

Mary Jane Donna of St. Johnsbury passed away peacefully early Thursday morning, March 31, 2011, at St. Johnsbury Health & Rehab Center to be with her Lord. She was 87.

She was born in St. Johnsbury on March 20, 1924, one of 10 children born to Henry and Rosilda (Lavigne) Dauphin. She married Claude Donna on Aug. 19, 1947, at Notre Dame Church.

Mary Jane was a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church. She and her sister, Marie Claire Wood, used their beautiful voices to sing at Masses and funerals. Mary Jane and her sister-in-law, Gemma Chaloux, together annually worked on the church bazaar. She and Gemma started a catering business in the 1970s. Self-taught as a baker, her family will remember the many cakes she made for weddings and parties, and the fudge and candies she made at Christmastime. She also enjoyed knitting, family gatherings and, of course, lots of laughter!

The Donnas made their home on the corner of Summer and Mt. Pleasant streets for 29 years before moving over to Bragg Terrace. She had resided at St. Johnsbury Health & Rehab Center since Dec. 13, 2006.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Henry and Everett Dauphin; seven sisters, Leonora Laperle, Marie-Claire Wood, Paulina Hastings, Luella Demers, Carmen Cote, Lucia Gervais and Marguerite as a child.

She was also predeceased by brother-in-law Gordon Lynaugh (Dorothy's husband), sister-in-law Jane Donna (Roger's wife), brother-in-law Robert Donna (Sara's husband), and by her sister-in-law Gemma Chaloux (Gerard's wife) just this past Dec. 27.

She is survived by her husband, Claude; brothers-in-law Gerard Chaloux and Roger Donna; sisters-in-law Gertrude Turner and husband Bob, Dorothy Lynaugh and husband Reginald Leonard,

Sara Donna and partner Larry; and brother-in-law Normand Donna and wife Susan; and all her nieces, nephews and their extended families.

Three spouses of her siblings also survive her: Luella Demers's husband Andrew, Carmen Cote's husband Donald, and Henry Dauphin's wife Lillian.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, April 4, at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church. Fr. Dwight Baker will be the celebrant. Committal services will be held at Mt. Calvary Cemetery Thursday, May 5, at 2 p.m. Visiting hours will be held at the funeral home Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Please omit flowers. Rather, memorial contributions could be directed to The Good Shepherd Foundation, P.O. Box 146, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

Sayles Funeral Home is located at 525 Summer St. in St. Johnsbury.