

Barbara Jean Bajtka, age 65, of Manistee, died peacefully Monday morning, August 11, 2014 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born October 17, 1948 in Manistee, daughter of the late Mervin E. & Gladys L. (Carey) Turk. She was a graduate of Manistee High School with the class of 1967. Barb married Gordon T. Bajtka on September 14, 1968 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee. Barb and Gordon celebrated just over 45 years of marriage together. Barb was employed at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility for 29 years up until her retirement. Barb was a loving wife and devoted mother to raising her 4 children. She enjoyed being at home taking care of her garden and flowers, baking and canning. She also enjoyed sewing, knitting, crocheting and quilting. Together Barb and Gordon enjoyed making and selling their crafts at shows. Barb meticulously crafted quilts with specific, individual design and attention for each of her grandchildren. She was a loving grandmother who treasured spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Gordon of Manistee; her children, Sandra K. (Jeremy) Foster of Cadillac, MI, Jeffery A. (Kristina) Bajtka, Thomas E. (Heather) Bajtka all of Manistee and Donna M. (Dennis) Blue of Mason, MI; 10 grandchildren, Tyler, Emily, Mikayla, Dylan, Gavin, Braeden, Carey, Amanda, Brendan and Denny and 1 great-grandbaby, Ashton; her sister, Linda (Robert) Krause and 4 brothers, Bob (Lois) Danks, Bill (Bonnie) Danks, Larry (Glenda) Danks and Pat (Elaine) Danks. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive her. The family wishes to acknowledge and extend appreciation to Glenda Danks for the special care she provided to Barb by keeping close by her side.

In addition to Mervin & Gladys, she was preceded in death by numerous aunts and uncles including her Aunt Dorothy Sersaw. Barb devoted extra time taking care of her aunt Dorothy until her death.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 18, 2014 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

Family and friends will pray the evening vigil service at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee where the family will be present to receive friends from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. The family will also be present at the funeral home on Monday morning from 10:00 a.m. until leaving in procession to the church at approximately 10:45 a.m.

A memorial has been established in Barbara Jean's name for the American Cancer Society. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.