



Ellen Brentine

December 4, 1937 - May 8, 2024

Ellen Joan Bakker Brentine, 86, Topeka, Kansas passed away on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Ellen was born December 4, 1937, the daughter of Henry and Clara Bakker in Shelburne Township on the family farm near Tyler, Minnesota. Ellen grew up on the family farm with her siblings as her best friends playing and working together daily. Her parents were remarkable faith-filled people, passing that trait onto Ellen. She was the ninth child of 11 siblings. She attended a nearby country school until the fourth grade. When the school closed, she would attend a public school in Ruthton, Minnesota, until graduating high school in 1955. Following high school, at the age of 17, Ellen entered the St. Paul's Priory on September 7, 1955, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She became a Benedictine Postulant in December 1955, entered the Novitiate in June 1956, took her first vows in July 1957, second vows in July 1959 and her final vows were taken on July 11, 1961.

Ellen graduated from the College of St. Catherine's in St. Paul with a BA in Elementary Education and History. She would use this degree to pursue a long and accomplished teaching career. During her time with the convent, she taught from 1960 to 1973, teaching at Most Holy Trinity School, St. Bernard's School, Assumption School, and St. Bridget's. After leaving the convent, Ellen taught from 1973 to 1980 at Elmont Elementary in Topeka and 1980 to 2000

at West Indianola in Topeka. She retired after a 40-year teaching career in 2000. She did not stay away from school for long. In the spring of 2002, Ellen began volunteering at the Most Pure Heart of Mary School twice a week until 2005 when she began volunteering daily in the school's computer lab until 2014.

After she was granted a dispensation from her vows in February 1973, Ellen married Frank Brentine on December 19, 1973, in Perry, Kansas at St. Theresa Catholic Church; he preceded her in death in 2021, after 47 years of marriage. Along with her husband, Frank who had 51 years sobriety, Ellen was a grateful member of Al-Anon for over 50 years.

Ellen was full of faith. She was an active member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, where she prayed at Adoration daily and was involved in many different Church groups.

Ellen is survived by her brother, Charles Bakker (Sharon); sister, Cecilia Lipp (Rod); many nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, and beloved friends. She was also preceded in death by her parents; siblings, James Bakker, Agnes Prairie, James Joseph Bakker, Theresa Laleman, Mary DeSaer, George Bakker, Elizabeth (Betty) Lanoue, and Raymond Bakker; and nephew, Gordon Bakker (Gordy).

Rosary will be prayed at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th Street, Topeka KS 66604, where Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Ellen will be inurned at a later date in St. Dionysius Cemetery in Tyler, Minnesota, where her beloved Frank is already inurned.

Ellen's Funeral Mass will be livestreamed on the funeral home Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Kevin-Brennan-Family-Funeral-Home-11687>

6148342762/

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Christian Burial

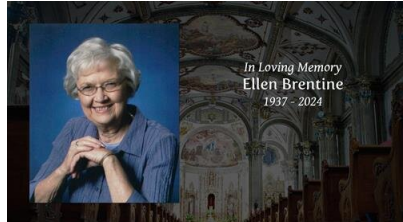
MAY 15. 10:30 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ellen Brentine



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - May 13, 2024 at 01:06 PM

SM

“ I am Sister Virginia a Benedictine Sister at St. Paul's Monastery. We entered the convent together in 1955. I have never seen Ellen without a smile. Her heart was one of pure love and a deep gentle woman all her life. I am blessed to have known her. My prayers with all.

Sister Virginia Matter - June 29, 2024 at 11:12 AM

EH

“ Ellen was a wonderful teacher who taught my son at West Indianola. The term "Minnesota Nice" fits her perfectly.

Evelyn Huggins - May 15, 2024 at 08:18 PM

TL

“ Ellen was among the kindest and gentlest persons I have ever known. She will be missed by all who knew her. She and Frank are together again.

Terry Larson - May 15, 2024 at 11:33 AM

RB

“ Ellen was the most peace filled, joyful, and pure person I have ever known. I miss her.

Rita Bassett - May 15, 2024 at 08:04 AM

MW

“ She and Frank were dear friends of my parents and us 3 kids. We knew them in the 70's. I recently reconnected with her at my mom's memorial picnic over Labor Day. She was still the the sweetest and we visited and laughed so hard...I think until we cried. I am sorry for the loss of her to her family. She was a bright light and she did miss Frank so very much. They are reunited and both are missed. I enjoyed the slide show very much. What a great and full life!

Malisa Wacker - May 14, 2024 at 11:06 PM

BD

“ Ellen welcomed me into Most Pure Heart parish through her prayers and words of encouragement. I didn't have the pleasure to know her personally but the times she spoke with me she made me feel so warm and loved. The last time I saw her was at the alter, and that is the way I will always remember her, at the feet of Jesus.

