




A Nurse is
Compassion
in Scrubs.

Helen Marie Swanson
In Loving Memory
CELEBRATING A LIFE

Family Receives Friends

Friday, February 9, 2024 ~ 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home
Miles City, Montana

Rosary/Vigil

Friday, February 9, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home
Miles City, Montana

Funeral Mass

Saturday, February 10, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the Riley Center
Miles City, Montana

Officiating

Father Jolly Pathiyamoola
Father James Swanson

Music

Sacred Heart Musicians

Pallbearers

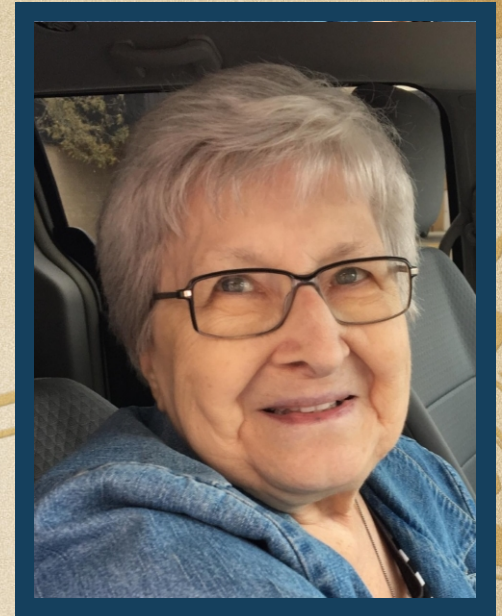
Greg Miller, Glenn Miller,
Bill Shy, Curtis Shy, Leo Shy, Dennis Shy

Interment

Will be held at a later date in the
Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery
Miles City, MT

Hope Strength

Arrangements made by
Stevenson and Sons Funeral home



In Loving Memory Of

Helen Marie Swanson



February 1, 1931 - February 4, 2024



Helen Marie Swanson passed away Feb. 4, 2024 at Holy Rosary Hospital. She was born Feb. 1, 1931 in Mott, North Dakota to George and Marie (Melary) Miller.

She grew up on a farm south of Mott and was close to many relatives that lived in the area. When she was 15 years old, she was alone with her mother when her mother died of a heart attack, possibly fueling her later desire to become a nurse. In 1947 she graduated from Mott High School and later went to the Presentation School of Nursing in Miles City. She graduated in 1952 and formed many life-long friendships with the students there. She later became a nursing school historian, keeping track of all the nursing students and organizing reunions.

She worked at Holy Rosary Hospital. She married Bob Swanson on May 4, 1955 in Miles City. They lived in Bozeman, MT while he finished school at Montana State University and Helen worked at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Their first two children, Jim and Karin, were born there. Then Bob graduated and they moved back to Miles City and Elaine was born during a nurse's reunion, so after the birth Helen was able to join in the festivities held at the hospital.

In June 1966 the family moved to Lompoc, Calif. Soon Helen was working at the Lompoc District Hospital. She loved being a medical surgical nurse but in 1973 abortion was legalized. Helen could not go against her faith and faced being fired for her refusal to participate, even though there were enough nurses for the procedures. Fortunately, she was able to get hired at the Convalescent Care Center within a few days, and she spent the rest of her nursing career in geriatrics, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

In June 1978 the family moved back to Miles City, and she went to work at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center Nursing Home until she retired in 1996. She was very proud of being part of the nursing profession.

Her son was ordained a Catholic priest of the Legion of Christ in November 1994 in Mexico City, Mexico, and the

Honor Loving Memory

family was able to go to the special and holy occasion. In 1999 she was able to go visit the ancestral homeland in Ireland.

In July 2020 she moved to Holy Rosary Healthcare's Residential Living and loved it. She loved to sit by the nurses' station and "help." The staff put her name up on the chart for being on duty, gave her old-fashioned charting sheets to "fill out," and many other things to make her feel like one of the nurses. She often thought she was the nurse in charge and advised the nurses, to which they played along.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three children that were miscarried (Michael, Patrick, and Bridget); her brothers Joseph, Donald, Patrick and Walter; her sisters Margaret, Theresa, and Ruby. (Walter, Theresa, and Ruby died shortly after birth.) She was also preceded by the death of one grandson, Jeremy "Jake" Forman.

She is survived by her children Fr. James Swanson, L.C. of Atlanta, Georgia; Karin Swanson and Elaine (Jerry) Forman, all of Miles City; her granddaughters Erika Swanson (James Davis) of Eugene, Oregon, and Amanda Forman of Wilton, New Hampshire; four great-grandchildren Zeke Forman of Miles City; Claire and Ellie Davis of Eugene, Oregon; and Rian Backus of Wilton, New Hampshire, a sister-in-law Shari Swanson (Fred Schaffer) of Middletown, CT, and a therapy doll Arthur.

The family would like to thank the incredibly caring Holy Rosary Hospital, residential living and hospice staff, most of all, the nurses and the CNAs. Her final years were so much richer because of them.

Should friends desire, memorials can be made to Holy Rosary Foundation Residential Living or Sacred Heart School.