



Belle Marie Benzel

July 27, 2018

Claire Belle Benzel passed away July 27, 2018 at the age of 82.

Belle was born April 23, 1936 in Sidney, Nebraska to Alfred and Helen Koester. Belle was one of 3 children who grew up in Sidney, graduating from St. Pat's Academy. In 1958, she graduated from Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colorado with a degree in Home Economics. She was a trail-blazer for women during this time pursuing a college education out of state.

She married Leonard Benzel on June 28, 1958 and they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1965. They had 8 children. She had a long career that encompassed in-home childcare, Poudre High School department secretary, and parish secretary and administrative assistant at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church.

Belle was a compassionate, caring person from the day she was born until the day she joined Leonard in Heaven. She was a strong leader, organizer, and friend to everyone she met. These talents were apparent as she led 4-H groups, extension clubs, and supported countless community fund raisers. These gifts also came in handy in her role as CEO of a family of nine. Belle had a love for family, church and community; she served the Lord with purpose and selflessness.

Belle dedicated her life to raising a strong, loving family. As if raising seven children was not enough, Belle loved and treated their spouses as if they were her own. She constantly doted on everyone, took pictures the minute they walked in the door, and made sure everyone was well fed. As her grandson

Zack once put it, "Grandma could feed a small Army out of her purse." Belle's face lit up every time her 8 grandkids and 7 great-grandkids walked into the room.

Belle served the community by volunteering with seniors, Operation Christmas Child, the Alzheimer's Walk, The Human Race, and countless others. Belle served as the Archdiocese Arts and Environment Liaison and was instrumental in Papal World Youth Day, 1993. Her dedication to community was unmatched.

For over 20 years she worked as an Executive Assistant and Coordinator of Services for St. Joseph's Catholic Church; her title underestimates the magnitude of her contributions.

Belle's ability to decorate and beautify any setting; a garden, a tabletop, an altar, a Christmas tree, were among her many passions. Her husband, along with her friends, were her partners in crime to build exactly what was needed to create a perfect setting for any event.

Belle is survived by her children Brenda Hartman (Doug), Tom Benzel, Nancy Behrendt (Tim), Randy Benzel (Susan), Molly Jones (Troy), and Amy Smith (Mark) and her brother Phil Koester (Bridget). She was loved by her 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Belle is preceded in death by her parents, Alfred and Helen Koester; brother, Buck Koester; and husband, Leonard. Belle will be reunited in Heaven with her sons Jeffrey and Kevin Benzel.

Evening Vespers and Rosary will be observed at 7:00pm on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, located at 300 West Mountain Ave. Fort Collins, Colorado 80521. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Monsignor Tom Fryar on Monday, July 30, 2018 at 9:30am at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr. Suite #E Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Previous Events

Rosary

JUL 29. 7:00 PM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W Mountain Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80521
<https://www.stjosephfc.org/>

Memorial Mass

JUL 30. 9:30 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W Mountain Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80521
<https://www.stjosephfc.org/>

Interment

JUL 30 (MT)

Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery
8426 S College Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80525
info@resthavencolorado.com
<http://www.resthavencolorado.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Belle Marie Benzel*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *May God bless you as you mourn together the loss of your matriarch's presence. She was a vibrant woman.*

I met her in Home Economists in Homemaking (1970's). Then we both became church secretaries and met with other church secretaries in Fort Collins. For some of those years, we lived just a few blocks from each other.

Though I haven't seen her in years, I still remember her voice and smiles, and what a blessing she was to all who crossed her path. I, too, will miss her.

Betty Brown

Betty Brown - August 06, 2018 at 07:30 PM



“ *I am so sorry, I just found out today about Heaven's newest Angel. She was the grandest lady I have ever known, she was kind, strong, loving, smart and talented. I thank God that I was able to know her and work with, to be the recipient of her many insights and decorating talent. May She rest in peace, Sending you my love and prayers .*

Kelli Jo Stadlman

Kelli Jo - August 02, 2018 at 02:00 PM

JW

“ I had the privilege to know Belle Benzel at St. John 23rd when she would come in and edit the church bulletin. She was always dressed so nicely and would do anything she could to help the church. She will be missed.

Janet M Wendt - July 31, 2018 at 03:35 PM

JC

“ To the Benzel family. I am sincerely sorry for your loss. Belle is such a beautiful soul and now amongst the angels in Heaven. May God bless you all. Julia Ruppel Crawmer.

Julia Crawmer - July 31, 2018 at 03:13 PM

DH

“ My prayers and sympathy are offered for Belle and her loving family. Belle was truly one of God's earth angels, constantly serving others; she did not have a self-serving bone in her body. She was a dear dear friend of my deceased wife Diane; they worked together for many years in their respective missions in St Joseph parish. May God bless their souls. Dick Hecker

Dick Hecker - July 29, 2018 at 03:49 PM

LP

“ The thing I remember most about Belle was her smile. I am so glad she will not suffer anymore-
Lisa Phillips



Lisa Phillips - July 28, 2018 at 04:06 PM

JH

*I remember the first time I met Belle. She was open and engaging truly genuine, a class act without pretense. We connected and always had time for each other. A pleasure and privilege to have known her if only briefly. Heart felt thoughts and prayers to all. Fond memories Belle
Thank you
Jared*

Jared Habein - August 05, 2018 at 09:15 PM

PE

“ *I had the pleasure albeit short term, to know Deacon Leonard and Belle Benzel from attending Saint John XXIII Catholic Parish. Deacon Leonard recruited me to aid him with the unloading and installation of the pews at Saint John XXIII several years ago. While helping him I got to know Belle and her ability to put together an amazing lunch for Leonard and myself. She was very gracious and easy to love much like Leonard. My condolences to the Benzel family. Godspeed Belle!*

Peter - July 28, 2018 at 03:25 PM

MF

“ *Belle was such a nice person & always looked So pretty. She babysat for me 42 years ago & I tried to stay in contact with her over the years.
Now she can be with Leonard in a better place.
God Bless
Marilyn Foster*

marilyn foster - July 28, 2018 at 09:12 AM