



## Catherine Jeanice Berra Bleem

November 24, 1935 - November 2, 2023

Catherine Jeanice Berra Bleem went to meet Our Lord on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Arc at El Paso in El Paso, IL. Born on November 24, 1935 in Herrin, IL, she was the first child of Reynold Berra and Teresa Marlo Berra. After receiving a B.S. in nursing from DePaul School of Nursing, St. Louis, she married John James Bleem on December 27, 1956. John and Catherine owned and operated C&J's Milky Way organic dairy farm for many years in Walsh, IL.

Husband John, sister Rennie Hughes, and great grandsons Everett James Bleem & Jedidiah Michael Konvicka preceded her in death. Catherine was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Havana, IL. She was the loving mother of Jeanice (Jerry) Kaiser of Troy, MO, John (Anita) Bleem of Fort Collins, CO, Dr. Bernard (Jackie) Bleem of Normal, IL, James (Suzanne) Bleem of Sparta IL, & Dr. Renold (Melanie) Bleem of Havana, IL. Lovingly known as 'Granny B' to her grandchildren & great grandchildren: Deven (Maggie) Bleem & their children Henry, Theodore, Lawrence, & Benjamin; Bradley & (Anastasia) Bleem & their children Braden & Bennett; Nathan (Megan) Bleem & their children Molly & Luka, Catrina Kaiser, Alissa Bleem, Jerrad Kaiser, Eric Bleem, Samuel Bleem, McKenna (Nathan) Konvicka, Benjamin Bleem and Holly Bleem.

Catherine was a homemaker but also worked as a home health nurse and a

teacher's aid. Throughout her life Catherine enjoyed many hobbies & was an avid volunteer. She enjoyed writing & and she published many books including poetry, cookbooks, and numerous genealogical books. Other volunteer activities include: reenacting one room schoolhouse activities at the eight-cornered schoolhouse in Schuline, IL, she was a member of the Randolph County genealogical society, Mason County 4-H advisor for gardening. She was a founding member of the Riverside Club Restoration Committee in Havana IL, she loved her personal garden and could be found volunteering at St. Patrick's in the flower beds as well. She volunteered for numerous programs in Mason County, IL, she enjoyed doing puzzles and sat with many of her cherished homebound friends as often as she could.

Catherine will be interred at San Carlo Cemetery in Herrin, IL on March 23, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with Fr. Mark Reyling officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made in Catherine's name to the Mason County Genealogical and Historical Society, Mason County 4-H, or to the donor's choice of organization. Online condolences can be left for her family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com).

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

San Carlo Cemetery  
1912 N 8th St  
Herrin, IL 62948

# Tribute Wall



“ I met Catherine when I brought my first graders to Charter Oak School fo field trips. She did a wonderful job of explaining to the children what school was like long ago. I'm so thankful I had the chance to meet her. You have my sympathy.

Karen Gramenz - November 17, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ So Sorry for Your Loss , Catherine was such a Wonderful Soul , Her & My Mom would Spend Hours Praising The Lord. They Met Late in Life ,but had a Wonderful Friendship !

Peggy Lane - November 17, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ Catherine was my neighbor at Havana Apts for several years. I enjoyed her company a lot. We shared many a meal and she was a joy to be around. I missed her terribly when she moved. I am a better person for being her friend. THOR & I love you Catherine. We will meet again one day . 💕

Lisa Tovrea - November 13, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ FallonBucher lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bleem

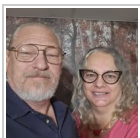


FallonBucher - November 13, 2023 at 01:45 PM

DE

“ I am very sorry to hear about your mom. She was a wonderful worker and did so much for the kids at Central School. Prayers and deepest sympathy for her family.

Denise Ebers - November 12, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ Robin Logue-Baughman lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bleem



Robin Logue-Baughman - November 11, 2023 at 09:19 PM

LH

“ Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Catherine Bleem



Larry and Mary Hundt - November 11, 2023 at 10:11 AM

LC

“ There was never a time, John an Cathy was not apart of my life. If it were not for them I would not be who I am today. Thank you for being a step in family for me when you did not have to be and the many memories. You will be missed. But I will cherish all the lessons learned, the times at the library and learning about geology... to your family you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Lisa Beck - Champlin - November 10, 2023 at 11:51 PM

NE

“ Nancy Elliott lit a candle in memory of Catherine Bleem



Nancy Elliott - November 10, 2023 at 08:23 PM

VW

“ Catherine was such a special friend to my Mom Della France ! Mom loved for her to visit her when Mom was failing! We all Loved Catherine what a special lady!

Vickie Walston - November 10, 2023 at 08:11 PM

LT

“ Sincere condolences, Lisa Thompson



Lisa Jill Thompson - November 10, 2023 at 06:03 PM

DW

“ Sorry for your loss!



Dan and Chris Wilson - November 10, 2023 at 04:51 PM