



Annella "Nell" Bechtold

September 20, 1947 - April 26, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Cold Spring for Annella (Nell) Marie Bechtold, age 77, who passed away on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Benedictine Living Community - Cold Spring after a long battle with many health issues. Relatives and friends may call from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Wenner Funeral Home in Richmond, MN and after 12:30 p.m. on Thursday at the church in Cold Spring.

Nell was born in Collegeville, MN to Andrew Merdan and Frances Reisinger as child number seven of eleven. She graduated from Cathedral High School in 1965. She worked at Fingerhut in St. Cloud, MN until marrying Roger Bechtold on April 11, 1970 in Collegeville, MN at the St. John's Abbey Assumption Chapel. Together, Roger and Nell became business partners with Roger's brother and sister-in-law and started Overhead Door Company of St. Cloud from humble roots. Nell then became a devoted mother and homemaker, pouring everything into raising their four children, caring for numerous pets and her extensive gardens, doing arts & crafts, travelling, and practicing her deep Catholic faith.

As a longtime member of the Church of St. James, Nell was involved with many activities including selling carnations on Mother's Day, starting weekly adoration, serving as a Eucharistic Minister and by teaching youth religious

education classes. She was also a member of Mary's Cenacle and enjoyed taking devotional trips with friends through JeriCo Christian Journeys. She especially loved taking tropical vacations with Roger and embarking on road trips with her family. Her love of travel was further fostered by hosting three foreign exchange students, who she was able to visit in their home countries.

Nell is survived by her husband, Roger; children Gary (Kay) Bechtold, Gina (Mooga) Yoo, Jaclyn Bechtold, and Julie Bechtold; grandchildren, Esme, Auden, and Marin Yoo, Sylvie, Leah, Ellen, and Lucy Bechtold; siblings Charles (Sandy) Merdan, Lillian Edelbrock, Elizabeth Lipinski, Marlene Thielman, Marita (Donald) Schwinghammer and Imelda (Donald) Allen.

She is preceded in death by her parents; siblings Judith Koska, Leonard Merdan, Robert Merdan, and Carol Koltes; in-laws Rev. Frederick Reker, Sr. Martha Bechtold, Donald Prom, Lawrence Bechtold Jr., Benedict Bechtold, Ronald Skudlarek, Robert Edelbrock, George Lipinski Sr., and Loren Thielman.

Memorials are preferred to the ROCORI Area Community Foundation which supports local non-profit organizations.

The family wishes to thank the many healthcare workers over the years for their compassion, guidance and support.

Cemetery Details

St. James Parish Cemetery

Jacobs Prairie, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Wenner Funeral Home - Richmond
151 Oakwood Ave. SE
Richmond, MN 56368

Visitation

MAY 8. 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Boniface Church Narthex
501 Main Street
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Service

MAY 8. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church
501 Main Street
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Tribute Wall

EL

“ To my beautiful younger sister Nell may Jesus hold you close to Him!

Elizabeth Lipinski - May 09, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Annella "Nell" Bechtold.



May 06, 2025 at 09:37 PM

S(

“ As one of the foreign exchange students, I had the honor to stay at the Bechtolds' home in 1991. During a longer road trip across the USA, I returned to Minnesota with my then 5 yr old son and visited the Bechtolds! We went to a church picknick in Luxemburg, went for a pontoon ride on the Sauk river and finished with a huge pizza at Marnantelli's. My little boy was very impressed (and tired) and I am still full of gratitude and fond memories of Nell from my exchange stay in 1991 and from the brief visit 21 years later. May you rest in the Lord's Eternal Peace, Nell.



Simone Groezinger (Loew) - May 05, 2025 at 04:52 AM

EL

Thank you for the beautiful tribute to my sister Nell!

Elizabeth Lipinski - May 09, 2025 at 10:53 AM

OB

“Owatonna & Cloquet Buytaerts planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Annella "Nell" Bechtold.

Owatonna & Cloquet Buytaerts - May 04, 2025 at 11:03 AM

OB

“Owatonna & Cloquet Buytaerts purchased the *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Pink and White* for the family of Annella "Nell" Bechtold.



Owatonna & Cloquet Buytaerts - May 04, 2025 at 11:03 AM



“Healing Tears - Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Annella "Nell" Bechtold.



May 03, 2025 at 07:05 PM

BW

“ I have only good memories of Aunt Nellie! I remember her playing with us (grandchildren) at Grandma and Grandpa Bechtold’s farm, when she was dating Uncle Roger and I remember their wedding. Once they invited us (the Reker’s) for a ham that had pineapple rings on top. And they had a piñata from Mexico. She couldn’t make it to my wedding, because she was heavily pregnant, but gave us \$ with instructions to buy a “popcorn popper.” She was always so kind and soft spoken and I knew she cared for my extended family.
~Betsy Westerhoff

Betsy M Westerhoff - April 30, 2025 at 06:41 PM

JB

“ Our Deepest Sympathy to the Bechtold Family on Nell's Passing. We wish you God's peace during this time of great loss. Know you're in our thoughts and prayers.

Jeff & Marlene Bertram - April 30, 2025 at 04:26 PM



“ Pink & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Annella "Nell" Bechtold.



April 30, 2025 at 09:59 AM

TA

“ Thomas Andert lit a candle in memory of Annella "Nell" Bechtold



Thomas Andert - April 29, 2025 at 03:03 PM

TA

Nell was clearly one of my favorites at Assumption Nursing Home when I worked there for seven years as chaplain. She always had a curious attitude and a wonderful sense of presence for the other residents. Nell is definitely enjoying sainthood with her God in heaven for all her long suffering. She was a wonderful breakfast companion almost every day when I came to work. May she now rest in peace! Fr. Tom Andert, OSB....former Chaplain

Thomas Andert - April 29, 2025 at 03:09 PM

EL

“ May God hold you close dearest sister Nell!

Elizabeth Lipinski - April 28, 2025 at 07:00 PM

LB

“ Our prayers to the family of Nell! Memories of Sunday visits to the farm and the gracious hospitality given then. Rest in peace Nell!
Cousin Lauren and Skip



Lauren Bluhm - April 28, 2025 at 08:30 AM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Annella "Nell" Bechtold.



April 28, 2025 at 12:08 AM

EL

“ *As our family mourns the loss of our sister, we ask Jesus to hold her close in His arms!* ”



Elizabeth Lipinski - April 27, 2025 at 09:30 PM

CK

“ *5 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Christine Kassube - April 27, 2025 at 09:06 PM