

**Mary Jo Oleniczak**, age 53 of Manistee, MI reached out and took “Momma & Daddy’s hands to join sister, JeanAnne at home in heaven with our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, August 27, 2013.

She was the youngest daughter of Jerome & Josephine (Hansen) Oleniczak. During Mary Jo’s lifetime, she attended Lincoln School kindergarten in 1965, then went on to attend Manistee I.S.D. 1966-1987. She participated in Special Olympics for many seasons winning trophies in Poly Hockey, Cheerleading and Bowling. Mary Jo was a member of Mental Health’s Special Arts Chorus. She traveled extensively with her Mom on I.S.D./ARC sponsored trips to Washington D.C., Orlando, FL and Branson, MO to name a few. After 1987 Mary Jo attended ARC Summer Camp up until 2011. She worked at Manistee Catholic Central in the dish room at lunchtime thru Centra-Wellness Work Program until 2010. She was also a lifetime member of the V.F.W. Walsh Post #4499 Auxiliary and enjoyed working at card parties, a Red Cross volunteer for blood drives and also the Friendship Club at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee and the Catholic Daughters.

She is survived by her brother/Godfather/guardian Charles (Jeanne) Oleniczak of Manistee, MI, brother James (Cyndi) Oleniczak of Laingsburg, MI, sister Charlotte Raczkowski of Manistee, MI and sister Barbara (Vern) Wright of Laingsburg, MI, 15 nieces and nephews, 28 great nieces and nephews, ten great-great nieces & nephews and many, many special friends, including Kay, Barb, Karen, Beth, Sharon, Jane, Holly and Ron.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, JeanAnne in 1958, her “Daddy” Jerome in 1978, her “Momma” Josephine in 2008 and a great niece Cherokee Oleniczak in 1996.

Per “Momma’s” request Mary Jo has been cremated and a Memorial Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. The family will be at the church on Saturday morning, one hour prior to Mary Jo’s Funeral Mass to receive friends. Burial will take place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

A memorial has been established in Mary Jo’s name for the ARC (Association of Retarded Citizens) of Manistee. Envelopes are available at the funeral home and will be available at the church on Saturday.

Hebrew 13:2 - “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels, unaware.”

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