



Norma Jeanne Kohler

November 15, 1931 - January 16, 2021

Norma Jeanne Kohler, 89, of Valley City died on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Valley City, ND. A funeral mass will be celebrated 10:30 am Thursday, January 21 at St. Catherine Catholic Church, Valley City. The visitation will be held at the church from 4-7 pm Wednesday followed by a prayer service at 7 pm. Visitation will continue one hour before the service at the church. Burial will be in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Oriska, North Dakota. The funeral mass will be lived streamed at: <https://vimeo.com/501531569>

Norma Jeanne (Dunham) Kohler was born on November 15, 1931 in Fargo, ND. She was the oldest of John W. and Helene (Luther) Dunham's three children. She graduated from Tower City High School in 1949.

On November 21, 1949, Jeannie married Kenneth J. Kohler, Sr., in Oriska, North Dakota. They made their first home on a farm site south of Tower City, where they lived until moving to the Fingal area in 1966 to continue farming. Together, they raised a daughter and four sons. Jeannie was a dedicated farm wife, gathering and selling eggs and cream in the early days, and always ready to run for parts or pick up someone from the field. Of course, she did all this while keeping everyone fed, making and taking meals for 8-10 people to the fields, sometimes multiple times each day.

Family was the most important part of Jeannie's life. She loved entertaining

the entire Kohler or Dunham families at the holidays or birthdays. To see her face light up, all you needed to do was ask about her children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren. They all loved going to Grandpa and Grandma's house, where there was always something fun to do. Her patience with her grandkids was bountiful, never saying no to a baking adventure (even when the help with cleanup left something to be desired). Her presence at important events in their lives, from weddings and graduations to ballgames and recitals, was a given. Her care packages of cookies, apple bars and other treats were always appreciated.

Jeannie was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church, and former member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Oriska and Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Fingal. She loved playing the piano and organ and played for many weddings. In her earlier days, she even played for school events and dances in the area. She had been a member of the Tower City Homemakers Club and was organ and choir director at St. Bernard's Church in Oriska for many years. In their retirement, Jeannie and Ken enjoyed travel, driving many miles together to see new places and visit extended family, and spending the cold months in Arizona.

Jeannie loved to have coffee with friends, first in Fingal at the cafe, and then in Valley City after she and Ken Sr. moved to town in 2005. In recent years, if you met her at the Viking Room, you were sure to hear tales of her grandkids and great-grandkids. It wouldn't have been hard to tell how proud she was of them. She may have even shared the fun fact that she was great-grandma to no less than four sets of twins.

In 2020, Jeannie moved to the Sheyenne Care Center in Valley City. Despite moving in just days before the pandemic limited in-person visits, she adapted quickly and enjoyed her new community there. She even perfected her FaceTime skills so she could stay in touch with all of her kids and grandkids.

Their faces lit up many times over the past year as they saw Grandma's number calling.

Norma Jeanne is survived by her children, Patricia (Monte) Johnson, Kenneth (Susan) Kohler, Jr., John (Jennifer) Kohler, Michael (Debbie) Kohler, and Todd (Kristi) Kohler, all of Valley City; 13 grandchildren, Heather (Brent) Kukla, Joshua (Lissa) Johnson, Justin (Tennille) Johnson, Katie (Chris) Duffy, Tara (Adam) Svenningsen, Brooke (Brian) Gubrud, Jon (Jenna) Lahr, Ashley (Tyler) Froemke, Jed (Katie) Kohler, Brittany (Riley) Haugo, Derek (Janna) Kohler, Karli Kohler (Garrett Mahigan), and Kara (Andrew) Schaefer; and 26 great-grandchildren, Max, Will and Jack Kukla; Bryce and Trevor Johnson; Kale and Bergan Johnson; Logan, Jack, Kyle, Leah and Eric Duffy; Lexi and Cody Svenningsen; Holt and Ree Gubrud; Hazel, Harper, and Hudson Lahr; Theodore Froemke; Drew, Charlie, and Jack Kohler; Adley Haugo; and Peyton and Paisley Kohler. She is also survived by her brother Wesley Dunham of Cass Lake, MN; four brothers-in-law, Lyle (Ione) Kohler of Winslow, AZ; Richard (Diane) Kohler of Valley City; Robert (Paula) Kohler of Moorhead, MN; and Ronald (Linda) Kohler of Tower City; and four sisters-in-law, Jerrilyn Dunham of Fargo, Betty (Rick) McClafin of Tower City; Mary (Curt) Richman of Lake Park, MN; and Mary Pat Kohler of Bismarck.

She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Kohler, Sr.; her parents John and Helene Dunham; her mother-in-law and father-in-law Joseph and Mae Kohler; her brother Roy Dunham; grandson Cody Lahr; brothers-in-law Norbert Kosir, Harold Kohler, and Lornie Kohler; sisters-in-law Dorothy (Wes) Dunham, Marlys (Norbert) Kosir, JoAnne Kohler, and Eileen Kohler.

Jeannie's family would like to extend sincere gratitude to CHI Mercy Health's second floor. In her aging years the staff on second was always a comfort to her. We are so grateful to them for the care and compassion provided to her

and our family in her final week. Thank you!

