



## Ruth Lydia Keys

August 8, 1924 - July 27, 2019

Ruth L. Keys, 94, passed away peacefully July 27, 2019, at her daughter's home in Wenatchee. She was born on August 8th, 1924 to Harlow and Helen Pease, (Vlyman), in Butte, Montana. She attended Catholic school at Immaculate Conception in Butte before going to high school at Butte High. She then attended and graduated from Montana State College, Bozeman, MT, with a four year degree in medical laboratory technology. Education was a focus in her family, with her father being a civil rights attorney, and her mother a school teacher. All of her siblings graduated college.

Ruth worked as a lab technologist in Seattle, WA, and thoroughly enjoyed her work. She married Henry J. Keys on April 8th, 1948, and then became a wife and homemaker in Manson, WA. This was no small feat. She baked all bread from scratch, made butter, pasteurized her own milk, and had many creative uses for the cream from the dairy cows. She also loved to bake and had a large vegetable garden that was preserved for the winter months. She instilled in her children a love of cooking and crafting and nature.

She was preceded in death by her husband Henry in 1986, and her oldest son Mike who died in the Vietnam War in 1971. All seven of her other children are still living: Molly Hoots,(Bob), Manson, WA,; John Keys, (Ruth Edna), Chelan, WA; Jim Keys, (Virginia), Sheila Malmberg, (Greg), Wenatchee, WA; Charlotte Keys, (Steve), Gig Harbor, WA; Virginia Knight, (Mike),Nine Mile Falls, WA.; Angela White, (Dennis), Gig Harbor, WA. She is also survived by eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Ruth was a lifelong member of St Francis De Sales Catholic church in Chelan, and active in the church guild. She also loved science, and participated in the astronomy offerings with Russ Jones of Chelan. She also volunteered at the Chelan Museum and the Chelan Senior Center. Ruth will be greatly missed for her sense of humor, intellect, and energy. We will be lost doing crosswords without her. She also loved music and played the piano throughout her life.

Many thanks to the staff at Heritage Heights, Chelan, where she spent eight years

enjoying the view of Lake Chelan, the weather, and the floatplanes and comings and goings of The Lady of the Lake. Special thanks to Pam Stanley, RN, Amanda Ballou, director, and all of the other caring staff.

Also thanks to Central Washington Hospice, in particular Barb, RN, and Central Washington Hospital RN Amy Wallace. We could not have done it without you.

A mass of Catholic Burial will be held for Ruth at St Francis De Sales Catholic Church, 215 W. Allen Chelan, WA at 5pm, Friday August 2nd. A graveside service will be performed on Saturday, August 3rd at 9am at the Fraternal Cemetary, 240 Union Valley Road, in Chelan.

# Events

---

**AUG**   **Mass of Christian Burial**   05:00PM

**2**

---

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church  
210 W. Allen Avenue, Chelan, WA, US, 98816

# Comments

---



“ Marie Palmer lit a candle in memory of Ruth Lydia Keys



**Marie Palmer** - July 29, 2019 at 11:50 PM



“ I will always remember Ruth as one who had a "Happy Hello" and a smile on her face. My sympathy to the entire Keys family. May God bless you all.

**Marie Palmer** - July 29, 2019 at 11:53 PM



“ Ruth's sister Harriet fondly remembers playing two piano duets , and playing under the dining room table and with Ruth.

Our sympathies to the entire Keys family from Harriet and family.

**Nina Goetsch** - July 30, 2019 at 01:33 PM



“ God Bless the Memory of Ruth - now she is sitting with Henry and Mike and smiling down. Sympathy and condolences to their large family that filled a pew at St Francis. The Hansen family, who were also original parish members when St Francis was founded - now long ago when you children were young.

**Jack Hansen** - August 01, 2019 at 12:26 PM



“ Our family remembers Aunt Ruth by the boxes of apples she sent to us in Montana after the annual harvests. "Red delicious" are still my favorite. Also, my sister Helen remembers fondly her high school summer helping "thin" apples in Manson, and staying with Aunt Ruth and the Keys cousins. And, Aunt Ruth(and Uncle Hank) came all the way to Montana to attend our mother's funeral. Will miss Aunt Ruth's good humor and stories of family lore. Mary, Frank, and Helen (Pease)

**Frank Pease** - August 01, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ Ruth was a kind and friendly lady. I always enjoying talking to her when we happened to meet. My thoughts and sympathies are with the family.

**Vicki Niman** - August 06, 2019 at 05:56 PM