

Lillian T. Bernas, age 94, of Freesoil, MI. died Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility in Manistee.

She was born November 29, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of the late Frank & Agnes (Kataniak) Smentek. Lillian married Joseph F. Bernas on May 8, 1937 at The Five Holy Martyr's Catholic Church. They came to Freesoil, MI in 1979. Joseph preceded her in death on September 12, 1997.

Lillian had been employed at Western Electric in The Chicago Area, manufacturing relays for switchboards.

She was a member of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Catholic Church in Manistee.

She is survived by her nieces: Valerie (Gerald) Malkowski of Freesoil, MI whom she raised, Mirasha Smentek of Rhinelander, WI, Bernadette (Frank) Benigno of Midlothian, IL, Dawn (Bob) Novick of Hobart, IN and Mary Ann (Bernie) Panek of Chicago, IL; Nephews: Steve (Pattie Anne) Bernas and Reverend Thomas A. Bernas all of Chicago, IL; Her great nieces & nephews: Jason (Lesley) Winter, Christina (Travis) Streeter and Lesley (Doo) Kang, Shane Smentek, Jessica Novick, Eric Biciste & Christopher Biciste, great great nephew, Raven Winter and her sister-in-law: Joanne Bernas of Chicago, IL.

In addition to her parents and husband Joseph, Lillian was preceded in death by 2 brothers: Gene Smentek and Frank Smentek.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Monday, July 23, 2012 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will be in Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Justice, Illinois.

The family will receive friends at the church on Monday one hour prior to funeral Mass.

Memorials will be established in Lillian's name for St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church and the Manistee County Medical Care Facility. Envelopes will be available at the church on Monday morning.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.