



## Elizabeth "Betty" Jarosinski

April 12, 1942 - March 15, 2020

Elizabeth (Betty) Jarosinski  
April 12, 1942 - March 15, 2020

Betty Jarosinski passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 15, surrounded by her family at St. Clare's Hospital in Weston, Wisconsin. Betty lived an extraordinary life, marked by faith, hard work, hope, humility, and service to others.

She was born in Indianapolis, the daughter of Emet and Genevieve Talley, and always had a special place in her heart for her friends and family in the Hoosier State. She studied English at Marian College, received her MA in English at Indiana University, and taught at Manual High School in Indianapolis before moving to Park Falls in 1967.

In addition to raising her large family, Betty soon became active in the community and would go on to teach the fifth and sixth grades at St. Anthony's. Known affectionately as "Mrs. J," Betty was a beloved teacher, admired for her enthusiasm, devotion, and openness to new ideas.

In 1991 Sen. Herb Kohl named Betty as one of the state's top 100 teachers. More than any individual recognition, however, Betty was most proud of what she, her colleagues, and her students had accomplished collectively. "One

beautiful thing about this award is that it also recognizes the school,” she said in a newspaper interview at the time. “It’s something we’ve been able to do together.”

Betty’s dedication to teaching was motivated by her own life-long love of learning. She took numerous summer courses, launched innovative hands-on learning projects (such as an archeological dig on parish grounds), and made fresh lesson plans for every class, every year.

When Betty got the chance to travel, what she was most interested in seeing were schools. Her favorite pictures from Rome and Jerusalem are of schoolchildren out enjoying recess. And the highlight of her trip to the Netherlands was being able to visit a grade school and meet with students. They were fascinated when Betty began reading from a large stack of letters she had brought along from her class at St. Anthony’s describing life in Park Falls and asking what life is like there.

One of Betty’s other great loves was music. She served as the organist and liturgist at St. Anthony’s for over 25 years. Her children remember her often hurrying off to church to spend long hours practicing music with students, especially before big holiday masses. Every year, as Christmas approached, a growing host of angel figurines would begin to quietly appear on her organ before mass, gifts from her many friends in the parish. Betty also helped to bring musicians to Park Falls through her work in the Woods and Waters, Friends of the Arts, and Friends of the Library programs. In her final years, Betty played piano for the weekly church service at Park Manor, ever determined to meet her own high standards for herself as a musician.

Betty was always eager to make the most of her time and enjoyed many things: family gatherings, visits with friends, books, a good game of Boggle or Upwords, and anything in her favorite color, blue.

Betty's family would like to thank the many kind people in Park Falls who added to her life, especially the staff at Park Manor, who helped make a new and loving home for her over the past few years; Dr. Parris at Marshfield Clinic and Dr. Kasirye in Park Falls, who were always there for her; the many former students who would stop and greet Betty with a friendly "Hi, Mrs. J!" when she was out and about in Park Falls; and the doctors and nursing staff at St. Clare's, who took such good care of Betty and her family in her final days.

Betty was buried in a family graveside service shortly after she passed. A memorial service is being planned for later this year.

She is survived by three brothers: John, Emet, and Joe Talley. Three sisters: Clare Oskay, Lou Elder, and Ann Talley. Six sons: Chris, Fred, Eric, David, Jon, and Marty. And eight beautiful grandchildren she dearly loved.

If you would like to remember Betty with a memorial gift, her family suggests St. Anthony's or the Park Falls Public Library.

# Tribute Wall



“ Elizabeth "Betty" Jarosinski

---

October 05, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ Elaine and I are so sorry to hear about your loss. Betty was an extraordinary woman.  
Best wishes, Tom and Elaine Burzinski

---

Tom Burzinski - April 03, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear of Betty's death. My thoughts are with her family. She was a great teacher and amazing woman - always working hard to help everyone around her, but still so interested in learning more about the world all the time. She touched so many lives.

---

Jennifer Gottwald - March 30, 2020 at 10:00 PM

JN

“ We were deeply saddened to learn of Betty's passing. The three of us were good friends throughout the many years since we first formed a carpool to drive to Marian College, which we did daily for four years. Betty was such a hard worker, and she had already helped her Mom get her little brothers and sisters dressed and fed before we picked her up. She taught 13 children piano in order to make some money, and we don't know how she managed this with her heavy class schedule. She always impressed us with her intelligence, musical talent, and her work ethic. She was such a good person, kind, caring, and devoted to God and her family. Now she is with Him and enjoying perfect peace and happiness. She leaves a great legacy in her family, her students, and the many people she touched. All of us are much better for having known Betty, and she will be greatly missed by each of us!!!

---

**Janice and Bill Nordsiek** - March 30, 2020 at 03:49 PM

KH

“ I was so saddened to learn that Betty has passed away. She was a truly inspirational example of the ultimate strong woman.

*As a fellow teacher and Woods and Waters board member, I have many wonderful memories of Betty. One memory is that we were co-creators of the St. Anthony Science Fair and spent many hours planning and preparing to make it an important and meaningful experience for our school. I'm sure all the students will never forget the projects that they entered and making sure that they had followed all the steps of the Scientific Process that Betty taught them. I also remember the hours that we spent planning and coordinating skits and music for our shared Kindergarten/6th Friday Liturgies. I can still picture Rebecca Seifert as Mary and Jon Pritzl as the lame man when they were students in her class. Betty was also the Religion teacher in my class for many years. She shared her deep love and commitment to God with hundreds of students over the years.*

*Betty's love of music and the belief in sharing it with the community was especially evident when she joined the board of Woods and Waters Fine Arts Council. I often picked her up at her home and drove her to our meetings. I particularly remember our warm conversations in the car and the time that a bear crossed the road in front of us on our way to Sue Houkom's house on Cochran Lake.*

*Betty was one-of-a-kind and I am honored to have known her. Deepest condolences to all of her family and friends.*

*Kay Hennes*

---

**Kay Hennes** - March 20, 2020 at 12:56 PM

JL

“ One of the most kind and talented people I have ever known. We spent so much time together with Liturgy music at St. Anthony's. She was an integral part of our first 'Folk Group' at St. A's, always pushing us to be better, but always nudging us to stay on track liturgically. If there was ever a saint on earth in our little corner of the world, it was Betty. She set a high bar for those who follow.

---

**Jim Lealos** - March 20, 2020 at 11:14 AM

SK

“ Mrs. Jarosinski (Mrs J) was an amazing teacher at St. Anthony's. She had a big heart. I was lucky enough to have the honor of playing music with her in church in many groups including the guitar choir, youth choir, and during masses while I was still in St. Anthony's. She always loved it when I'd cantor during church. She will truly be missed.

---

**Shane Kronberger** - March 20, 2020 at 12:04 AM

JB

“ Oh! How many, many music events Mrs. J & I performed at! We always had such a good time! One of our favorites to remember was when we had two weddings in one day! The 2nd wedding actually delayed their ceremony so we could be there. We made it on a wing & a prayer, but it got both accomplished. Truly an amazing woman! Thanks for your time & talents. I'm glad you liked the angels. Tune up the organ & save me a spot in Heaven's choir, Angel's. Peace.

---

**Joan Buraglio** - March 19, 2020 at 10:34 PM