



## Mrs. Jean G. (Hensel) Zurek

May 25, 1939 - January 23, 2011

Mrs. Jean G. (Hensel) Zurek, beautiful wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, age 71, of Utica, passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center with the love and support of her family.

Jean was born on May 25, 1939 in Utica, the daughter of the late Arthur and H. Doris (Tibbitts) Hensel. She will now meet her father again, who she adored and missed dearly. She was raised and educated locally, a graduate of Utica Free Academy. She was married to Barney W. Zurek who lovingly referred to her as Florence. As a couple, they shared love and mutual respect, and cared for each other in every way.

Jean worked at the General Electric Company, Univac, and the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired as a secretary. At home, Jean gave all for her family and set a good example for those who knew her. She spoke her beliefs and defended those around her, always fair and honest. Jean loved life and had a strong will to live. She enjoyed Friday nights that she spent with her sister-in-law, Melody "Mel" and her brother-in-law, Joe, who has since passed. She took pleasure in her trips to the casino, an interest she shared with her daughter, Tracy, and often walked away a winner! She loved to collect lady bugs and angels, and celebrate birthdays, a tradition she passed on to her daughters. Her favorite holiday was Christmas, a time to sing carols and share good cheer with family. The people who were blessed to have known Jean were able to appreciate how she put others first and what a truly strong woman she was. She was of the Protestant faith, a source of strength in her

life.

Jean is survived by her husband, Barney, who she lovingly referred to as “Dad” and was her best friend, soul mate, and love of her life; her sons and daughters-in-law, Robert “Bob” and Maria of Frankfort, and John and Jackie of Endicott; her daughters and sons-in-law, Tracy and Angelo, and Michele “Tutty” and Chris, who Jeannie loved like a son and who faithfully brought her the newspaper every morning, all of Utica; her 7 grandchildren, Breanna, Brandon, John, Jr., Ryan, Natalie, Candace and Paul, and Steven; and her great-granddaughter, Ella Rose, who in such a short period of time, has brought such joy to her great-grandmother. She will also be missed by her sisters, Joan Cassidy of Marcy, and Carol Mahar of Utica; her brother, Richard “Dick” Hensel of Utica; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, especially Melody Giacona; and her canine best friend, Cuddles. She was predeceased by her brother, Douglas Hensel; sister-in-law, Florence R. Hensel; and numerous in-laws.

The family extends special thanks to the staff of the Faxton-St. Luke’s Healthcare Center Critical Care Unit with special mention of Gina Inman for all the compassion she showed to Jean and her family during this difficult time.

The family also expresses thanks to the staff of the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute, the CNY Cardiology physicians, especially Dr. Michael Kelberman, Dr. Mac Isaac, Dr. Darius Marhamati, and the personnel who were always so kind and generous to Jean when she had an appointment at their office; and the staff at the Marian Medical Lab who were always so kind and dear to Jean when she came in for her weekly blood draws, especially Betty, Barb, and Mirela.

Jean’s family will honor and celebrate her life in a private gathering at the convenience of the family. For those wishing to express an act of kindness, please share a fond memory of Jean online at [www.EannaceFuneralHome.com](http://www.EannaceFuneralHome.com). Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.



# Cemetery Details

## **St. Agnes Cemetery**

601 Arthur Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-8588

# Tribute Wall



Linda  
Irizarry-  
Kimball

“ I met Jean and Barney when I was 13.....She was one of the coolest mothers ever.....and what a decorator....Michele, Tracy and my sweet Barn how I feel your loss..I am truly sorry not to have been there for you especially you my friend Michelle...

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**Linda Irizarry-Kimball** - March 10, 2011 at 05:01 PM



“ To the Zurek Family,  
My prayers are with all of you. May she rest in peace. Debbie Barbero, Jax Fl.

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**Debbie Barbero** - February 04, 2011 at 01:08 PM



SC

“ MICHELLE, TRACEY, AND FAMILY. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR KNOWING YOUR MOM, SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON. SHE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. TELL YOUR DAD I AM VERY SORRY FOR HIS LOSS, YOUR MOM WAS EVERYTHING TO HIM, PEOPLE RARELY LOVE LIKE THAT ANYMORE, SHE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU GUYS IN HEART AND SPIRIT. OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO YOU. LOVE SHERI, AND FAMILY...

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**SHERI CAVOLY** - February 01, 2011 at 05:47 AM



LF

“ Michele, Chris and family, so sorry to hear of this news. You are all in our prayers. Love the photo, Michele you look so much like your Mom. Cherish the memories of her as you go through this journey.  
Lori and Mitch Ford

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**Lori Mitch Ford** - January 28, 2011 at 10:50 AM



RH

“ Uncle Barney, Tracy, Michelle, Bobby, Johnny and families, Rick and I feel terrible about Aunt Jean's passing. We are so sorry for what you are all going through. We know it is very difficult to lose someone as special as she was. She was always a ray of sunshine! May her soul rest in peace and God be with you all and help you find peace during this difficult time. Love to you all! Rick & Denise

Rick Denise Hensel - January 26, 2011 at 08:49 AM

LV

“ To Barney and family, Mere words cannot express how sorry I am for your loss. I hope that all of you can find some comfort in all the beautiful memories you have shared with such a special woman. I have had the pleasure of working with Jean at CABVI for several years were we shared a special friendship, many laughs and good times together. Jean was always giving me good advice and I will never forget how she stood by my side when my mother passed away. Whenever she spoke of her family, her eyes would light up as you were all the biggest joy in her life. Jean will be missed by all who knew her and live on in our hearts forever as I am sure she has touched many. Rest in peace my friend.



