



## Jean Kelly

April 3, 1931 - July 16, 2015

Jean Kelly, age 84, of Fonda, Iowa died Thursday, July 16, 2015 at the Fonda Nursing and Rehab Center in Fonda.

Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Fonda. Burial will be in the Mt. Zion Catholic Cemetery in Fonda. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the church. The Mahaney Funeral Home in Fonda is in charge of the arrangements.

Regina Joan O'Brien was born on April 3, 1932 in Churdan, IL, to Jeremiah and Ellen (Nell) O'Brien, a storeowner and homemaker, and baptized into the Catholic faith. She attended and graduated from O.L.G.C. School in Fonda.

She married Mark Kelly on September 11, 1952 in the O.L.G.C. church and had three children, Deborah, Timothy and Joseph.

Throughout her life, she was active in the community and her church, serving both in the Legion of Mary and the Catholic Daughters of America. She enjoyed reading, golfing two-ball and spending time with her family and friends.

An avid cook and entertainer, there were always many places at her table.

During his tenure in Fonda, Fr. Brennan was a fixture at the Kelly's Sunday night supper. Every grandchild enjoyed the time perched on her kitchen counter making cookies and pie.

When another, shorter, Jean married her brother-in-law Charles, she wasn't keen on being called big or tall so she insisted nieces and nephews call her "Beautiful Aunt Jean", a name that's used to this day by family and friends who knew her well.

Being a breast cancer survivor, and seeing several family members affected by the disease, led to a lifelong commitment to fundraising for cancer research. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings Patricia Wagner, Paul O'Brien and Dorothy Kleen. Left to cherish her memory are her husband Mark, children Tim Kelly of Phoenix, AZ, Deb Gruntorad of Fonda and Joe Kelly of Storm Lake, grandchildren Courtney Walker of Fonda, Kelly Simpson, Kristen Peterson, and Erin Gruntorad of Des Moines, Ellen Gruntorad of Storm Lake, Zach Kelly and Jennifer Kelly of Phoenix, and nine great-grandchildren. The youngest great-grandchild, Maeve Regina, was named after her.

A faithful, fearless and funny woman, Jean's memory will live on in the hearts of her husband, children, grandchildren and all those who knew her well.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Zion Catholic Cemetery

Fonda, IA 50540

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 21. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church -- Fonda  
513 North Main Street  
Fonda, IA 50540

## Service

JUL 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church -- Fonda  
513 North Main Street  
Fonda, IA 50540

## Interment

JUL 21 (CT)

Mt. Zion Catholic Cemetery  
Fonda, IA 50540

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jean Kelly*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - July 20, 2015 at 04:31 PM

KE

*Oh my beautiful Aunt Jean  
You always made me smile. As you would say Right On when I would say is this my Beautiful Aunt Jean. May you rest in peace sweet lady I will miss you and forever and always.*

*Kathleen O'Brien Eliason*

**Kathleen Eliason** - July 20, 2015 at 05:54 PM

JL

“ *I have very fond memories of Jean. Jean comforted my mother during my father's unexpected death, and Jean comforted my siblings and me during my mother's unexpected death. I was always so grateful to her for that. Jean had a very special flair for making people feel special and comforted. She was a class act! My sympathies to her family, especially to Jean who was a high school classmate. James Lenahan, Minneapolis, MN*

**James Lenahan** - September 18, 2015 at 08:41 AM



“ I was blessed to have Jean as my Godmother. I will always remember her with love and appreciation. I have some wonderful memories of Fonda in the 50s, Jean, Mark, Debbie and Tim. --Charlotte Colvin



Charlotte Colvin - July 25, 2015 at 07:54 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes - July 21, 2015 at 03:47 PM

