



Agnes J. Smedra

March 18, 1925 - May 5, 2020

Agnes Smedra, 95
Kearney resident

Agnes Josephine Smedra, 95, of Kearney passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at the Kearney Regional Medical Center ER.

Due to COVID-19, Agnes's Mass of Christian Burial was postponed last year. A private family burial was held on May 8, 2020 at St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery in Farwell.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021 at the St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. Fr. Joe Hannappel will celebrate the Mass. Face masks covering mouth and nose are expected. The Mass will be recorded and posted after the service to the funeral home website at <https://www.osrfh.com/view-funerals/>

Services have been entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services of Kearney.

Agnes was born March 18, 1925 to Theo and Theresa (Grabowski)

Bonczynski in Ashton, NE. She received her education in the rural schools of Sherman County, the Rockville High School and Loup City High School, graduating with the Normal Training Program Class of 1942. The following four years she taught in the rural schools of Sherman County.

On May 29, 1945 she was united in marriage to Gene A. Smedra at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Ashton. The couple farmed in the Ashton and Boelus areas until 1964 when the couple purchased their farm home that was five miles southwest of Farwell, NE.

Gene preceded her in death April 2, 1982. In 1989 Agnes moved to Kearney to live. Her favorite pastime was crocheting many items, especially different afghans, one of which was awarded a purple ribbon and "Best in County" at the Buffalo County Fair.

She greatly enjoyed all her time with her family, having pets, listening and dancing to Polka Music, traveling to various scenic areas in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In 1988, a tour trip to London, England; Lucerne, Switzerland; Paris, France; and Frankfort, Germany was a special highlight.

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Jim Smedra and his wife, Cindy of Omaha; daughter, Cyndi Schroeder and her husband, Larry of Kearney; granddaughter, Gina Campa and her husband, Josh of Kearney; great grandsons, Gavin and Easton Campa of Kearney; step grandchildren, Jeff Maynard and Chloe Maynard Kleymann of Omaha; step great grandchildren, Kalista, Eliza, Henry and Stan of Omaha; sister-in-law, Bonnie Bonczynski of Lexington; as well as extended family and several friends.

Agnes was preceded in death by her husband, Gene; parents, father-in-law, Paul Smedra; mother-in-law, Monica Smedra; step mother-in-law, Eleanor Smedra; sister, Arlene Janulewicz; brother, Leonard Bonczynski, brothers-in-law, Paul Janulewicz and Anzel Jarzynka.

Memorials are suggested to the Polish Heritage Museum or St. James Catholic Church in Kearney or to the family for future designation. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services of Kearney.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JUN 4. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Agnes J. Smedra*



O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations - May 27, 2021 at 02:08 PM



“ *Agnes J. Smedra*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

PJ

“ Hi Cyndi, I just saw this and was so saddened to hear of your Mom's passing. I have so many memories of your home and the farm in Farwell. Your life will seem empty without your Mom around. But she lived a long and I'm sure happy life. You're so lucky to have spent so much time with her when she lived in Kearney. One of the memories I have of our early years is having a New Years Eve supper at your house with you, me and Misty and our boyfriends.....Howard, Dale and I can't remember Misty's boyfriend at that time. Your parents and their friends left after supper for a party or dance and we stayed at the house and had our own celebration. Another memory was a time when you spent the night with me and my Grandma had to knock on the bedroom door and tell us to be quiet because it was late and we were keeping her awake. The good old days!! I just moved to Lincoln to help my daughter with her baby which is due July 23. Its not a permanent move yet. I'm just renting an apartment and renting out my house in Kearney. My daughter has gone back to college so I just want to help them out for at least the first year.Love and thoughts to you and your family.

Peggy Horky Jones - May 18, 2020 at 11:38 AM

CS

Hi Peggy, Thank you for your kind words. Yes we have many many good memories. I do feel blessed to have had my Mom in my life this long. Now I'm missing her every day but know that she lived as long as she could & the last year was a hard one for her. I'm sure your daughter will appreciate your help with the baby. Our daughter is expecting their third boy Aug 4. Thank you again for your note and your expression of sympathy. I appreciate it very much.

