



Helen Chilinski

December 18, 1928 - December 5, 2023

A Life Well-Lived, December 18, 1928 – December 5, 2023

Helen Chilinski, a woman of grace and goodwill, passed away on Tuesday, at the age of 94. Her journey began on December 18, 1928, as the cherished daughter of Bernice and Michael Koczanowski, who had immigrated from Poland seeking a brighter future. Within the embrace of her familial ties, Helen fostered enduring connections. Alongside her parents stood her brother, Michael, and a sister, Mary—forming a resilient and close-knit bond. Her union with Edwin Chilinski, who preceded her in death, was a testament to the enduring power of love.

Helen's journey through life was marked by an unwavering commitment to kindness and an enduring optimism. She began her career working at her parents' store on Marcellus Street, then in Downtown Syracuse at Kresge's Dept. store, and finally, spent three decades working at Kmart in Western Lights Plaza, where she left an indelible mark on both colleagues and customers. Working in the men's department, she greeted each day with a smile, forging lasting friendships and earning the admiration of all who crossed her path. Guided by the motto, "Never criticize, complain or condemn," Helen embodied a spirit of unwavering positivity. Her infectious optimism was complemented by a quick wit and a repertoire of jokes and stories that could brighten anyone's day.

Helen's interests were as diverse as her warm personality. Whether tending to her beloved plants, indulging in her passion for gardening or enjoying the classic film "Gone with the Wind," she embraced life's simple pleasures with enthusiasm. A woman of faith, Helen grew up attending mass at Sacred Heart Basilica, finding solace and inspiration in her spiritual convictions.

She leaves behind a legacy of love as a devoted mother to four children: John, Joan (wife of James Murphy), James and Janet. Her family expanded to include five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, each a source of joy and pride.

As we mourn the loss of a remarkable woman, let us celebrate the rich tapestry of Helen Chilinski's life. Her memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know and love.

Friends and family may call on Sunday, December 10th, from 1:00 - 3:00pm. Services will be held on Monday, at 9:00 am, at the Giminski-Wysocki Funeral Home; 1320 W. Genesee Street, Syracuse, 13204. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9:30 am. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Geddes.

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Cemetery, Geddes

200 Salisbury St.
Geddes, NY, NY 13219

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 10. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Giminski-Wysocki Funeral Home
1320 W Genesee St
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 422-5087
<https://giminskiwysocki.com/>

Service

DEC 11. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Giminski-Wysocki Funeral Home
1320 W Genesee St
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 422-5087
<https://giminskiwysocki.com/>

Mass

DEC 11. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
927 Park Ave
Syracuse, NY 13204-2189
(315) 422-2343

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan & Jim & family Our deepest Sympathy for the loss of your Mom, She was a lovely lady and I always enjoyed running into her at Kmart or various estate or garage sales.
Sincerely Bill & Diane Michaels*

Diane Michaels - December 08, 2023 at 02:27 PM