



Josephine "Josie" Thecla Berken Thevis

March 17, 2020

Josephine "Josie" Thecla Berken Thevis

Roberts Cove - Graveside services, for Josephine "Josie" Berken Thevis, 85, will be held on Thursday, March 19th, 2020 at 3:00 pm at the feast of her patron Saint, St. Joseph. She died peacefully, Thursday, March 17, 2020 at her home in Roberts Cove surrounded by her three daughters.

Interment will be in the St. Leo IV Cemetery in Roberts Cove.

Rev. Kevin Bordelon, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, will be the celebrant at the graveside service.

Josie was a devout Catholic having served as a lifelong parishioner of St. Leo Catholic Church in Roberts Cove. She was a member of the St. Leo's Altar Society, a member of Catholic Daughters of America, first at St. Joseph in Rayne, then a charter member of St. Leo's in Roberts Cove, adoree at St. Lawrence Adoration Chapel in Mowata since its inception, Neighborhood Rosary Group "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary", St. Leo Choir member and director, Home Demonstration member, Eucharistic Minister for shut-ins, Germanfest coordinator and director of the singers group, and co-curator of German Heritage Museum for 25 years.

Her faithful service to the Catholic faith was recognized as she was a recipient of the Bishops medal for the Lafayette Diocese. Josie was also the German Culture Representative for the Diocese of Lafayette at the Diocesan Centennial Celebrations.

Josie was the most loving, selfless, devout Catholic lady, a pillar of the St. Leo Catholic community, a past member of the St. Leo Parish Council. She served as a leader of the Sodality of Mary organization and music leader for the summer Hi God program for children, and rarely missed First Friday Devotions. She and her husband, Anthony "Buster" Thevis were instrumental in forming the St. Leo Horseshoe Auction and Rayne Catholic School auction. She also chaired Rayne Catholic and Notre Dame Craft Fairs giving selflessly of her time and talents to raise money for Catholic schools.

Josie attended primary school at St. Leo's in Roberts Cove and was a graduate of St. Michael's School in Crowley. Her devotion to her faith showed also by sending her children through Catholic school and was proud that all of her grandchildren were educated in Catholic schools.

Josie was an avid fan of Pioneer football and was fortunate to attend practically every home game being a season ticket holder. She also had a love for the Texas Rangers and was lucky to travel to some games with her family making memories that will last forever. She especially loved watching her grandchildren play various sports at Rayne Catholic, Notre Dame, and John Paul the Great.

Josie especially enjoyed music, playing piano, gardening, crocheting, making crafts, painting, cake decorating, woodworking, sewing, and canning. She was an avid reader and especially loved sitting on the balcony at the beach listening to the waves.

Josie was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and friend and she especially loved gathering with her family and hosting their “game night competitions” which brought such joy to her and the family. She loved Face Timing with her great-grandson, Luke, and anyone who was ever able to witness this knows just how special this time was for both of them. No matter Josie’s physical ailment, you could always find her praying with, and for, her fellow family member or friends for their own health ailments and for their healing. She always had that broad smile on her face leading all the faithful in prayer. She was devoted to our Lord and had a special devotion to Mother Mary and St. Joseph. She will always be remembered for introducing her family, as well as many extended family members and friends, to the power of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Survivors include her three children: Gwen Thevis, Stephanie and spouse J. Gaylon Thibodeaux, Trudy and spouse Brian Ronkartz, all of Roberts Cove. Six grandchildren: Taylor Thibodeaux, Kane Thibodeaux and Spouse Anna, Sarah Thibodeaux and fiancé Clint Henry, Thomas Ronkartz, Matthew Ronkartz, John Ronkartz, and one honorary granddaughter Katelyn Clark. One great grandson, Luke Thibodeaux, One sister, Rita Berken Hoffpaur, sisters-in-law, Marie T. Berken, Brenda B. Smith and Wilda Thevis, and one brother-in-law, Jesse Harrington, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Anthony “Buster” Thevis, her parents, John Casper Berken and Thecla Thevis Berken, father-in-law Gerhard Thevis and mother-in-law Veronica Thevis, brothers, Al Berken, Herman Berken, Vincent Berken, and Reinie Berken and sisters, Elizabeth Berken Klein, Angela Berken Leger, Mary Berken Harrington, Anna Louise Berken and Christina Berken Hornsby, sisters-in-law, Elvina Berken, Leona Berken Smaihall, and Barbara Thevis, and brothers-in-law, Charles Klein, Robert Leger, Jesse Hoffpaur, Simon Hornsby, Ferdie Thevis and Lionel

Thevis.

