



Esther M. Kellams

March 1, 1935 - July 17, 2025

www.becherkluesner.com
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Esther M. Kellams, age 90, of Ireland, Indiana, passed away at 11:02 a.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2025, surrounded by family at Legacy Living in Jasper, Indiana.

Esther was born in Ferdinand, Indiana, on March 1, 1935, to Herbert and Emma (Auffart) Bartley. She married her high school sweetheart, R. Thomas Kellams on May 9, 1957, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana, and spent 68 wonderful years together. They created a loving home for their three children.

Although she was born in Ferdinand, she lived most of her life in the Ireland area. She graduated from Ireland High School in 1953 and continued her education at Lockyear's Business College. Throughout her life she was a bookkeeper for Bartley's Store, Inc., was Co-owner with her husband and Office Manager for Kellams Farm Service Center and Kellams Equipment Sales. She retired as Manager of the "Touch of Class Outlet Store" in Huntingburg, Indiana.

Esther was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, where her faith

was very important to her. She and Tom were recipients of the Evansville Diocese "Simon Brute" Award. She was also a member of the St. Ann's Society, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Daughters of Isabella organizations. Esther was a member of the church choir for over 20 years and occasionally played the organ for masses, funerals, and weddings, and the piano for school musical programs.

In her younger years, she was an active member in many organizations, Ireland Homemakers Club, Huntingburg Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Dubois County Right to Life, Deutscher Verein German Club, Psi Iota Xi Sorority, charter member of the Dubois County Art Guild, Lucky Four Leaf Extension Club, Dubois County Historical Society, Dubois County 4-H Council member and secretary, Dubois County Genealogical Society, and the Dubois County Museum. She was a founding member and secretary of the Ireland Historical Society. Esther started the first Girl Scout troop in Ireland and was an active leader for several years.

Esther had a lifelong hobby of researching her family genealogy and she also enjoyed doing historical projects and traveling with her husband. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and was very active with her children's school projects and clubs. Esther and Tom also traveled extensively.

Esther is survived by her husband Tom, daughter, Cheryl (Mike) Sermersheim, son, Brian (Rhonda) Kellams, of Ireland, and daughter-in-law, Jeannie (Brent) Kellams, of Newburgh, four grandchildren, Abby (Jason) Dupps, Jaleigh (Brad) Becher, Rachel Kellams, of Ireland, Tyler Kellams, of Ft. Wayne, three step grandchildren, three great grandchildren, Leo, Becca, and Eva Dupps, one foster brother, Joe Auffart, sister and brother-in-law, Jo and Dennis Vogel of Ohio and nieces and nephews.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, LaVerne Simmons, and her son, Brent Kellams.

She will be remembered as a hard worker and a tireless volunteer, who was devoted to her community and her family. Esther will forever be cherished by her family and leaves them with a rich legacy of faith, love, and devotion.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Esther M. Kellams will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. Mass time at the church on Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Heart-to-Heart Hospice, the Ireland Historical Society, or Legacy Living.

Online condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery

2829 North 500 West
Jasper, IN 47546
(812) 482-4071

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 23. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
2829 N 500 W
Ireland, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
2829 N 500 W
Ireland, IN

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Prayers and sympathy to family and friends 🙏

James Birkle - July 31, 2025 at 04:23 PM

TJ

“ Tom and family. We are truly sorry to hear of the passing of Ester. We didn't get word until the afternoon of the funeral and regret missing the visitation, and service. Please accept our condolences, and know we care. May God grant you the strength needed to face the difficult days ahead.

Tom and Barbara Jahn

Tom Jahn - July 23, 2025 at 05:54 PM

JH

“ Mr. Thomas Kellams, Cheryl, and entire Kellams family, I express my deepest and sincerest sympathies to you all on the passing of your wife, your mother and a great family member to you all. My sharing of special times and special engagements were brief with Esther, but every moment that I shared with her and Tom were special and filled with great compassions to be of help and service to others. Mr. Kellams, you and Esther were definitely a special couple, to your family, to the community of Ireland and Dubois County. Together your efforts made the world around us a much better place to live, and to raise our families. I thank Esther for my positive memories, and I pray that God will reward her with a special place in his eternal kingdom of heaven. To you Tom, Cheryl and family. I pray that you all have peace in the absence of your mother, knowing that she was very special to you and to all people that she gave us her best and served us all well. May God Bless you all.

JAMES HAGEDORN - July 23, 2025 at 08:09 AM

DK

“ Tom, you have my sincere sympathy. Esther was a wonderful woman and you two made the perfect couple. Donna Klein

Donna S. Klein - July 20, 2025 at 07:37 PM

JS

“ Julie Schutz lit a candle in memory of Esther M. Kellams



Julie Schutz - July 19, 2025 at 08:23 PM

BK

“ Our condolences.



Brian & Joan Knies - July 19, 2025 at 09:32 AM

DH

“ Cheryl and Mike Sorry to hear about your mother and MIL passing. Prayers for all

Dave and Ann Hostetter - July 19, 2025 at 06:24 AM

SS

“ We are sorry to see the passing of your Mom and Wife. From her obituary, she lead a full life and loved people! Prayers to all!



Sandy S Schitter - July 19, 2025 at 01:27 AM

JH

“ To Cheryl Sermersheim:

*So very sorry to hear of your beloved Mother's passing this month.
Looks like she will definitely be missed by many people in her life.
May she now rest peacefully in Heaven.*



Jay & Rosie Henriott

Jay Henriott - July 18, 2025 at 07:25 PM