Laurie Veinot - January 26, 2011 at 07:06 AM

CR

“ 1 file added to the album Photos



Candace Rose - January 25, 2011 at 10:02 PM

BD

“ To the Zurek and Longo families; with much sadness I deeply regret the loss of a special human being (Jean, mother, wife, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, neighbor and most of all , a perfect example of a human being with a heart of gold.) Many times Jean with that beautiful radiant smile would walk in (and you could be having the worse day of your life) and the room would light up as if a ray of sunshine just came through. Barney, you were so devoted and loving and sincere, a bond no one could ever forget. She loved you all so much and she will never be forgotten. Until we meet again, rest in peace Jean, you were so loved. Betty



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**Betty DiNardo** - January 25, 2011 at 07:08 PM

RN

“ **RENEE NELSON** lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean G. (Hensel) Zurek



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**RENEE NELSON** - January 25, 2011 at 05:45 PM

BJ

“ *With My Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy to the Zurek Family on their loss of such a beautiful lady..Jean Zurek*

*One who has lived never truly dies, but crosses a bridge into the next life where all is beautiful and peaceful, and the breeze always whispers of lasting love. May it ease your sadness a bit to know that your precious memories will always be a bridge between this world and the next, between your loved one and you. I have no words of my own to tell you all how very heartbroken I am..I shall miss her dearly..she was truly a beautiful beautiful person and I loved her very much and I will SO miss seeing her.. but her memory will always live in my heart..Barbara*



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**Barbara Jaskolka** - January 25, 2011 at 05:22 PM

RR

“ *Rachelle Pastorella Rustici lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean G. (Hensel) Zurek*



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**Rachelle Pastorella Rustici** - January 25, 2011 at 04:38 PM

KS

“ Michele & Chris, Tracy & Angelo, and Family

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, your mom, and your family. Please let us know if there is anything you need. We never met your mother, but from knowing you both Michele & Tracy; she was obviously a caring person who raised two wonderful daughters. God bless you and your family.*

*Ken & Sue*

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**Ken & Sue Spink** - January 25, 2011 at 09:19 AM

RN

“ Roe Nick lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jean G. (Hensel) Zurek



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**Roe Nick** - January 25, 2011 at 08:49 AM

RN

*Michele, Chris & Family*

*Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. Michele, I wish I was there to comfort you, My heart goes out to you and you know I will always be there for you and Chris. Your Mom was always a special Mom and now she is a special Angel. Barney, We know how hard this is for you at this time & our thoughts and prayers are with you. God be with you & your family.*

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**Roe Nick** - January 25, 2011 at 09:02 AM

SB

“ Michele & Family,  
My deepest sympathies to you & your family.  
May God hold your hand and guide you in this  
difficult time. Please know I am praying for  
you and your family to be strong during this  
time. Your mom was a wonderful women who always has a smile on  
her face that lit up the room, I will never forget her beautiful smile.  
R.I.P. Jean.



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**Sheri Broccoli** - January 25, 2011 at 07:22 AM

SE

“ Michelle my deepest sympathies to you and  
your family. your mother was a sweet women  
who always had a smile on her face. I often  
think of her and Barney , what an amazing  
couple they were. My God bless him and your  
family during this time of sorrow. Peace Shyla



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**Shyla Edwards** - January 25, 2011 at 05:00 AM

 Cheryl  
Johnson

“ To the Zurek family, My heartfelt sympathy goes out to your family. May God give you strength to get through these sad times. To Barney, Michelle and Tracy your wife and Mother was a wonderful kindhearted women. During the 5 yrs I worked at the lab at Marian Medical I had to the pleasure of taking care of many patients. Jean and Barney were two of the nicest and funniest people that I had the pleasure of knowing. They always were happy even though Jean was sick. She still had a wonderful smile on her face and a kind word that I will always cherish. I remember one time when they came in around Christmas and gave me a candle. I still burn that candle every year and it brings a smile to my heart. Even when I was in rehab from my injuries in the car accident I was in. They took time out to come and visit me in the nursing home. That meant so much to me. I thank you for that. Barney you hang in there and if you need someone to talk to I will be there. Michelle and Tracy I love you guys and miss the fun times we shared. Your mom was a Gem and I will miss her dearly. When you think about her just look to the hills from which cometh your help , your help cometh from the Lord !! R. I. P Mrs. Jean Zurek you will Always hold a place in my heart. Love the Johnson's Kenny, Cheryl and family.

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**Cheryl Johnson** - January 25, 2011 at 01:05 AM