

Deacon Joseph R. Burda, Sr.

Deacon Joseph R. Burda Sr., 73, of 129 N. Second St., Frackville, died unexpectedly Monday morning at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Pottsville.

Born Sept. 27, 1933, in Halfway House (Gilberton), he was a son of the late Aloysius T. and Nellie Chiglinsky Burda.

He was a graduate of West Mahanoy Township High School class of 1952.

Deacon Burda was ordained a deacon on May 20, 1995, in the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena by Bishop Thomas J. Welsh. Upon ordination, he was assigned to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Frackville.

He graduated from St. Mary Immaculate Seminary, Cherryville, Allentown. He was a pastoral assistant at Providence Place Retirement Center, Pottsville, for seven years and Hamburg Center for the past year. His prayer and ministry were practiced at many functions throughout Schuylkill County and he was a member of the Social Action Office of the Allentown Bishop's Advisory Board for four years.

He retired as the service manager for Pope Motor Co., Pottsville, where he worked for 45 years. He also worked for 25 years as a sales clerk in the lawn and garden center of Boscov's, Pottsville.

He was a member of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Frackville.

He was a third-degree member of the Rev. James A. Hogan Council 2580 Knights of Columbus for 50 years. He was the chaplain of Boy Scout Troop 789, Frackville. He was a former Boy Scout leader of Troop 89, Frackville, for 25 years, receiving the Silver Beaver Award and the St. George Award for Catholic adult scouters. He was a former lodge chief of the Order of the Arrow

and received vigil membership.

Deacon Burda is survived by his wife, Mary J. Johnson, to whom he was married 53 years; six sons, Joseph J., Frackville; Ronald, Allentown; Gerald, Hazleton; Gary, Berwick; Paul, Riner, Va., and Rodney, Moosic; two sisters, Dorothy Brenick, Allentown, and Margaret Wolfgang, Frackville; two brothers, John, Frackville, and Albert, Pittsburgh; 13 grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, with Monsignor Edward S. Zemanik, celebrant, and the Rev. David W. Karns, concelebrant. Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at the church and from 9 a.m. until the time of Mass on Saturday. There will be a prayer vigil at 7 p.m. Friday with Monsignor Edward O'Connor as celebrant.

Interment will be in St. Joseph's parish cemetery, Englewood.

Donations can be mailed to Mrs. Mary Burda, 129 N. Second St., Frackville, PA 17931, and will be accepted at the funeral home. Albert L. Gricoski Funeral Home, Frackville, is in charge of arrangements.

Mary J. Burda

December 15, 2009

Mary J. Burda, 74, of Frackville, died Tuesday at the Broad Mountain Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Frackville.

Born in Holmes, she was a daughter of the late George and Ruth Swartz Johnson.

She was a 1952 graduate of Frackville High School. She continued her education and became a dental hygienist.

Mary was a very active member of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Frackville. She was a Eucharistic minister, lector, a member of St. Ann's Ladies Guild, taught CCD classes, helped at the annual church bazaar and was a pierogie maker. She often traveled with her late husband to many religious vocations.

She was a member and past president of the Catholic Daughters of America, St. James Court, past president of Rev. James A Hogan, Knights of Columbus Council 2580 Ladies Auxiliary and the Rosary Society, Frackville.

She worked as a sales clerk in several local retail stores including the former Alexander 5 and 10 and Boscov's before retiring.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Deacon Joseph R. Burda, in 2007; and a sister, Jean Barnes.

She is survived by six sons, Joseph Jr., Frackville, Ronald, Allentown, Gerald, Hazelton, Gary, Berwick, Paul, Riner, Va., and Rodney, Moosic; two brothers, George Crossley, Deer Park, N.Y., and Roland Johnson, West Chester; 13 grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday at

St. Ann Church with the Rev. Edward Essig, pastor, officiating.
Relatives and friends are invited to call from 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursday and from 9 a.m. until the time of Mass on Friday at the
church.

Interment will be St. Joseph's Parish Cemetery, Englewood,
Frackville. Donations can be made to the family care of Mr.
Rodney Burda, 614 Rocky Glen Road, Avoca, PA 18641 and will be
accepted at the funeral home. Albert L. Gricoski Funeral Home,
Frackville, is in charge of arrangements.