

Elaine Barnwell, 80, of Ankeny, passed away at 1:30AM, Thursday, December 17, 2020 at The Bridges in Ankeny, IA. She was born on May 31, 1940 in Spring Valley, IL to Armando and Dena (Zaccanti) Bartolini and married Jerome Barnwell on October 22, 1960 in Ladd, IL.

Serving her family, friends, and community was always Elaine's mission. She originally trained to serve as a medical technician. Later, she served Oswego High School students through her work in the library, and volunteered at elementary schools, helping kids learn to read. She took care of us at joyous times like the birth of grandchildren. After completing deaconate formation studies alongside Jerry, she served two parishes. She also had a gift for shepherding people through tough times like end of life, working as a volunteer at Mercy Hospice House in Johnston as well as taking care of her beloved family members in their homes. Elaine was our selfless, dependable rock, looking after us through the good, the bad, and the ordinary days in between.

Elaine enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Her love of the Northwoods and Door County included time hiking, fishing for crappies and watching wild life. She appreciated delicious Italian food, reading, music and laughing with friends and family. We will miss her greatly.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Kathy (Don) Beiser of Urbana, IL and many dear and long-time friends.

Elaine is survived by her loving husband of 60 years and sister, Arlene Bartolini of Bourbonnais, IL. Three children: Ellen (Dan) Poplawski of Oswego, IL, Brian (Brenda) Barnwell of Yorkville, IL, and Jeff (Tami) Barnwell of Huxley, IA., six grandchildren: Elise (Devin) Jackson of Naperville, IL and great grandchild Camden Williams. Michael and Nathan Poplawski both of Oswego, IL. Zachary Barnwell of Puyallup, WA, Jacob Barnwell of Grimes, IA and Tanner Barnwell of Huxley, IA.

The visitation will be from 9AM – 10:30AM on Monday, December 21, 2020 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny, IA with a Funeral Mass to follow at 10:30AM. Father Steve Orr will be presiding. Burial will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to; DMARC Food Pantry, Food Bank of Iowa, or the Iowa Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association.