Mass of Christian Burial for Marie Janssen, 88, of Lake Benton, recently of Minneota, was at 10:30 am on Tuesday, December 2, at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Lake Benton. Burial was in St. Genevieve Catholic Cemetery.

She died Thursday, November 27, at Minneota Manor in Minneota.

Marie Leona Janssen was born September 20, 1920 to Emil and Sophia (Moorse) Claeys in Eidsvold Township of Lyon County, near Minneota, Minnesota. She attended school in Taunton and finished her education in Morris, Minnesota.

Marie married Henry “Hank” Janssen on April 11, 1939 at St. Edward’s Catholic Church in Minneota. Their union was blessed with three children: Jim, Pat, and Mike, and 56 years of life together.

Following their marriage they lived near Ghent for a short time, then moved to California. They later returned to the Minneota area and began farming until the early 1950s.

Marie was the first woman bus driver in Minneota Schools on January 10, 1963. When they returned to California in 1965, she drove school bus there, and when they moved to Lake Benton, Minnesota in 1974 she drove bus for their schools.

Henry passed away on October 19, 1995, and she continued to reside in Lake Benton until 2005 when she became a resident of the Minneota Manor. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2006.

Marie was a member of St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Lake Benton where she was active in Catholic Church Women, and in the Sewing Club making quilts for missions.

She was an avid bowler in the 1970s and 1980s and was involved in many tournaments. One of her favorite pastimes was card playing with her friends in Lake Benton, which she continued in her time at the Minneota Manor. She enjoyed making breakfast for other residents. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles, and dances she and Hank attended in Taunton.

She was a charter member of the Roaring Lyons Motorcycle Club, Amiret, Minnesota. Marie and Henry took many motorcycle vacations, motorcycling together until the mid-1980s.

Marie is survived by her children: Jim (Kathy) Janssen of Minneota, MN, Pat (Virgil) Enevoldsen of Dawson, MN, and Mike Janssen of Calimesa, CA; eight grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren; brother Andrew (Marilyn) Claeys of Ivanhoe, MN, and sisters: Jeanette (Don) Hoberg of Minneota, MN and Evelyn Millard of Fergus Falls, MN.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry; her parents; granddaughter Christy DeVries (1989); sister Bertha Tholkes; and brother Joseph Claeys.