

## Irene Erlbacher, 91

*Sept. 20, 1912 - May 18, 2004*

**HARLAN** — Irene Elizabeth Erlbacher, the daughter of Joseph and Margaret Blum Dotzler, was born Sept. 20, 1912, at Templeton. She was baptized at Templeton and was confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. She attended school at St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance.

Feb. 18, 1935, Irene married Jacob "Jake" Erlbacher at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. To this union four children were born, Ron, Marlene, Gladys and Jim. After their marriage, the couple farmed near Earling, moving to Defiance in 1950. In December of 1969, Jake and Irene retired and moved to Harlan. They became residents of Elm Crest Community in February of 2001. Jake died Nov. 16, 2001. After his death, Irene remained at Elm Crest Retirement Community. She was a member of various card clubs. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. She died May 18, 2004, at Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, at age 91 years, seven months and 28 days.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Jake, Irene was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Barbara Koppold, Margaret Koppold, Joseph Dotzler, Lena Schleier, Feliz Dotzler, Aloysius "Hookey" Dotzler, Adolph Dotzler and Petey and Katie, who died at a young age, and sons-in-law, Norbert Kramer and Darrell Sternberg. Survivors include her children, Ron Erlbacher (Jane) of Omaha, NE; Marlene Kramer of South Bend, NE; Gladys Sternberg of Omaha, NE; and Jim Erlbacher (Jackie) of Charlotte, NC; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 22, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Casket bearers were Bob Dotzler, Myron Schaben, Jeff Sternberg, Dale Erlbacher, David Kramer and Denny Dotzler. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

