



## Helen M. Ross

August 1, 1926 - July 3, 2022

Helen Ross, 95 year old resident of Pierz, MN, passed away on Sunday, July 3, 2022 at the Pierz Villa. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierz, MN, at 10:30 A.M., with Father Kenneth Popp officiating. Visitation will be from 9:00 - 10:30 A.M., at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Saturday, July 9, 2022. Burial will be in the Parish Cemetery following the Mass. Caring for Helen and her family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Pierz, MN.

Helen M. Merkling was born on August 1, 1926, to the late Frank and Josephine Merkling in Sauk Rapids, MN. When she was a young child, the family moved to a farm northeast of Lastrup, MN., where she attended country school district 144 in Granite Township. Helen and her family, later on, moved to the city of Pierz, MN, in 1939 where she attended school and was a 1943 graduate of Little Falls High School. After graduation, she was employed at the Pierz Journal, a weekly newspaper, in almost every position in newspaper work at that time. Helen was united in marriage to Master Sargeant Michael J. Ross on August 30, 1946, in St. Columbkille Church, Willmington, Ohio. They lived in various states while Michael was in the military. In 1951, the couple returned to reside in Pierz, and after several years again returned to work at the Pierz Journal until the newspaper company went out of business in the early 1970s. She was also employed at St. Mary's Villa as an assistant cook until retiring from the working field. After the death of her husband, Helen

moved to the family farm north of Pierz, where she resided until the time of her death.

In September 2006, she received the prestigious Helen Keller Award, and in 2012, she was among the nominees for the Outstanding Citizens Award. In May of 2018, she received the Member of the Year award from the Legion Auxiliary. Helen was a member of the local American Legion Post 341, and served two consecutive years as president. She chaired and co-chaired on several committees. Helen was a member of the ladies VFW, Little Falls, Post 1112, and the Women of the Moose, St. Cloud Chapter 417.

Helen loved to sew, was an avid reader, and had a love for the garden, especially flowers, which many of them graced the small chapel at the Pierz Villa. She volunteered as a chapel escort for over 20 years at the Pierz Villa. Somewhere along life's road, she met Sister Dorothy Ann Rudolph, O.S.F., where she was a volunteer under the sister's guidance at the Clothes Review until the sister's retirement.

Helen is survived by her children, Helen Ann Wojciechowski, Barbara (John) Balaski, Steven (Ronda) Ross, Michele (Paul) Herold, Peter (Bonnie) Ross, 17 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Josie Mayer of Arizona, Ermalinda (David) Crotty of Utah, and sister-in-law, Nancy Merkling of Tennessee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Josephine Merkling; husband, Michael J. Ross in 1973; an infant son in 1947, son, Michael F. Ross in 2002; daughter, Patricia Ross in 2018; sisters, Arleen Muncy, and Bernardine Kroll; brother, Cyril Merkling; sister-in-law, Alice Merkling; brothers-in-law, Roy Muncy, Victor Mayer, and George Kroll; and great-grandchild, Cedric Ross.



# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Cemetery

Pierz, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 9. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
68 North Main Street  
Pierz, MN

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
68 North Main Street  
Pierz, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen M. Ross*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Andrea Wolbeck lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Ross*



**Andrea Wolbeck** - July 09, 2022 at 09:31 AM



“ *Bob And Vonna Boser lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Ross*



**Bob and Vonna Boser** - July 08, 2022 at 10:22 PM



“ *You are all in my prayers*



**Mary Jo Retka** - July 07, 2022 at 03:35 PM

GM

“ To my cousins Helen Ann, Barb, Michele, Steven and Peter. Gary and I are sad to hear of your Mom's passing. She died exactly 19 years after we flew in to Minnesota for the family reunion at Michele's home. What a GREAT time that was!!! We got to know Helen better at the reunion and the trips to Laughlin. Helen was always dressed up and I admired that. She also had a knack for eating just a little bite of whatever was being served. Helen told me that she had a dessert each evening. Dinner wasn't complete without a dessert. I wish I had her metabolism.



*A limb has fallen from the family tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small.  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.  
Until the day comes we're together again.*

*God bless all of you!!  
Love Gary & Marsha Muncy*

---

**Gary & Marsha Muncy** - July 07, 2022 at 12:32 AM

KS

“ So sorry to hear of your Moms passing. She was a good neighbor and I enjoyed babysitting all her grandkids in the 80's. Sending my deepest sympathy to you all. Karen Happke Schreiber

---

**Karen Schreiber** - July 06, 2022 at 11:19 PM

CB

“ *My sympathies to the family of Helen. She was a lovely lady in many ways.*



-----  
**Connie Banach** - July 06, 2022 at 06:18 PM

TM

“ *Tally Moehle lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Ross*



-----  
**Tally Moehle** - July 06, 2022 at 04:54 PM

JL

“ *Just cannot remember a time when she did not have a smile for you! Such a wonderful charitable loving person. She will be sadly missed.*

-----  
**Jean Litke** - July 06, 2022 at 09:27 AM

CA

“ *Chris Anderson lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Ross*



-----  
**Chris Anderson** - July 06, 2022 at 08:00 AM

MG

“ *Mark And Colette Gangl lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Ross*



---

**Mark and Colette Gangl** - July 05, 2022 at 05:29 PM

JP

“ *Joe & Maggie Plante lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Ross*



---

**Joe & Maggie Plante** - July 05, 2022 at 10:15 AM

JP

*My deepest sympathy to the Ross Family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

---

**Joe & Maggie Plante** - July 05, 2022 at 10:16 AM