Becky Dekat - May 13, 2024 at 10:58 AM

AN

“ Anita Fletcher, Niece lit a candle in memory of Ellen Brentine



Anita Fletcher, Niece - May 13, 2024 at 12:10 AM

JB

“ Juanita B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ellen Brentine.

Juanita B. - May 12, 2024 at 11:41 AM

JR

“ Heaven gained another Saint! What a wonderful, caring, compassionate and faith filled woman of God. We were blessed beyond blessed personally by her presence at MPH. Ellen, you will always hold a special place in the Russell family hearts! Thanks for all your prayers and rosaries offered up for Josh while attending Optometry school. RIP Sweet friend!

Joyce Russell - May 12, 2024 at 04:47 AM

CC

“ Cynthia Camacho lit a candle in memory of Ellen Brentine



Cynthia Camacho - May 11, 2024 at 07:26 PM

CC

“ Ellen and Frank were my inspiration to serve God through eucharistic ministry and adoration challenges guardianship...they actually recruited me into both! Ellen gifted me their nativity set. I grew tremendously in my faith walk with their encouragement and examples....I loved sharing my recovery with them over the years! Ellen was such a beautiful soul! I will miss her mucho!
Cynthia Camacho

Cynthia Camacho - May 11, 2024 at 07:20 PM

CC

Chapel not challenges! Progress not perfection

Cynthia Camacho - May 11, 2024 at 07:33 PM

BD

“ I MET ELLEN EVERY DAY at Most Pure HEART Church as I spent time at holy hour after school. Ellen was leaving church when I arrived and we visited. Will miss my dear friend and my son Dr. Aaron Dunn treated her eyes on a Saturday when he was home visiting. Ellen was a real Saint.

Barbara Dunn - May 10, 2024 at 07:21 PM

SD

“ Sharon Dister lit a candle in memory of Ellen Brentine



Sharon Dister - May 10, 2024 at 03:02 PM

AG

“ Mrs. Brentine was my 1st grade teacher at West Indianola. I am 50 y/o now and I don't think she ever forgot a student's name. It was always a pleasure running into her when I lived in Topeka. She was a wonderful lady with the most kind & warm disposition. Sending love to the family & friends she leaves behind.

Anne G. - May 10, 2024 at 02:04 PM

BA

“ I had Mrs Brentine as a 2nd grade teacher, and remember her kindness and fun way of teaching. She was an amazing woman of faith who will be missed by many. I remember her husband brought kites for us to fly one year at school

Bonnie Abbott - May 10, 2024 at 10:41 AM

BM

“ I will miss this lady and her beautiful smile. If I didn't see her often, I could always count on seeing her and getting a smile and a hug at the Shawnee County Relay for Life. This year, just a week from tomorrow, will be a different event without her there. Rest in Peace my friend. You have been a blessing to so many!!

BOBBI K MANGAS - May 09, 2024 at 05:44 PM

MF

“ I will miss Ellen's sweet smile and kind nature. She always found time to stop and thank people for the work they did at MPH M church. I don't think I ever heard her utter a complaint of any kind. She was the epitome of Christian behavior. My prayers and condolences to her family.

Maggie Ferguson - May 09, 2024 at 02:34 PM

SS

“ Susan B Simmons lit a candle in memory of Ellen Brentine



Susan B Simmons - May 09, 2024 at 02:04 PM

SS

“ Oh Ellen. I am so sad to hear of your passing. I hadn't seen you in so long, but kept in contact via Facebook. You're with Frank now and your both in God's loving arms. Until I see you again. Love you Ellen.

Susan B Simmons - May 09, 2024 at 02:03 PM

MF

“ Neat lady-I enjoyed working with her at MPH M " Bill Snyder "

mark fox - May 09, 2024 at 12:29 PM

SM

“ Ellen was the epitome of "serenity". Her kindness, grace, and acceptance was inspiring. She will be greatly missed.

Sharon M. - May 09, 2024 at 12:09 PM

TG

“ Ellen was a good person i didn't know Ellen im sending my symphaty to the brentine family may Ellen rest in peace 🙏 ☐ terry I glenn

Terry I glenn - May 08, 2024 at 09:31 PM

MA

“ Ellen was such a great person. She was my favorite customer when I worked @ Christopher & Banks. Sending thoughts and prayers to Ellen's family.

Mary Atchley - May 08, 2024 at 08:57 PM

TA

“ *Ellen had the most gentle soul of anyone I've ever known. She will be GREATLY missed, but we know that she is with her Frank.*

Tom & Sonja Allen

Tom Sonja Allen - May 08, 2024 at 06:31 PM

CM

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family & friends of Ellen Brentine. She was a light & example of grace & peace. She will surely be missed on this side of Glory; ah, but the grand reunion that awaits! Prayers abound for all. Charlotte McCall*

Charlotte McCall - May 08, 2024 at 06:27 PM