



Joan Helen Byanski

April 8, 1942 - October 26, 2025

Joan Helen Byanski, 83 of Bluffton passed away Sunday evening, October 26, 2025, surrounded by her family at her home.

Joan was born on April 8, 1942, in Fort Wayne to Chester and Mary Elizabeth (Murphy) Rhodes. She graduated from St. Francis University in Fort Wayne, and received her Master of Arts in Education. She was a teacher and homemaker. She loved gardening and was a talented seamstress and crafter. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

On October 24, 1964, Joan married Thomas Byanski at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, IN. They were blessed to share 61 years of marriage together.

Survivors include her husband, Tom of Bluffton (former Bluffton High School Principal and Superintendent of Bluffton Harrison MSD), five children: Kurt (Tina) Byanski of Bluffton, Nick (Heather) Byanski of Caledonia, MI., Amanda (Philippe Gagneux) Byanski of Basel, Switzerland, Emily (Nate) Shoup of Lafayette, IN., and Elizabeth (Jim) Rigle of Mooreville, MS., along with eight grandchildren: Erin, Kaitlyn, Meghan, Madison, Emma, Jacob, Isabella and Hayden, and three great-grandchildren: Sophia, Ava and Hudson. She is also survived by a sister, Kay Levine.

She is preceded in death by a son, Matthew Byanski, her parents and a sister, Sue Hartzell.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 A.M. on Thursday, (October 30, 2025) at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton with Father David Violi

celebrating Mass. Visitation will be held from 10 A.M. on Thursday until the time of mass, at the church.

Burial will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made for Masses to be said or to the charity of the donor's choice.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family would prefer potted plants.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends may share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

3600 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-2832
<http://www.stjosephchurchbluffton.org>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 North Main Street
Bluffton
Bluffton, IN 46714

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 North Main Street
Bluffton
Bluffton, IN 46714

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joan Helen Byanski*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - October 29, 2025 at 12:47 PM

KL

“ *Kay L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Helen Byanski.*

Kay L. - October 31, 2025 at 04:38 PM

KA

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Joanie's passing. I know as not able to get up for the funeral. I would like to share a very special memory of when my brother and I were young children. Cousin Joanie came to stay for the whole summer and we had a lot of good times, but what I remember most is her teaching us to paint water colors. She taught us to blend the colors and make beautiful backgrounds like sunsets. She always had a beautiful artistic soul.*

Kathleen Anderson - October 30, 2025 at 08:15 PM



“ Jim & Jenny purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joan Helen Byanski.



Jim & Jenny - October 28, 2025 at 07:35 PM

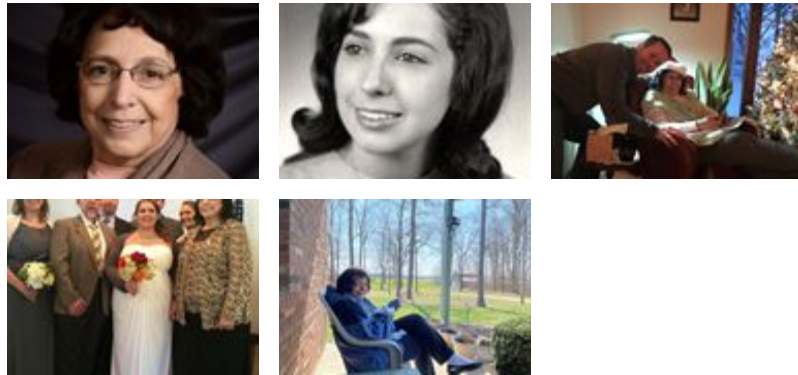


“ Jim & Jenny planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Helen Byanski.

Jim & Jenny - October 28, 2025 at 07:35 PM



“ 92 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - October 28, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Joan Helen Byanski.*



October 28, 2025 at 02:03 PM



“ *Sending sympathy and prayers to the Byanski family.*



Janet DeWitt - October 28, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Helen Byanski.*



October 28, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ *the VanderMel's purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Joan Helen Byanski.*



the VanderMel's - October 28, 2025 at 08:12 AM