

Rita C. Siuda, 87, of Manistee, went to be with the Lord and her husband on December 17, 2010. She had been spending time at her beloved farm in Parkdale, where she enjoyed many happy years.

A Mass from the Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Thursday morning, December 23rd at 11:00 a.m. at Guardian Angels Catholic Church with Father John McCracken celebrant. Burial will be in Mount Carmel Cemetery next to her husband. The family will receive friends at the Johnson Funeral Home on Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The vigil service will be held at the funeral home at 8:00 p.m. Visitation will continue at Guardian Angels Thursday morning for one hour prior to the service.

Rita was born to Theodore and Theresa (Wahr) Marquardt on August 26, 1923 in Detroit. Her family moved to a farm in Free Soil where she grew up. Rita graduated from Scottville High School and then attended Mason County Normal. Her marriage to Stanley Siuda on June 30, 1945 at Guardian Angels lasted 64 years until his death in 2009. To this marriage six children were born.

She is survived by her children, Patrick and Marty Siuda and their children Michele and Melanie; Thomas Siuda and his children, Jeremiah, Marhetta and Laura; Carmen and Barry Luedke and their children, Tanya, Tyler and Troy; Christine and George Goodrich and their children, Harlan, Luke and Amber; Mark and Ann Siuda and their children, John, Joe and Cora; Loretta Helwig and her husband, Dwight Clapp and their children, Kyle and Aaron. She is also survived by 15 great grandchildren. Also surviving are brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Erna Marquardt; sister, Lucy Ann Knizacky, sisters-in-law, Marcellin Marquardt and Rose Miller and by many nieces and nephews.

Rita was preceded in death by her husband, parents, her brother Eugene Marquardt, her brother-in-law, Francis (Fritz) Knizacky and by her son-in-law, Alan Helwig.

Rita worked several years at Filer Fiber (PCA) before starting her family. After her family was grown, she worked for many years at the Manistee County Health Department as an in-home care giver. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and the Holy Family Society at Guardian Angels Parish, where she was a communicant, as well as being a Eucharistic Minister. In later years she volunteered as the Manistee County Medical Care Facility.

After moving to the farm in Parkdale, she never wanted to leave. Rita and Stanley had cattle and horses for many years. They planted hundreds of trees and always had a large vegetable and flower garden. She and her husband were always ready for a card game of pinochle with their close friends. Rita also enjoyed sewing, knitting and traveling. Rita and Stanley went to all 50 states, plus Canada and Europe, but she always said her best trip was to China.

In lieu of flowers those wanting to express their sympathy are asked to consider a memorial that will be established in Rita's name for MCC Schools. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and at the church.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Johnson Funeral Home of Manistee.