



## Reta Mae Coffey

May 10, 1923 - October 29, 2017

Reta Mae (Harre) Coffey was born to John & Theresa (Leif) Harre on May 10, 1923 at the home on a farm northeast of Exeter. She went to her eternal rest in Heaven on October 29, 2017 at the age of 94 years, 5 months, and 19 days. She had resided at Heritage Crossings Nursing Home for the past 3 years. She was the oldest of 15 children, and she lived her whole life in Exeter.

Reta Mae attended Country School and made her first communion at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. She graduated from Exeter High School in 1940.

After graduation, she married Leonard Coffey on May 1, 1943, and they made their home in Exeter raising their five children. She was a loving wife and wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and great great grandmother who loved spending time with family.

She spent many hours in the kitchen cooking fantastic meals and making everyone happy. She had a very strong faith and loved the Blessed Mary and the Rosary, which she recited daily.

She was preceded in death by her parents John & Theresa Harre; infant daughter Mary; sons John & Richard; son-in-law Ernie Christensen; brothers Lawrence, Kenneth, Jerome, Gene, Paul, Aloysius; and a sister Gladys.

She is survived by daughter-in-law Barbara Coffey of Beaver Crossing, Nebraska; son Robert & Peggy Coffey of Grand Island, Nebraska; daughters Sylvia Christensen of Columbus, Nebraska and Jeanette & Raymond Franzen of Exeter, Nebraska; brother Frank & Gayla Harre of York, Nebraska; sisters Evelyn Coffey of Exeter, Nebraska, Pat Hansen of Tucson, Arizona, Joan Kuska of Lincoln, Nebraska, Doris & Nick Nicholas of Exeter, Nebraska, Jeanette Paulus of Loveland, Colorado, Leona Smith of York, Nebraska; 12 Grandchildren, 25 Great Grandchildren, and 2 Great Great Grandchildren.

A Rosary for Reta Mae was held on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Exeter, Nebraska. Father Steve Thomlison officiated the services. Agnes Anderson accompanied Jessica Ruhl who sang "Be Not Afraid," "Mother Dear, O' Pray For Me," "I Am The Bread Of Life," "Ave Maria," and "On This Day, O' Beautiful Mother."

Pallbearers for the service included Doug Coffey, Michael Coffey, Thomas Coffey, Jeffrey Coffey, Kurt Coffey, and Scott Christensen. Interment was held in the Exeter Cemetery following the Mass. Farmer Funeral Home of Exeter, Nebraska conducted the services. Online condolences may be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com) Memorials are suggested to the St. Stephen's Catholic Church or the St. Jude's Childrens Hospital.

# Tribute Wall



“ 26 files added to the album *Flower Pictures*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - November 02, 2017 at 01:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Reta Mae Coffey*.



November 01, 2017 at 07:55 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of *Reta Mae Coffey*.



November 01, 2017 at 12:07 PM

DG

“ *Denise Gabriele sent a virtual gift in memory of Reta Mae Coffey*



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**Denise Gabriele** - October 31, 2017 at 05:40 PM

DG

“ *Im a proud granddaughter of the women who she was and will miss her dearly. So many memories will last a lifetime. Love the memory book and you sharing your life with me. I will cherish it forever.....*

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**Denise Gabriele** - October 31, 2017 at 05:39 PM

MW

“ *I am privileged to be a visiting volunteer. I always enjoyed my time spent with Reta Mae. Reta Mae was so devoted to her church and family. If I could make her smile, it was a special visit. We shared many of those visits. Sincere sympathy to her family members. Margrett Wehland*



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**Margrett Wehland** - October 31, 2017 at 12:35 PM

JG

“ *Jenny Glenn lit a candle in memory of Reta Mae Coffey*



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**Jenny Glenn** - October 30, 2017 at 10:20 PM

SM

“ So many memories of My Aunt Reta Mae! Visiting at the farm, playing with all the cousins and running to escape from the attack rooster in the front yard! Aunt Mae and Uncle Leonard helped my Mom so much when my Dad was deployed for 18 months and she was on her own with us kids.

*I had the opportunity to spend some time helping Mae take care of Leonard at home after his stroke. She was such an example of patience and love for her husband. She was always so appreciative of my visits, we shared many a cup of hot tea and good conversations!*

*A lifetime of devotion to her family and her Savior- enjoy your rest good and faithful servant!*

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**Shari Michl** - October 30, 2017 at 08:17 PM

MW

“ Jeanette, Sylvia and Bob and families my thoughts and prayers are with you. Your Mom was truly one of a kind and so very special. I am so thankful I had such a wonderful visit with her a few weeks ago. She was ready “to go home” as she told me. Treasure the wonderful memories. She and I laughed about so many memories that day. Memories you can never take away from us. I am so thankful I was able to grow up across the field from such a loving lady. Sorry I can't be there but know I am thinking of you.



*Marilyn (Wells) Wahl*

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**Marilyn Wahl** - October 30, 2017 at 01:45 PM

BM

“ *Brenda Motis sent a virtual gift in memory of Reta Mae Coffey*



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**Brenda Motis** - October 30, 2017 at 07:33 AM

BM

*Grandma, we love and miss you. But also know you are at peace.*

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**Brenda Motis** - October 30, 2017 at 07:35 AM

BP

“ *Reta was such a sweet lady! At times demanding, but that was Reta!! I can especially remember our trips to York to the eye Dr. It was an honor and privilege be a small part of her life!!*



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**Bob Pagel** - October 29, 2017 at 05:25 PM



“ *Amy Franssen lit a candle in memory of Reta Mae Coffey*



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**Amy Franssen** - October 29, 2017 at 04:49 PM