



Joan Holthaus

June 3, 1964 - December 15, 2005

Joan Marie Kruse Holthaus, beloved wife, mother, sister, teacher and friend, passed suddenly Thursday, December 15, 2005. Joan was a ray of sunshine and a joy to all who knew her.

She was born June 3, 1964 to Wilbur and Mary Armstrong Kruse in Wichita, where she lived until graduating from Kansas State University. Joan and Bill Holthaus were married July 18, 1987. They joyfully welcomed their son, Paul in 1991. Joan was a teacher at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School for 20 years. She loved “teaching every child God brought to her”. Joan was voted Outstanding Teacher in Topeka in 1996 and was the Kansas Young Mother of the Year in 1995. She has been associated with the American Diabetes Assoc. Camp Discovery for 30 years. Her family and friends were most important to her, and she gave totally of herself to them. She was a wonderful cook, hostess, artist and friend.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Holthaus and their son, Paul of the home; her parents, Wilbur and Mary Kruse, Wichita; siblings, William Kruse (Glenda), Karen Kruse, Teresa White (Brad), and Tom Kruse (Leigh), all of Wichita, Kathy Tramp (Rick), Topeka, Peter Kruse (Janet), Orlando FL, and Ann Ecklund (Terry), Overland Park; and 46 nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Holthaus will lie in state and family will greet friends from 2 to 4 p.m.

Sunday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church with a parish prayer service at 4 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday at the church. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Joan Holthaus Memorial Education Fund c/o Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home 2801 SW Urish Rd Topeka, KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan Holthaus*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Paul, Sean sends his prayers. We never know what life will deal us, but God placed his hand on a Angel, and now she looks upon us with her smiling face. We will always remember all the great things she has done. We will miss her. God Bless.*

Hebert Family - December 27, 2005 at 12:04 PM



“ *To everyone in your family -*

We cannot imagine the loss and pain you must feel. You have our deepest sympathy. Please know you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Marc & Julie Anderson - December 22, 2005 at 10:13 AM

WR

“ *Bill and Paul--*

There are no words. We are feeling so sad, but when Wayne's mom and dad brought us the letter you had written for the funeral, we began to feel better because you asked us to rejoice for Joan. I started to think less of my pain and more of her reward, which I know is great and joyful. Joan was the most Christ-like person I knew, and I always wanted to be like her when I "grew up". She taught me so much about giving and sharing. When you both agreed to be godparents to our daughter Jessica, we were so grateful, because we knew you both came from big families where you had numerous nieces and nephews....but you agreed anyway. Lucky us! We knew she would have the best role models ever. I'm only sad we moved so far away and were not able to spend much time together in the last few years. Even though we were far apart, Joan continued to be special in Jessica's life and ours. We'll keep you all in our prayers and in our hearts. I'll miss her so much. She was so beautiful in every way. God bless you-- Love, Susan and Wayne

Wayne and Susan Rousey - December 21, 2005 at 08:02 PM

KR

“ *Your wife and mother brought so much joy to so many people. I had the pleasure of being Joan's Head Room parent when my daughters, Catelyn & Kendall were in Kindergarten. I have so many fond memories of her and they will always be cherished. She was a very special woman that will never be forgotten! My prayers are with you during this difficult time. Kim Rees*

Kim Rees - December 19, 2005 at 07:27 PM

BE

“ *Bill and family,
It is hard to know where to start. I cannot imagine what it is like to lose a wife and mother. My prayers are with you both. My deepest sympathy.*

Becky Ewy - December 19, 2005 at 04:52 PM

TM

“ *Bill,

You have my deepest sympathy in this great loss. I know that Christ accompanies you in your sorrows.*

Sincerely,

Tim McEvoy

Tim McEvoy - December 19, 2005 at 09:17 AM

SB

“ *I remember Joan, Bill, and Paul coming into Harsh Drug Store's soda fountain with Fritz, Rita, and various other Holthaus family members. Even though it had been a terribly long time since I had seen her, I still remember her smile and the way she doted on her son. When I heard of her passing, I was terribly saddened--the world lost a truly wonderful person. We can be comforted by the fact that she is watching us and "teaching" us from above now.*

Stephanie (Leseberg) Bruna - December 19, 2005 at 09:08 AM

RL

“ *Bill and Paul
I know you know how much we loved Joanie. She was like a sister to both Shelly and myself, as well as another mother to Aubree & Madison. She was so special and giving. I will never forget her laugh or beautiful smile. Please remember our family will always be there for you. I love both of you.*

Randy Luebbe - December 19, 2005 at 08:11 AM

BR

“ *To the Kruse Family, my deepest sympathy on the loss of your daughter and your sister. Joan will be in our prayers and thoughts.
Becky (Armstrong) Ramsey*

Becky Ramsey - December 19, 2005 at 08:06 AM

WH

“ *Bill & family, We are so sorry to hear of your sudden loss. Joan sounded like a wonderful wife, mother, & teacher. You & your family are in our thoughts & prayers. ~ Wayne & Linda Heinen*

Wayne & Linda Heinen - December 18, 2005 at 07:49 PM

M(

“ Dear Family -

I was so shocked to read in the newspaper about Joan. I have many fond memories of spending the nite at your house, Teresa....with all the "younger" kids hanging around us...one of them..... Joan. We are 50 now...so that was long, long ago. But you know..I remember Joan was so sweet and cute...we didn't mind that she played with us:)

Thinking of Joan... and the Kruse family... brought back a flood of memories ...from the St. Patricks School days.

