



## Collette T. Wilkens

March 1, 1949 - December 17, 2010

Collette Theresa. Wilkens, 61 year old resident of Swanville, MN left us on Friday, December 17, 2010 at the St. Cloud Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville with Father Ronald Dockendorf officiating. Burial will be at St. John's Parish Cemetery in Swanville. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 PM on Monday at St. John's Catholic Church and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the church. Parish Prayers will be at 7 PM on Monday at the church.

Collette was born March 1, 1949 to Donald Gessell and Noreen Peschl in Long Prairie MN. She attended and graduated from Swanville High School. She was united in marriage to Bernard Wilkens on May 3, 1968 in Sisseton SD. They resided in Swanville MN where they raised their family. Although she had worked out of her home, Collette prided herself on being "grandma" and caring for the kids in her home, some of them not related by blood. She belongs to St. John the Baptist Parish of Swanville, Swanville Community Scholarship Inc., Dollars for Scholars, City of Swanville Planning and Zoning and past Swanville School Board Director. She also worked to raise cancer research funds through Relay for Life and private fund raising. She enjoyed being involved in any family activity especially camping with the grandchildren. Collette is survived by her husband, Bernard of Swanville; daughters, Michelle (Fred) Peterson of Swanville, Stephenie (Jim) Och of Swanville, Stacy (Todd) Jackson of Swanville; son, Shayne (Jill Cuchna) Wilkens of Litchfield;

grandchildren: Nicholas, Michela and Ashley Peterson; Ethan, Quintyn and Courtney Och; Peyton, Avery and Reese Jackson; mother, Noreen Gessell, and siblings, Sandy (Glenn) Klimmek, Lynn (Bruce) Johnson, Lyle (Jane) Gessell, Kathy (John) Peterson, Debbie Gammon, Theresa (Steve) Peterson and Julie (Rick) Gutormson; 11 nieces and 17 nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Donny Gessell; grandparents, Joseph and Elizabeth Gessell, John and Julia Peschl. Honorary Pallbearers will be Nick, Michela, Ashley, Ethan. Peyton, Quintyn, Avery, Courtney and Reese. Active Pallbearers will be Sandy Klimmek, Lynn Johnson, Lyle Gessell, Kathy Peterson, Debbie Gammon, Theresa Peterson and Julie Gutormson. Memorials preferred in lieu of flowers.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Visitation

DEC 21. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Service

DEC 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Collette T. Wilkens*



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**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Collette T. Wilkens*

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January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Steph and family,*

*We are so sorry to hear about your mother. We send our love and prayers to you and your family at this sad time. Wishing you peace and comfort in the coming days.*

*Take care.##imported-begin##Terri & Dave Yurczyk##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2010 at 01:52 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Collette was one special lady and a real fighter. I was proud of all she tried to continue to do. She looked good at the Relay for life in L.P. this summer. Cancer is such a hard painful disease, God saw how weak and full of pain that Collette was. He finally suffer and said enough was enough and called her to come home and be with him free from pain. I was Collette's choir partner for many years at Swanville school and I enjoyed our visits every day. She was so kind and yet had a great sense of humor. She was one year older then I and yet she was a special lady in school when I was around her everyday, I was very proud of all she did for the Rely for Life. She looked good in July I think when I saw her. She is free now and you must carry on her legacy. Write down your memories and share them with her grandchildren and each other. God's Blessings to all of you and Our Prayers are with you always.  
Sincere Sympathy, Sue and Dennis Bacon###imported-begin##Sue Bacon###imported-end##

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December 21, 2010 at 04:43 AM



“ Gessell Girls and families - sorry to hear the loss of your sister Collette. I will always remember the fun times that I was able to share with you all. My thoughts and prayers are with you especially at this of year.  
Love Faye Santala###imported-begin##Faye Santala###imported-end##

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December 20, 2010 at 10:02 AM



“ Dear Steph, Stacy and your family,  
I was so sad to hear of the loss of your mom. I so enjoyed meeting her and having her come to ECFE classes with Reese and Courtney. She was a delight to visit with and to have share her parenting advice in parent group. I cannot imagine the loss you must feel now....she had such a presence about her that will undoubtedly leave a void for your family. Take care and know that my thoughts are with you.

Jenelle Peters###imported-begin##Jenelle Peters###imported-end##

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December 20, 2010 at 08:26 AM



“ Berny sorry for your lose###imported-begin##Mike Hanson  
###imported-end##

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December 18, 2010 at 09:33 PM



“ "Verily I say to you: Today I shall see you in paradise" Jesus Christs  
Quote Holy Bible

*Blessed be those who believe in the Lord!*

*Comfort & Peace to family! Cherish the memories, cry, pray for each other, hug & carry on her loving ways!###imported-begin##Mike & Natalie Holmgren & Family###imported-end##*

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December 18, 2010 at 09:59 AM