

## Ann Kwapiszeski, 96

May 24, 1915 - Oct. 16, 2011

**PANAMA** — Ann Marie Kwapiszeski, the daughter of Jacob Sr. and Rose (Gubbels) Nowatzke, was born on May 24, 1915, on her parent's farm east of Panama. She was baptized at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia, and later joined St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama where she received her First Holy Communion and was confirmed. In June of 1934, she graduated from St. Mary's High School in Panama. After graduation, Ann helped in the family home for a time and later went out to help others in their homes. Ann was a member of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary for many years and in later years, joined the Sr. Citizens group in Panama.



January 5, 1939, Ann was united in marriage to Leo M. Kwapiszeski at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama and they made their home on the family farm north of Panama. They were the parents of one son, Neil. Ann was a wonderful homemaker and great cook: she would often prepare a feast for up to 12 hungry men on an hour's notice while Leo's grain bin business was in full swing. No one ever left her house feeling hungry! Ann was also a great "nurse" and helped care for many aging family members. Leo and Ann lived on the family farm until Leo's death in 1992. After his death, Ann continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1996 when she moved to Panama and lived in the home her parents had built. Ann loved making quilts, embroidery, crocheting, needlepoint, sewing, and playing the piano. She and Leo enjoyed many fishing trips in Minnesota, belonged to a CB radio club, and often played cards with friends. On October 8, 2005, Ann was admitted to Elm Crest Retirement Center following a hip fracture and this has been her home until her death on October 16, 2011, having attained the age of ninety-six years, four months and twenty-two days.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband Leo of fifty-three years; her son, Neil; her parents Jacob Sr. and Rose Nowatzke; her brother Jacob Jr. and his wife Matilda Nowatzke; her brother Joseph and his wife Jean Nowatzke; her brother Raymond and his wife Madonna Nowatzke; and her sister Marie Nowatzke. She is survived by her granddaughter, Sheri Sparks, and her husband, Jeff, of Charlotte, NC; her grandson, Scott Kwapiszeski, and his wife, Melissa, of Goodman, MO; her great grandsons, Justin and Jason Sparks, of Charlotte, NC; her sister, Sr. Amelia Nowatzke O.S.B., of Atchison, KS; her daughter-in-law Maxine Kwapiszeski and her husband, Bert Hillers, of Harlan; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Rev. John Dorton celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial with Concelebrant Rev. Don Bruck on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Serving as casket bearers were Phil Schwery, Jeff Nowatzke, Larry Klein, Mike Nowatzke, Randy Nowatzke, and Duane Nowatzke. Interment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama.

*Pauley  
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