I am so very, very sorry about your loss, Wilbur and Mary and everyone. It reminds me...that only our God knows...about All.

I will always love all of you.

Mary Kay Bean (McNeil)

Mary Kay Bean (McNeil) - December 18, 2005 at 05:59 PM

CS

“ *Bill, we are really saddened after hearing the loss of Joan. Our heartfelt sympathy's and prayers go out to you and your family. Will also keep Joan in our prayers this Christmas season. We feel that she was at the top, for being a devoted spouse, mother and teacher. We feel confident that she will be rewarded with the everlasting life.*

Cletus and Theresa Steinlage - December 18, 2005 at 12:33 AM

MF

“ Bill, We were shocked and saddened to hear of Joan's death. She was a wonderful person and we loved her very much. I will always cherish the friendship and memories we shared while I was in Topeka. We are at a loss for words right now, but know that you are in our prayers. Wish we could be there. With our love, Tom and Mary

Mary and Tom Gray and Family - December 17, 2005 at 10:27 PM

MW

“ You were a great teacher last year. I love you. I will miss you. Maria Weiter, 1st grade

Maria Weiter - December 17, 2005 at 09:53 PM

BR

“ Kathy, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your sister.

Barb Reser - December 17, 2005 at 06:19 PM

PA

“ Uncle Bill and Aunt Mary and all my cousins, I offer my deepest condolences. I know Joan was one of the youngest when we all got together and played, but I do remember playing with her and you too, Ann. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I have always thought if God didn't give us such a deep range for our emotions, it wouldn't hurt so much at these times. And even though we truly believe what we profess, it is still hard. I will have a Mass said for her out here at our parish. Love and prayers, Peggy Armstrong and family

Peggy Armstrong - December 17, 2005 at 04:03 PM

ZW

“ I will miss you. You were my favorite teacher. I love you. Zach Wurtz. 3rd Grade

Zach Wurtz - December 17, 2005 at 02:57 PM

MA

“ Uncle Bill, Aunt Mary and family,
I don't have words to comfort you in this time of great sadness, but I read something many years ago that went like this. "It is always hardest when a loved one dies because it means there is one less person who sees the world as you do." I truly share your loss and regret I cannot make it to the burial. My family will be sending a memorial.

Micki, Willis and family

Micki Armstrong - December 17, 2005 at 02:31 PM

TF

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Your mother/wife made a huge impact in Noah's life as she was his teacher two years ago. She continued to greet him frequently in the hallway in the following years which he will always carry with him. She will be missed by many. Our prayers are with you-J, MK, Noah and Gabriel.

Thompson Family - December 17, 2005 at 01:19 PM

NT

“ I will miss you. noah thompson, 2nd grade

Noah Thompson - December 17, 2005 at 01:15 PM

RP

“ Bill, We are so sorry. The right words to speak are just not there. Our hearts hurt. Will talk to you soon. Much love and sympathy. Peggy Stauffer and Ron Mikkelsen, Las Vegas, NV

Ron & Peggy - December 17, 2005 at 12:01 PM

LC

“ I feel like I have lost one of my own. My first memories of Joanie are from 26 years ago when she was a 16 year old attending Camp Discovery. She was a member of a group of kids who taught me how one can live with diabetes and do anything you want to do. Joanie was the one who always had a positive attitude and a smile that would light you up. I watched her as she went from Camper to Camp Director at Camp Discovery. For a few years we missed her at Camp but for a good cause, she was with Paul and finishing her master's. But she came back and most recently had been assisting with Arts and Crafts. What an amazing talent. One of the last projects at Camp I saw Joanie do was having the kids draw self potraits. Every child did it and what pictures they were! But most importantly it was so obvious how much Joanie cherished her own family; Bill, Paul, her parents, her siblings and thier families. When she had an appointment in our office, she always had a sister, Mom, or friend waiting to go to lunch. I know her mememory will not be forgotten by the children at school she taught, my the children and adults she touched through Camp Discovery, or by her family. I know I will not forget what an inspiration she was. Lindy Childs

Lindy Childs - December 17, 2005 at 10:59 AM

MB

“ *I'm so sad that Mrs.Houlthaus has died. I loved having her as my teacher in kindergarden. She was very kind and loving to everyone, and everyone loved her. I pray that you will be comforted now. - McKenzie Butcher*

McKenzie Butcher - December 17, 2005 at 09:21 AM

BF

“ *Our heartfelt prayers are with your family. Joan has touched countless lives and her warm smile and loving ways will never be forgotten. We are so very sorry for your loss. We will continue to pray for God to comfort you in this time, and to hold Joan in His warm embrace.--Lori, Troy, McKenzie, Alec, Marie, Aiden.*

Butcher Family - December 17, 2005 at 09:12 AM



“ *Joan Holthaus*

December 17, 2005 at 12:52 AM