Cyndi Schroeder - June 16, 2020 at 09:54 PM

CK

“ My sincere sympathy. Agnes was a neighbor, just a few miles down the road from us and I always enjoyed visiting with her. She was such a gracious and sweet lady. After your Father passed, I would pick her up to go to CCW meetings and she was always so thankful and appreciative, thanking me over and over. May she rest in peace.

Christine Kosmicki - May 09, 2020 at 09:18 AM

JH

“ Though I did not know Agnes, I know her son Jim and his wife Cindy, They are two of the nicest people I know and were always so dedicated to Agnes. She raised a wonderful son , and this would make her so proud.
My synpathty to all of the Family during this time of a very sad loss.
A friend,
JoEllen Hoefker

jo ellen hoefker - May 08, 2020 at 10:03 PM

BP

“ She was a distant cousin who would came each month at breakfast on Farwell. I really enjoyed connecting with her a really neat person.
Bonnie Smedra

Bonnie Piontkowski - May 08, 2020 at 07:09 PM

DB

“ On behalf of Elaine Rozmiarek, she would like to extend her sympathies and prayers to the family. She considered Agnes a good friend when she lived near Farwell. A memorial has been sent to the Polish Heritage Center in Agnes' memory.

Denise Brauer - May 08, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Remembering your family with us at District #47. What a lovely family and your mother was always gracious. Prayers for peace and comfort.

Caryl Christensen Grorud, Wilton, Connecticut

Caryl Grorud - May 07, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ We took home-bound communion to Agnes for many years from Prince of Peace Catholic Church. She was such a delight to see and visit with. She loved talking with our now 10 year old son, Jack. Such a wonderful lady and a long, beautiful life lived.

Warmly,

*Kent and Heidi Richter
Sydney, Will and Jack*

Heidi Narber-Richter - May 07, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ Love, Scott, Kelley, Jake, Jace & Katie Jarzynka purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Agnes J. Smedra.



Love, Scott, Kelley, Jake, Jace & Katie Jarzynka - May 07, 2020 at 02:25 PM

JP

“ Sending Sympathy & Prayers to the family of Agnes Smedra. My parents, from Farwell NE were very dear friends of Gene & Agnes. They went to dances together & visited quite often. Reading the obituary, I find that Gene's Dad, Paul & Paul's 2nd wife, Eleanor were our neighbors across the alley here in Loup City NE. Also, our granddaughter's husband is related to the Campas....it is a small world.
Johnny & Phyllis (Kizior) Piontkowski.



Johnny & Phyllis Piontkowski - May 07, 2020 at 01:48 PM

BD

“ Cyndi & family, So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I remember spending some nights at your place during high school and driving out to pick you up for Drivers Ed many years ago. Enjoyed your parents! It is tough to say goodbye during this virus time, but know you are held in our thoughts & prayers Betty Schmidt Dittmar

Betty Dittmar - May 07, 2020 at 10:42 AM

KO

“ It had been a long time ago, but I used to run in to Agnes occasionally at Walmart. It was always nice to connect with someone from our hometown, and she was always so friendly. My sympathy to the family.

Kathy Olsufka - May 07, 2020 at 07:21 AM

CS

“ Agnes was my Godmother I had just put a card in the mail to her on Monday for Mother's day. When I got the news on Tuesday of her passing it left a hole in my heart. Agnes was kind, generous, and faith filled. I remember as a child going to their farm playing with the animals and always eating a great meal prepared by Agnes. I take comfort in the blessings of having this beautiful woman in my life and pray for her journey home. My deepest condolences to the family she was well loved and always will be. Charlene Schadler

Charlene Schadler - May 06, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ Agnes always gave the best hugs, her smile was contagious, and our conversations always left me smiling. Every time she hadn't seen me in a few days she would say "I have missed you so much! I thought you forgot about me" I always said "no way could I forget you! You're my favorite!" I will miss her greatly. The past 3 years of knowing her have been nothing short of great! I wish I could have known her longer! She truly is one of the nicest people I have ever met.

JoLynn Mortensen - May 06, 2020 at 03:55 AM