Memorials may be directed to St. Bernard's Cemetery Association, St. Catherine School Memorial Scholarship Fund REACH, or a charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

St. Bernard's Cemetery

Oriska, ND 58063

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Catherine Catholic Church
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND

Prayer Service

JAN 20. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Catherine Catholic Church
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND

Visitation

JAN 21. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Catherine Catholic Church
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND

Funeral Mass

JAN 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Catherine Catholic Church
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall



“ Oliver - Nathan Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Norma Jeanne Kohler



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - January 17, 2021 at 04:33 PM

SH

Bill and I are so sorry for your loss your mom was a very nice lady. We are sending prayers for the family

Sharon and Bill Holt - January 17, 2021 at 07:23 PM

DG

Our deepest sympathy to your family we always enjoyed visiting with Jeanne, such a wonderful lady Dennis and judy

dennis judy gumke - January 17, 2021 at 08:58 PM

JN

I'm sending prayers & hugs to all the Kohler family. The memories will always keep her close to your hearts! 🙏❤️ Jan Nicoli & family

Jan Nicoli - January 18, 2021 at 09:39 AM

R.

We extend sympathy and prayers to the Kohler family. The legacy of dedication to family, sharing attitude and humble faith in God is her gift to all. Russ & Helen

Russ & Helen .Danielson - January 20, 2021 at 08:21 AM

BH

“ I am sad for Jeannie's loss and your family is in my prayers. Growing up in the Kohler corner of the country has so many great memories and they will always be part of our history! Blessings to your family.

Bette (Sabe) Hovelson

Bette Hovelson - January 21, 2021 at 01:38 PM

GG

“ Her smile and friendly hi has been and will be missed at the Viking Room! My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gerry Gerntholz

Gereld Gerntholz - January 21, 2021 at 12:25 PM

PO

“ Sincere sympathy to Norma Jean's family ... remembering her love of music.

We remember, too, her love of family !

Durward and Phyllis Otterness and family

Phyllis Otterness - January 21, 2021 at 12:13 PM

BG

“ Pat, Ken, John, Mike, Todd and all, My parents valued the friendship of your parents. The Grosingers are always in your debt. Reading Norma Jeanne's obituary caused many memories to flood back, reminding me of what a special person she was. All of us mourn her passing.

Paula, Craig and Janeal send their condolences.

Brian Grosinger.

Brian Grosinger - January 21, 2021 at 11:44 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your loss of your Mom and Grandma.
She was a very special lady. She will be greatly missed by so very many people
Love and Blessings.
Vernon and Marcy Grant*

Vernon and Marcy Grant - January 21, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



January 20, 2021 at 11:37 PM



“ *Bob & Helen Olson purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



Bob & Helen Olson - January 20, 2021 at 12:20 PM

KL

“ I have many happy memories growing up surrounded by Kohler clan. Life was different then, and our only socialization was family. I thank God that we had those times. May your memories of your mom sustain you in your loss. She was always as smiling face and had time to talk to everyone. She will certainly be missed.



Kathy Hannig Laumb

Kathy Laumb - January 20, 2021 at 11:06 AM



“ 70 files added to the album Life Tributes



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - January 20, 2021 at 09:51 AM

RO

“ Sorry to hear of Jeanne's passing. We enjoyed our association with Ken and Jeanne the years we were both involved in the bank Blessed be her memory.
Bob and Helen Olson

Robert Olson - January 20, 2021 at 09:41 AM

BG

“ *Brian, Paula Grosinger, Craig, Janeal Grosinger purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



Brian, Paula Grosinger, Craig, Janeal Grosinger - January 19, 2021 at 06:24 PM

DH

“ *Pat and families .
.Memories of sharing time we spent in Embden at Eleanor's home ,
, The fun and laughter and family history we shared many times --
remind me of what a special lady she was. Our deepest sympathy
to her family*

Diane Halverson

Diane Halverson - January 19, 2021 at 11:58 AM

LC

“ *My Mom took care of Norma Jean as a child. I have wonderful
memories to share so will send a letter. LaRon Wavra Croft*

LaRon Croft - January 19, 2021 at 11:57 AM

DF

“ *Dean, Mitch, Kari, Joel & families purchased the
Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of
Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



Dean, Mitch, Kari, Joel & families - January 18, 2021 at 01:37 PM

NS

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of her family.
A hug for John and Jennifer.
May God bless her soul. Amen
Nancy Stepaniak*



Nancy Stepaniak - January 18, 2021 at 01:29 PM

WD

“ *Wes Dunham purchased the Rays of Light Spray
for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



Wes Dunham - January 18, 2021 at 01:25 PM

WB

“ *With Love, Sandy, Carmen, Mark and Bergin
purchased the Fairest of All for the family of
Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



With Love, Sandy, Carmen, Mark and Bergin - January 18,
2021 at 12:48 PM

SH

“ *My sincere sympathy at the passing of your mom, Norma Jeanne.
Every mom holds a special spot in our lives. How proud she was of
all of you. God bless your memories of your mother.*

Sharon Holweg - January 18, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



January 18, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ *Pat, Ken, John, Mike and Todd - I am deeply saddened to hear that your wonderful mother passed away. I have so many great memories of staying at your farm. She was so kind and gracious and raised terrific children. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Diana (Berg) Hanson

Diana Hanson - January 18, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



January 17, 2021 at 11:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



January 17, 2021 at 09:19 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



January 17, 2021 at 07:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norma Jeanne Kohler.*



January 17, 2021 at 07:36 PM



“ *We are sorry for your loss. We will be praying for all of you.*



Curt and Christine Marshall - January 17, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to the Kohler family during this very difficult time.. She was a wonderful lady. God bless you all*

Robin Nagle (Kapaun) - January 17, 2021 at 06:51 PM