

**Helen Irene Burson**, age 81 of Manistee, Michigan died Tuesday morning, May 1, 2012 with her husband at her side, at the Country Acres AFC Home in Kaleva, Michigan.

She was born on June 21, 1930 in Cicero, Illinois daughter of the late John & Stella (Konczak) Eilers. Helen married John R. Burson on October 1, 1949 in Manistee, Michigan. She was employed at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility for numerous years until her medical retirement. She and John spent many winters in Florida over the years. She enjoyed working with arts and crafts and listening to country music. Helen was a communicant of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church of Manistee.

She is survived by her husband of over 62 years: John R. Burson of Kaleva, MI, three sons & two daughters-in-law: Jon & Kim Burson of Meadville, PA, Kyle Burson of Jackson Whole, WY and Kevin & Cindy of Kaleva, MI, four grandchildren: Aby Hamilton of Kaleva, MI, Nikki Burson, Austin Burson and John Burson all of Meadville, PA and one sister: Minnie Gaca of Manistee, MI. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive her.

She was preceded in death by two daughters, Lynn Marie Burson in 1959 and Lisa Kay Burson in 1975, three brothers, Edward Eilers and Stanley Lawcewicz and John Lawcewicz.

Mass from the Order of Christian funerals will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Reverend Sylvestre Obwaka celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

Relatives and friends will pray the Evening Vigil Service at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening May 4, 2012 at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee, where friends may begin calling Friday after 2:00 p.m. The family will be at the funeral home on Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. receive friends.

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