



# Jeanne Zahalka

OCT 25, 1926 - OCT 13, 2012



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# Jeanne Zahalka

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## Jeanne Ruth (Venne) Zahalka

Jeanne Zahalka, 85, peacefully went to Heaven, October 4, 2012. She was born October 25, 1926 in Racine, WI, to Russell and Ruth (Zenner) Venne. She graduated from St. Catherine's High School and attended the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse. On August 27, 1949 Jeanne married Donald W. Zahalka. She and her husband moved to Oshkosh, WI in 1954. Jeanne was a member of the Serra Club, UW-Oshkosh Faculty Dames, St. Peter Aquinas Club and enhanced her education by attending Elderhostel classes at many universities. She was a Cub Scout and Campfire Girl leader. She enjoyed music and performance and was a part of Community Player Theater and the Senior Choir. Jeanne was an inspiration to all in her commitment to protect unborn children through her work in Wisconsin Right to Life. She was a member of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish participating as a choir member and then a lecturer. An avid sports fan she enjoyed attending Lourdes High School and UW-O athletic events as well as watching the Packers, University of Notre Dame football, and the Brewers. Jeanne was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She liked spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jeanne is survived and will be deeply missed by many including her husband Don, daughter Donna (Tad) Harvey, Sturgeon Bay, WI; sons James (Catherine Ryner) Zahalka, Brooklyn, WI; John Zahalka, Boy River, MN; and Richard (Joan) Zahalka, Tony, WI. Grandchildren, Shannon (Chris) Greisen, Heather Harvey, Elizabeth (Jeremy) Schartner, Nathan Zahalka, Olivia Zahalka, Mercedes Rhoads, Jaime Zahalka, Jared (Autumn) Zahalka, Jennifer Zahalka, Tom (Lindsey) Zahalka, Zachary (Jane) Zahalka, and Luke Zahalka; Great-grandchildren Michaela, Hannah, Patrick, Andrew, Oliver, Vania, Jordan, Mikah, Nova, and Chancey; Siblings Claire (Richard) Gavigan, Palatine, IL, Fr. Thomas Venne, Milwaukee, and Judith (Steve) Ballard, Milwaukee; In-laws Betty Zahalka, Racine, WI and William Zahalka, Racine, WI; special family Luul (Tekle Sebhatue) Ghebredngihil; and many nieces and nephews. Her parents, brother Fr. Douglas Venne, and sister Germaine Kesser preceded her in death.



## Obituary

**Jeanne Zahalka**

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A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church 435 High Street, Oshkosh at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 13, 2012, with Father Tom Venne presiding. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass on Saturday. A luncheon will follow. The Zahalka Family would like to thank the staff at Evergreen Retirement Community for the compassionate care provided Jeanne during her last days. Donations in her honor may be made to Wisconsin Right to Life. To view and sign the guestbook, please visit: [www.fissbillspoklasny.com](http://www.fissbillspoklasny.com)

Fiss and Bills Poklasny Funeral Home and Crematory 920 235-1170



## Tribute Wall

**Jeanne Zahalka**

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MM

**Margaret Phillip Koskinen "Mugs"** posted:

Dear Zahalka Family, What fond memories I have of your dear mother and family. Your parents raised such wonderful children. Whenever I spoke with your Mother and Dad it was a warm and friendly conversation. She was a happy woman and a huge LHS backer. Take of yourselves and your Dad!! May the Lord's Peace be with you.

October 19 at 11:20 AM

CA

**Chris Anderson** posted:

Mr. Zahalka, Rick John and James and family, I'm sorry to hear about the passing of your wife and mother. She was a great supporter of everyone who ever played a sport at Lourdes. She was always there for us. Please accept our prayers and thoughts at this time.

October 9 at 2:37 PM

TS

**Thomas Schroeder** posted:

Don, Rick, and family, I am sorry to hear of Jeanne's passing. There is no way to ease the pain of your loss, but knowing so many people care and as they express their sympathy it does help.

October 9 at 10:11 AM

PK

**Paul Stadtmueller&Katie** posted:

God bless Jeanne's soul; our prayers and communion have been offered in her behalf. We have many fond memories sharing Jeanne's life.

October 9 at 9:54 AM

DJ

**Denise Jackson** posted:

So sorry for your loss. I knew Jamie and Cathy when they lived in Berlin. Nathan was born just five days before my son, Aaron White.

October 9 at 6:37 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Jeanne Zahalka**

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**Ron Ames** posted:

I have so many wonderful memories of my youth as a neighbor of the Zahalka family. Jeanne was such a great "rooter" for all "us younguns" in the neighborhood. We all were always greeted with an excited smile, challenged with good debate, and joyful conversation. So happy she was one of my "Vine Street Moms"! Jeanne was a wonderful part of those years and my adult life.

October 7 at 6:07 PM



**Joe Rothbauer** posted:

Mr. Zahalka, Rick and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. My memories of Mrs Zahalka have been and will continue to be warm and happy.

October 7 at 3:28 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Jeanne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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