

## Josephine Eleanor Schuller

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*Born: July 13, 1927 Died: December 29, 2010*

*Funeral: January 3, 2011*

**Josephine E. Schuller, 83**, of Niles died at 11:27AM Wednesday, December 29, 2010, at Autumn Hills Care Center in Niles, Ohio.

She was born July 13, 1927 in Niles the daughter of Anthony and Felicia Spano Bicchinella.

Josephine was employed as a hostess for 12 years at Abruzzi's Cafe 422 in Niles before retiring in 1974.

She was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Niles enjoyed reading and watching The Catholic Channel.

Her husband Stephen S. Schuller Sr. whom she married April 23 1944 died February 25 1998.

Josephine, who was a devout Catholic, will be deeply missed by two sons Stephen Schuller Jr. and his wife Margaret of Warren and Anthony "Cho" Schuller and his wife Vickie of Niles, four grandchildren, Ellen Rarick and her husband Matthew, Traci Vigorito and her husband Nathan, Jessica Schuller, and Amy Schuller, and six great-grandchildren, Steven, Britney, Allison, Melissa, Tyler, and Trent.

She is preceded in death by a daughter, Phyllis Knight, a grandson Tim Wolfe, an infant brother, and a sister Theresa Prezioso. Friends may call from 5 to 7PM Monday at the Joseph Rossi and Sons Funeral Home in Niles where the Mt. Carmel Bereavement Ministry will conduct prayers at 6:30PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 9:30AM Tuesday at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Niles, with Fr. Larry Frient officiating, preceded by a 9AM prayer service at the funeral home. Burial will be in Pineview Cemetery. Friends and family can view this obituary, sign the guestbook, and send e-mail condolences at [www.josephrossifuneralhome.com](http://www.josephrossifuneralhome.com)

*Gospel: Luke 1:39-45*

Homily:

All of us here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church extend our condolences to Jo's family and we assure you of our prayers.

This church is a very special place in Jo's life. She was baptized here by Father Nicola Santoro on September 29, 1927. This sanctuary was where she exchanged wedding vows with Steve Schuller on April 22, 1944 in the presence of Father Guido Nardoni. This church was the setting for so many other important occasions in Jo's life, some of them very joyful and some of them very sad. It is here that we have gathered to entrust Jo to the final care of the Lord and support one another in a spirit of love, hope, and faith.

This Season is a time when so many families reflect on the importance of family life. It is in the context of the family that we learn to love and be loved. It is in the context of family life that we are affirmed and challenged to grow. You ponder the many ways Jo was such an important and dear part of your family life.

Whenever I visited Jo at the hospital since I arrived at this parish just over 7 ½ years ago, she spoke about her family. Jo had a keen awareness that family members were so important. She realized that the bonds of love for those who completed life's journey before her were still very strong, as she used to converse about how special were Steve, Lily, and others who passed this way before her.

As time passes for all of you closest to Jo, you'll realize that her fondest wish is that you realize the importance of faith, hope, and love in your lives as you continue to appreciate the gift that family truly is.

You will remember the many things Jo did and the many things she said. You'll remember how she loved to give names to everything and everyone. Jo was the one who named Anthony

“Chodie” or “Cho” in its brief form. She gave Phyllis the name “Lily.” You’ll remember how much it meant to “Gram” to spend time together and you’ll support one another as you miss her dearly.

I remember the final time I saw Jo at Autumn Hills. We prayed together and she kept saying thank you. I gave her the Anointing of the Sick, explaining that this was a way the Family of God (the Church) expresses faith in Christ’s healing and comforting presence and demonstrates genuine concern for those who are ill. Jo definitely understood and said that she really appreciated the closeness of the Lord at all times.

Since then, I learned how devoted Jo was to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I’ve been told that Jo conversed prayerfully with Mary very often, perhaps more than she conversed with anyone else. You can easily picture in your mind the large statue of Mary in Jo’s house, and the kind-of altar-shrine near the kitchen stove.

How often at that very place Jo lifted her joys and her sorrows to the Lord Jesus through His Blessed Mother, and now we realize that was the place where Jo most likely pondered the meaning of everlasting life long before God called Jo home this past Wednesday.

Jo’s journey through this life ended during a season when God’s Family (the Church) ponders the wonderful example of faith, hope, and love given by the Mother of Jesus.

This is why we chose the Gospel story that was proclaimed a few moments ago. We heard the story of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth. We can see that the support of family members among each other was so valuable even during biblical times two thousand years ago, and remains so very important even now! And in the story, we heard how marvelous Elizabeth thought it was that Mary made the effort to come and visit her. Even more so, Elizabeth exclaimed how happy is the person who trusts that the Lord’s promises to her would be fulfilled. The promise God made to send us a Savior was fulfilled when Mary said yes to God’s plan for her to become the mother of Jesus.

Today, we trust that God’s promises to Jo have been fulfilled. Jo’s loving ways will continue to visit us in our memories and even reside in our hearts. The Lord Himself elicits from deep within our souls the virtue of faith, believing that Jo is at peace and suffers no more. Jesus, who came to live among us, fills us with hope as we are consoled with the promise that He invites Jo to be with Lily, with Steve, and with so many others she missed so dearly after their passing. Most of all, we have the hope that Jo is with Jesus and that some day, God will give us all the opportunity to be together again and never be separated.

May we trust that our God is One who keeps His promises, and may Jo know the fulfillment of His everlasting light, refreshment, and peace.