however, always active in her community as PTA President, Parent Effectiveness Teacher, Co-founder of Open Classroom in the Ferndale School District which caused the return of federal money to the school district. Helen Jean was a Parish CCD, an Adult Education Planner for St. Mary's Church in Royal Oak, Michigan. She also served on the Advisory Board of Oakland University Continuum Center. In 1978, she received her MA in Human Development from Wayne State University, as well as certification in Gerontology. After this, she became

Grants Manager at Area Agency on Aging, Southfield, Michigan. Four years later, she became Coordinator of BASCC, a nonprofit organization serving older adults in five cities in Michigan with headquarters in Birmingham, Michigan. She also taught classes in Gerontology and retirement planning. In 1984, Helen Jean and her husband moved to Alameda, California. She was a Victim Witness Consultant in the District Attorney's office, Oakland, California, a position from which she retired in 1992. In 1993, she received certification as a Spiritual Director through Mercy Center, Burlingame, California. In 1994, she and her husband moved to Harrison County, Kentucky where they participated in homeschooling 5 of their daughter, Christine's children until 1999 when both families moved to Northern Kentucky. In 2003, she and Paul settled in Fishers, Indiana. As children we knew Mom to be strong, happy, energetic, who laughed a lot and embraced people with the love of God. She had a deep faith and she was a leader, outspoken and tireless and able to get others to join her in causes which would help the community, church or civic. Mom liked to garden, cherished nature and loved the beautiful. When we were young, Mom taught creative writing. She wrote for us many Christmas stories and in her eighties she wrote canticles thanking God for his care. She and Dad traveled many times to Europe and in 1999 to Israel. When newly married, she and Dad were active members of the Christian Family Movement. Their shared interest were interfaith hospitality, centering prayer, cooking for the poor in various Parishes, visiting art museums, attending operas, cinema, reading, walking and genealogy research. Dad died in 2013. Helen Jean is survived by her 5 children, Joy (Mr. Andrew Frank), Christine (Dr. Todd Ussery), Jude Bluemle, Laura (Mr. Stephen Smith), Peter Bluemle; a sister, Alice Carol Buse; as well as 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. A mass of celebration will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Geist, 10350 Glaser Way, Fishers, IN on Tuesday, May 28th at 11 am, 2024 with visitation from 10 am- 11 am. Memorial contributions can be made in her memory to Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593. Final care and arrangements have been entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-

Castleton Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Spirit at Geist Catholic Church
10350 Glaser Way
Fishers, IN 46037

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Spirit at Geist Catholic Church
10350 Glaser Way
Fishers, IN 46037

Tribute Wall

LB

“Helen Jean and I were friends years ago when we were both stay at home moms attending Wayne State University in Detroit. She was preparing to return to the workforce and was very nervous about whether she would be able to handle a "real job" after "only" being a mom to 5 busy children. I reassured her that she would be just fine. After her first month on the job I asked her how it was going. She said, "oh it is so easy to get the job done and I even have extra time in the day." She remarked that the people she worked with were just so inefficient. I said employers don't realize what it takes to run a household with small children. Major management skills. After they moved away we remained correspondents for all these years. I will miss hearing about her wonderful family. Laura Bates, Lansing, Michigan

Laura Bates - December 07, 2024 at 11:25 AM

SW

“Helen Jean was/is an inspiration to me. She convinced me to be a part of the Centering Prayer group at Holy Spirit at Geist. She was also a part of our bible study group and she knew the bible better than anyone in our group. We all have a long way to go to be more like Helen Jean.

Sara Wissler - June 15, 2024 at 09:56 AM

LR

“Love Caitlyn, Maureen, and The Rosettas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.

Love Caitlyn, Maureen, and The Rosettas - May 23, 2024 at 07:46 PM

LR

“ Love Caitlyn, Maureen, and The Rosettas purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.



Love Caitlyn, Maureen, and The Rosettas - May 23, 2024 at 07:46 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.



May 22, 2024 at 03:47 PM

TF

“ The George E. Murphy Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.



The George E. Murphy Family - May 22, 2024 at 03:38 PM

TF

“ The George E. Murphy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.

The George E. Murphy Family - May 22, 2024 at 03:30 PM

TF

“ The George E. Murphy Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.



The George E. Murphy Family - May 22, 2024 at 03:30 PM

HD

“ Helene Buse and Tom Donohue planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.

Helene Buse and Tom Donohue - May 22, 2024 at 07:39 AM

HD

“ Helene Buse and Tom Donohue purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Helen Jean (Smain) Bluemle.



Helene Buse and Tom Donohue - May 22, 2024 at 07:39 AM