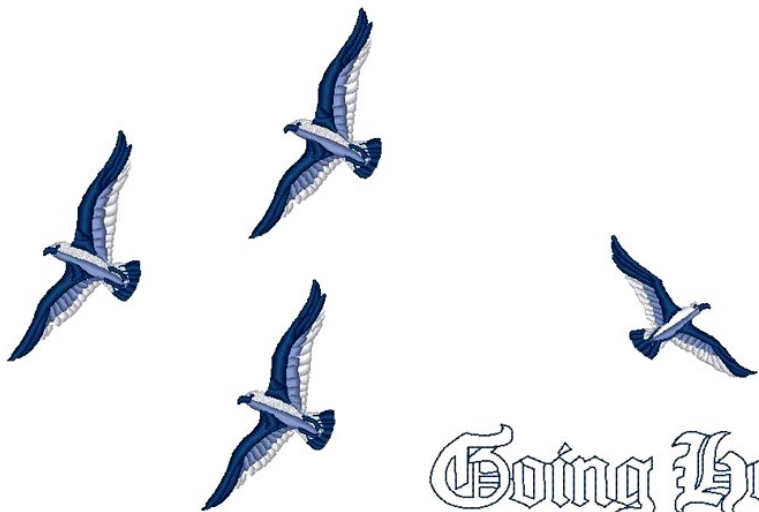




Going Home...

Going Home—Birds in Flight symbolizes the end of a Christian life. One bird is shown leaving the flock and “going home” to his final reward. The three remaining birds continue their journey through life with peace of mind, knowing that their loved one is now in God’s hands.

The family of Gerri Kerkvliet would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers and other acts of kindness shown to them. They want to say special thanks to all of the care shown and given by the staff of Parkview Assisted Living and to the Prairie Lakes Hospice. Your kindness will never be forgotten! The family would also like to thank the St. Mary’s Alter Society for providing the lunch.



SERVICES IN CARE OF
Furness Funeral Home

Gregory E. Furness
Clark, South Dakota
www.furnessfuneralhome.com



Geraldine "Gerri" Kerkvliet, 97, of Bryant, died Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at Prairie Lakes Hospital of Watertown following a brief illness. She was the widow of Barney Kerkvliet.

Geraldine Marie Dirckx was born at Amiret, MN on Sept. 6, 1923 to Jules and Sophie (Loke) Dirckx. The family later moved to Franklin, MN where she attended elementary school. Gerri graduated from Marshall High School in Marshall, MN in 1942. Following graduation, she worked for a local department store in Marshall.

Gerri met Barney Kerkvliet at the Blue Moon Ball Room in Marshall. On September 19, 1946 she was united in marriage to Bernard "Barney" Kerkvliet at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Marshall. The couple loved dancing to the big bands and continued that tradition throughout their married life. Working beside Barney, the city girl, quickly adapted to country life. They started a dairy operation near Marshall. After a flood in 1958, Gerri read an ad in a newspaper about a Class A dairy for rent near Willow Lake. It was exactly what they were looking for to expand their operation. The couple moved their entire dairy herd with their young family to Willow Lake. In 1962 they purchased a farm west of Bryant and lived there until retirement in the 1980's. In May of 2011 they moved in to Bryant to the Assisted Living Center. Barney died in February of 2013 and Gerri continued living in the Parkview Assisted Living Center until her death, being the longest living there and oldest person at the center.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Bryant for many years, as well as the St. Mary's Altar Society. In addition to helping Barney on the farm, she enjoyed gardening, canning, baking bread, and caring for home and family. After their retirement, Barney and Gerri enjoyed driving through the country side looking at the crops and enjoying the change of seasons. Gerri especially liked being driven by the new dairy east of Bryant and watching the progress of it being built.

Survivors include her children, Greg (Vicki) Kerkvliet of Lake Norden, Brenda (Wade) Wicks of Carpenter, Brian (Shelley) Kerkvliet of Sundance, WY, and Michele (Steven) Birkholtz of Willow Lake; 19 grandchildren, and many great and great-great grandchildren. Also surviving is a sister-in-law, Jean Dirckx of Marshall, MN. and Roxy Kerkvliet, the mother of Greg's children.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband in 2013, a son, Gary in 2013, grandson Jeremy, and siblings, Ed (Louise) Dirckx, Fran Dirckx and Shirley (Don) Bailey.



Celebrating the Life of Geraldine Kerkvliet



Mass of Christian Burial

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Bryant, South Dakota
Monday, March 8, 2021
10:30 AM

Celebrant

The Reverend Richard Baumberger

Music

Jayne Pommer

Casket Bearers

Gerri's Grandchildren

Honorary Bearers

Gerri's Great Grandchildren & Her Great-Great Grandchildren
Parkview Assisted Living Center Staff

Interment

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
Bryant, South Dakota

