



## Annabelle R. Esch

September 19, 1934 - November 12, 2021

Annabelle Rhoda Esch (Tomlinson)

On November 12, 2021, Annabelle went to be with her beloved Mother Mary and Jesus with whom she has so fervently prayed these many years, and her earthly sweetheart, Arn. Many family members were at her side the night before to say goodbyes to this wonderful woman who has so positively influenced our lives.

Born September 19, 1934, Annabelle grew up on the family dairy farm in Eagle. Her brother Bob worked the fields with her father (AC Tomlinson) and she and her sister Marie worked in the house and yard with her mother (Hilda (Pohl)). A young, hired farm hand (Arnold Esch, also of Eagle) took a shine to the kind, pretty, happy Annabelle and asked her to marry him. Annabelle's parents, gave them a 60-acre wedding present. Arn and Annabelle built their ranch house and proceeded to fill it with a family of 5 kids: Tom & Nancy (Nathan & Conrad), Julie & Dennis Strahle (Doug & Audrey), Teresa (Carolyn, Caitlin, Caelah, Caleb, Kaydence, Alexis, Gabrielle, Rachel & Maddie), Joe & Carol (Clarice) and Dan & Becky (Katie and Jennifer) and great-grandson, Xavier. Annabelle and Arnold were married 59 years and 8 months when Arn passed in 2017.

While maintaining the busy household, Annabelle also participated in several

groups at St. Michael Church in Grand Ledge, worked as a secretary for the State of Michigan and spent many late evenings praying in her rocking chair. Annabelle kept a very tidy house, baked lots of cookies and was also keenly interested in picking up the fallen tree branches and sticks from the yard. The pile of gathered sticks came in handy for family, outdoor hotdog roasts.

Annabelle loved her family. She and Arn hosted birthday celebrations, the holidays and any other occasion to gather the family. Annabelle enjoyed getting the family together and having a grand meal. She would tease us by saying that she made a "P.I.E." and that there would be several flavors of ice cream as well. However, it was not uncommon for Annabelle to request just a little more meat after the meal, especially if it was chicken that Arn had grilled. P.I.E. and ice cream were wonderful, but she just loved having that last little bite of chicken! And, of course, do not forget the Saturday night after church pizzas with a little bit of extra meat on them.

Only the last two years were spent off the family farm at Grand Ledge's Independence Village, in the memory care unit. Annabelle's Alzheimer's required that she have 24-hour care and we could have found no better facility or group of people to care for her than those at StoryPoint. Annabelle made many friends there and was always, as she told us, busy and had to get things taken care of. She often talked about her past and she wondered where Arn was. Well, now, as son Joe has noted, she knows where dad is. Rest in peace Annabelle. We love you!

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 11:00am at St. Michael Catholic Church, Grand Ledge. You may watch the funeral mass for Annabelle at 11:00 am Wednesday on the St. Michael Church YouTube channel at this link: <https://youtu.be/EwWbo2KAdhY>. Visitation will be at the church from 10-11:00am. Rite of Committal will follow at North Eagle Cemetery. Donations may be made to: Cristo Rey Community

Center, 1717 N. High Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906 ([https://crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub\\_332a9255-75ef-11e7-afbe-024e165d44b3&WidgetId=2475008](https://crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub_332a9255-75ef-11e7-afbe-024e165d44b3&WidgetId=2475008)) or Grand Ledge Food Bank, 4980 Burt Avenue, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.

# Cemetery Details

## North Eagle Cemetery

12200 S. Grange Road  
Eagle, MI 48822

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael Catholic Church  
345 Edwards Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

## Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael Catholic Church  
345 Edwards Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ *A very special person. I do not believe that I ever saw her when she wasn't smiling. Condolences to her family.*  
*Carolyn and Steve Graszler*

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**steve graszler** - November 25, 2021 at 01:29 PM

FF

“ *Frank Ulbrik & family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Annabelle R. Esch.*



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**Frank Ulbrik & family** - November 16, 2021 at 09:20 AM

JD

“ *We will always remember Annabelle with her cheerful greetings when she picked up the mail in front of her home as we walked the neighborhood. We also noticed how well tended their home was in each season. We saw her regularly at mass at St. Michael Church with a big smile that made her personality shine. Know how special her family was to her. Our prayers are with you.*

*Ken & Joanne Dugopolski*

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**Joanne & Ken Dugopolski** - November 15, 2021 at 09:46 PM

MC

“ Mike, Julie and Lauren Chaney purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Annabelle R. Esch.



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**Mike, Julie and Lauren Chaney** - November 15, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Annabelle R. Esch.



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November 15, 2021 at 04:39 PM

MS

“ Mary Spanski purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of Annabelle R. Esch.



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**Mary Spanski** - November 15, 2021 at 08:15 AM

DV

“ Denis and Donna Taylor, Dorn J Vichcales purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Annabelle R. Esch.



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**Denis and Donna Taylor, Dorn J Vichcales** - November 14, 2021 at 07:53 PM

DS

“ Annabelle became my mother-in-law in 1980 when I married her daughter, Julie. It is so common for people to complain about their in-laws...not me. I could never have asked for a better pair of in-laws than Arn and Annabelle Esch. Annabelle made me feel like one of her own from day one and that has never changed. She always greeted me with a smile and a hug and would wave and blow a kiss as we left the driveway. She always took time to play and giggle with our children when they were young and then took time to listen and laugh with them when they were older. She would break out the cookie box any time of day and always welcomed us to visit and share a meal. The last couple years with Alzheimer's changed little regarding her happy, loving ways. The disease was no match for her love and smiles, no matter who she met. I trust that the Lord has erased the disease when he attached her angel wings in heaven. Rest in peace Mom. We will never forget you. Dennis Strahle, Eagle, MI

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**Dennis Strahle** - November 14, 2021 at 06:12 PM

JK

“ I have only beautiful memories of dear Annabelle. We raised our families in the same era and always seemed to be together with all the St. Michael School activities, scouting and the Altar Society. I know it is a Blessing for all her family to know that Arn and Annabelle, your special parents, are together again.

*Joan Kane*

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**Joan Kane** - November 14, 2021 at 03:07 PM

DP

“ *A sweeter, kinder woman you will never meet. She always had a smile no matter where our paths crossed, always time for a few kind words. She truly carried the love of the Lord with her wherever she went. She was a bright light in a sometimes dreary world. Now Heaven has a new star and we were blessed to have known her. May she rest in peace. You are in our prayers.*

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**Don & Kit Pohl** - November 14, 2021 at 10:04 AM

NP

“ *Annabelle and I worked together at the State of Michigan for many years. My husband and I visited her and Arn in their rural home. What a Blessing they were to us as friends. May her memory be eternal as she is home with Our Lord. Wishing peace, comfort and endurance for her family at this time. Love, Nikki & John Poumade, Johannesburg, Michigan*

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**Nikki Poumade** - November 12, 2021 at 07:26 PM