

## Marie Irene Heilman

Marie was born to John and Catherine (Piatz) Heil on October 30, 1929, in Selz, ND. She grew up on a farm in Selz and attended a country school through eighth grade. Marie married Herman Heilman on October 1, 1951 in Selz; they were married for 70 years. Herman and Marie had a long and happy marriage, celebrating the birth of nine children. If ever two were one then surely, they were.

She was a source of love and support; she always had your back. No matter the occasion she was willing to lend a helping hand, a warm touch, a listening ear, and your favorite comfort foods. Nothing could put a smile on her face like the sight of her grandchildren and great grandchildren, no one could comfort a crying baby like Marie, she had a magic touch. Marie's grandchildren brought her pure joy. There was no stopping her when she was spending time with her grandkids; she loved to spoil them, and she deserved every single minute of joy. Those moments will be forever cherished.

When Marie saw a need, she quietly went about meeting it, she was a silent heroine with an astonishing intuition. Her empathy, kindness and compassion were boundless, she sensed when you were in despair which would lead her to wrap her arms around you – this small gesture made everything better if only for a moment. She supported us, along with neighbors, friends and the community. Her nurturing spirit touched the lives of many.

Marie was an incredible cook. She never used a recipe, but always just put the ingredients together until it 'looked right'. However, the primary ingredient in every recipe was love. Attempts by others to replicate these recipes have been mildly successful at best. We will keep making the favorites but know that they will never again be quite the same.

Waiting to greet Marie in Heaven are her husband Herman, infant daughter Karen, parents, brothers, Pius, Leo and Raymond; sisters, Rose, Albina, Barbara, and Lena. Left to carry on Marie's legacy are her children Diane (Jim), Bob (Rebecca), Ron (Kristi), Al (Lisa), Rick (Pegg), Carla, Annette (Heidi) and Ann (Kory); eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Mom's strength, courage and strong will were rooted in her unwavering faith. She taught us about faith, unconditional love, kindness and respect for others by how she lived and loved. These life lessons will guide our family for generations.

You taught us well Mom; we will take care of each other, rest easy.





Each grandchild chose a memento with special meaning and placed them by the casket. The mementos and symbolism for each grandchild are as follows.



**Grandma's Mother's Ring:** When I would come to visit, one of my favorite things was to sit on Grandma's lap and have her tell me about her rings. I especially loved hearing about her mother's ring and who each stone represented. She would patiently tell me over and over as if it was the first time she had told me.

**Jello Pan:** Grandma loved to have her family together, creating memories and most importantly being well fed. Grandma's cooking brought our family together in a way that nothing else ever could. Everything she made was done with love. Her recipes will live on as a testament of her love for all of us.

**Lucky Charms:** Grandma was always sure to have Lucky Charms in the house when we came to visit. It was our special treat at her house.

**Tomato Juice:** Grandma's tomato juice is one of her many legacies. It's my favorite thing she made and something I always had at her house. As an adult it was something we made together. It's representative of her love for all of us because of how she shared it so willingly.

**M&M's:** Grandma always brought M&M's for us when she came to our house when we were little and always had a dish full of them at her house when we visited.

**Marble Board:** Marbles was Grandma's favorite game that she taught all of us to play. She passed the game on to us.



# Marie J. Heilman



## Born

October 30, 1929 | Selz, North Dakota

## Passed Away

May 30, 2024 | Wahpeton, North Dakota

## Age

94 Years | 7 Months

## Mass of Christian Burial

10:30 AM | Wednesday, June 5, 2024

St. John's Catholic Church | Wahpeton, North Dakota

### Officiant

Fr. Greg Haman

### Organist

Pat Keaveny

### Soloist

Emily Wangen

## Congregational Hymns

"Amazing Grace" | "On Eagles Wings" | "Ave Maria" | "You Are Mine"  
"Softly and Tenderly" | "Will The Circle Be Unbroken"

## Pallbearers - Grandchildren

John Heilman | Kathryn Gustin | Margette Snook  
Nora Laymon | Ben Werlinger | Andrew Werlinger

## Interment

Fargo National Cemetery | Harwood, North Dakota