The family requests that visitation be observed in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne LA on Thursday March 19, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM (CT)

Gossen Funeral Home Inc.
504 N. Polk Street
Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-3141
info@gossenfuneralhome.net
<http://gossenfh.funeralplan2.com/>

Graveside Service

MAR 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Leo IV Catholic Cemetery
7116 Roberts Cove Road
Rayne (Roberts Cove), LA

Cemetery

MAR 19 (CT)

St. Leo IV Catholic Cemetery
7116 Roberts Cove Road
Rayne (Roberts Cove), LA

Tribute Wall

JL

“ I am so sorry that Josie is no longer with us. She was so sweet. I have only good memories of her, from when she worked with my mom and after.

Julie Fontenot Landry

Julie Fontenot Landry - October 08, 2025 at 12:06 PM

CP

“ Trudy, Gwen, Stephanie & your families
My thoughts & prayers are with you all at the passing of your mom ,
Josie. Her strength & spirit will be with each of you. Josie shared
herself generously not only with you her family but the whole
community of Roberts Cove, Rayne & beyond. She truly
demonstrated to all the spirit of giving. The memories of all the
wonderful times each of you shared with her will eventually replace
the pain of her loss today & her spirit will endure. She will be missed
Love & hugs to each of you

Carole Purcell

carole purcell - March 20, 2020 at 10:45 AM

JO

“ Your mom was a very special person, always caring for everyone—
Very respectable of others and did so much in the community—she
will be missed—you have my prayers—I could not go to gravesite
because I have trouble walking but wish I could have—thank you
for sharing her talents with the community—

Johnnie Olinger

johnnie Olinger - March 19, 2020 at 04:27 PM

GL

“ Gwen, Trudy, & Stephanie,

I am so sorry to see that your mom died. She was such a sweet lady!! I'll keep ya'll in my prayers.

Gayle LeBlanc - March 19, 2020 at 11:54 AM

 Clara
Ann
Avant

“ Trudy, Gwen, and Stephanie you all have my sympathy. She was such a sweet Lady and friend. I know you will all miss her but will have all the BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES she shared .

Clara Ann Avant - March 18, 2020 at 09:44 AM

TG

Sorry to see your loss. I will pray for you and your family. Tommie

Tommie Gervais - March 19, 2020 at 11:02 AM

RG

“ Rhonda Guidry lit a candle in memory of Josephine "Josie" Thecla Berken Thevis



Rhonda Guidry - March 18, 2020 at 08:22 AM

EB

“ Sad to hear about this today. Aunt Josie was a very strong and friendly lady who raised three equally strong and friendly daughters. She will be missed by everyone that knew her because she made you feel safe and cared for. Her faith was strong, so I know she rests well.

Eric Berken - March 17, 2020 at 10:43 PM

HM

“ My heart just dropped when I turned on my iPad and saw the obituary of my dear friend Josie! We lost a beautiful soul, but God gained one! I worked with Josie many years at The Rayne Acadian Tribune and she taught many beautiful life lessons during those years! We painted for the Germanfest together and we shared our love for flowers and so much more! I can't begin to express my sorrow for you, Trudy, Gwen and Stephanie! Your mother was a perfect example of love, kindness and faith. I will deeply miss her. May you rest in the Lord's peace Josie! ❤️

Helen Menard - March 17, 2020 at 10:08 PM

LS

“ So sorry for your loss and tragic that she can't be in the church she loved so much. Two very faithful Notre Dame season tickets holders I lose in one year.

lee seilhan - March 17, 2020 at 09:38 PM

LS

“ Deepest sympathies over your loss. We did some wonderful things together. Prayers and any support you might need.

Lou Soileau - March 17, 2020 at 08:17 PM

ML

“ So sorry for your loss! Praying for all of you during this difficult time!

Margaret Anthony LeDoux - March 17, 2020 at 07:31 PM



“ Trudy, so sorry for your loss. May she RIP. Sorry I won't be here to send my respects but know she was a wonderful lady. Hugs from Oklahoma.

Peggy Lake - March 17, 2020 at 06:59 PM

CM

Please accept my sympathy and please know my prayers are with you at this time. Mrs. Josie was truly a wonderful person! Cyndi Cramer Miller

Cyndi Cramer Miller - March 17, 2020 at 11:43 PM

PV

So sorry to hear of Josie's passing. I, too, worked with her at the Acadian-Tribune, and have never forgotten how much she helped me out while I was there. God will receive a beautiful soul. May her legacy live on.

Palma Vanacore - March 20, 2020 at 04:08 PM