GR

“ Kathy and I have to attend a funeral first tomorrow morning. The lady, Jean Kelly, who passed away is a very dear friend of mine who died at the age of 84 years of age. She has been plagued with Alzheimers disease for a number of years. She had made her husband promise her that she could go first. Well...she got her wish. Mark is Al's age, which would be 95, and he still plays golf, takes care of himself and drives by my place everyday to check on his farm, which is right across the road from me whenever possible. Jean was a very unique person, and they threw away the mold when they made her. She was such a great friend!!! When we were building the house, one night there was a knock on the door, and a lady called in asking " Is anyone home?" I immediately went to the door and greeted her. She was my neighbor across the road. She came in, introduced herself, and I offered to show her around. We still weren't living in the house, and Al had just got finished building the book shelves, doors, and drawers in the den, which I was busy staining. She asked me if I would like her to help me the next day. Since I didn't really know her, I replied that I would be just fine and that she shouldn't come over. The next morning about 10:00 a.m. she walked into my front door, and said, "Like Hell you don't need help!!! I have come over to help you out." She helped me so much, even to the end with scraping paint off windows, etc. I will be beholding to Jean for the rest of my life!!!! She was one person in a million, and one of the truest friends you could ever have had!!! We shared so many great moments in our lives, and we even cried together a few times. God has taken home on of the finest examples of someone on earth who was so worthy of Heaven!!!  
Gwen Reiling & family

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Gwen Reiling - July 20, 2015 at 07:50 PM

MF

“ *Mark And Rita Fitzgerald lit a candle in memory of Jean Kelly*



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**Mark and Rita Fitzgerald** - July 20, 2015 at 07:29 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jean Kelly.*



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July 20, 2015 at 06:10 PM

KE

“ *Kathleen Eliason lit a candle in memory of Jean Kelly*



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**Kathleen Eliason** - July 20, 2015 at 05:55 PM

JT

“ *Always enjoyed her enthusiasm and genuine feelings. Wonderful woman*

*John Tiedeman*

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**John Tiedeman** - July 20, 2015 at 05:23 PM

CL

“ Mark & Family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Jean was pretty special to us and always had time for a chat and a laugh or two. She will be missed by many but now telling her stories to those friends and family in heaven. May she rest in peace.

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**Cathy(Fitzgerald) & Keith Lawyer** - July 20, 2015 at 05:10 PM

JC

“ Jean and her Obrien family were our neighbors. They were so good to us as we grew up. Jean was a friend forever. She entertained with such kindness and fun. We wish to extend our sympathy to Mark, her children and grandchildren.

*Jeanne and Larry Calkins and Family.*

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**Jeanne Calkins** - July 20, 2015 at 04:51 PM

RM

“ Mark and family,  
You have been wonderful neighbors for so long. Jean was a bright spot with her wit and humor. Always a "stop over" or "leave a note in my new mailbox," Jean was a joy. Every time we would see her, we heard the classic line: "I'm going to bake you (or my mom) a pie." Blessings and Christ's peace now and in the days ahead. As I mentioned to you, I know Fr. B was right there to welcome Jean and share a place with God just as Jean so often did here on Earth.  
Randy and Marilyn Schmitt

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**Randy and Marilyn** - July 20, 2015 at 03:34 PM

TS

“ Tammy & Dave Schwartz purchased the Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flowers for the family of Jean Kelly.



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**Tammy & Dave Schwartz** - July 20, 2015 at 11:27 AM

TC

“ Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Jean Kelly



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**Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh** - July 20, 2015 at 07:18 AM

KB

“ Beautiful Aunt Jean you will be missed. You were such a giving soul, feeding people all the time. heaven is lucky to have you. Love KB

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**kathleen baskerville** - July 19, 2015 at 02:02 PM

KK

“ We all loved our Beautiful Aunt Jean beyond measure. The best hostess in the world, she was also kind and wise, and a great example for all to emulate. I couldn't have had a better Godmother! Love you, B.A. Jean!!

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**Karen Kelly** - July 19, 2015 at 11:59 AM



“ Jean Kelly had spunk, loved her personality, what humour!! She will be deeply missed, may she rest in peace and may the angels enjoy her humour in heaven!! Connie and George Schachtner

Connie Schachtner - July 18, 2015 at 06:00 PM

PG

“ Our deepest sympathy to you Mark and all your family. Jean was a wonderful lady. I remember she made pies and brought to Father Ed. Used to baby sit for you folks. Many happy memories. God Bless, Lary & Patty Gunville  
Storm Lake, Iowa



Patty Gunville - July 18, 2015 at 01:31 PM

ML

“ Gods blessings to you Mark and your family. I remember Jean every time I eat a piece of apple pie. She was the best pie maker ever. My deepest sympathy to you.



mary Lange - July 18, 2015 at 12:06 PM