



## Helen Masuga

September 20, 1918 - September 20, 2009

CRYSTAL FALLS - Helen T. Masuga, 91, of 605 Wisconsin Ave. in Crystal Falls, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at Iron County Medical Care Facility.

Helen's life began on Jan. 13, 1918, in Crystal Falls, daughter of the late Michael and Helen (Kukura) Barna Sr. She graduated from Forest Park High School in 1936.

Helen worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. as an operator until it went to dial-up service in 1946. After her family was raised, she worked as a teacher's aide at Forest Park for 10 years until her retirement. She was a member of Guardian Angels Catholic Church.

Helen is survived by two daughters, Margaret Chapman of DeWitt, Mich. and Catherine (David) Butts of Dowagiac, Mich.; three grandchildren, Christine Chapman of Dearborn, Mich., Colin Butts of Marshall, Mich. and Darcy Butts of Melbourne, Australia; a sister, Katherine Hollenstein of Cottage Grove, Minn.; a nephew, Paul Hollenstein; nieces, Jean Waage and Paula van Tuyt; and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Michael Barna Jr.; a sister, Mary Barna; an infant sister, Margaret Barna; and a special brother-in-law, Gene

Hollenstein.

Visitation will be Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Crystal Falls.

Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. at the church. Fr. Jeffrey Kurtz will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Guardian Angels Church maintenance fund or to St. Vincent de Paul Society of Crystal Falls.

Condolences to the family of Helen Masuga can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ I just wanted you all to know Helen held a special place in my heart. She reminded me so much of my grandmother and I so enjoyed seeing her each week at mass. She made a point of reminding me that my family and I were always in her prayers. She so appreciated the salmon and maple syrup I shared with her. I also spent a short time with her at the nursing home during her time there. I just know she is visiting with my Gram in heaven today. She was a blessed person and you were all so lucky to have had her in your lives. Please know that my prayers are with you.

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**Jim Caron** - September 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ Dear Family:  
May the Lord bless you with the peace and comfort only He can provide at this time of loss in your lives. During my five years at Guardian Angels, Helen was such a supportive and encouraging person who affirmed my ministry in so many ways. She was constantly writing me small personal notes with inspirational messages and I'll always remember her for that. Eternal rest grant unto Helen, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she now rest in the embracing peace of the risen Christ.

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**Fr. Dino Silvestrini** - September 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Cathy and Margy, I just read the Reporter and learned of your Mom's passing. It has been a long time but I definitely remember your home and being welcomed by your mother when I visited. She was a warm and caring person and I know you will miss her. My deepest sympathy.

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**Elizabeth (Mindok) Dybdahl** - September 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dear Margaret, Cathy, and Kathy, I.m so sorry about the loss of your mom, sister, and my Confirmation Godmother. I did get to spend some good, quality time with her at the Nursing Home, and I will remember that fondly. I'm out of town until late Thursday, and I feel so badly that I will not be there for her funeral, but my thoughts and prayers will be with all of you.  
Donna Aberly

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**Donna Aberly** - September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I am saddened that "Mrs. Masuga" has passed this life. I always said hello and asked about Kathy when I would see her. The last time was not too long ago. Mrs. Masuga is a firm fixture in my memories as a youth playing ball up at Lesandrinis with Kathy, the Bradishes, Tommy, my sister Rhonda (r.i.p.), Colleen, the Schmidt boys- it was a great time and I always thought her a very nice lady- my heart felt condolences to the girls.

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**Paul Sundquist** - September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Craig and I would like to offer our sincere condolences to Helen's family. We only knew her a short while but she was always such an encouragement of love and faith. She was a woman of prayer and always concerned for the needs of others. She faithfully drove Bernice Johnson to Sunday church and Bernice misses her friendship. We know Helen will be blessed in the kingdom of heaven as she was a blessing here on earth and she will be greatly missed.

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**Craig and Ruth Johnson** - September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Dear Margy and Cathy, My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours during the loss of your mom. Although it's been some time since I've seen your mother, Gloria Schmidt and Alice Clement kept me informed of her condition. She was Blessed to have you as daughters. I will continue to keep you in thought and prayer as you adjust to her passing.

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**Lorna Anderson** - September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Helen was a very kind person. She will be sadly missed.

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**Michelle Smokevitch-Graves** - September 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM