



Ruth E Buganski

December 24, 1931 - May 3, 2026

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Ruth Elizabeth Holmes Buganski, beloved wife of the late Dr. Raymond Buganski, sister to Roger, mother to twelve children, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to many. She passed away peacefully on May 3rd at the Otterbein Sunset House, a place she aptly named her “Mini Goddard”. Ruth’s room on Indian Road had an open and revolving door. Hardly a day went by where a family member or a friend was not visiting Ruth. She was a great conversationalist, always steering the story to the loved one in the room. When prompted, she would tell others that she was “downright pampered and living the dream” during her stay at Otterbein Sunset House.

Ruth was born to Walter and Helen Holmes on December 24, 1931 in Cleveland, Ohio, eight years before her brother Roger. Her parents owned a printing shop and raised the family nearby. This upbringing was the catalyst for her love of books and good old fashioned letter writing. Her pen pals included grandchildren, students at St. Pius X Elementary and close friends from the Hamilton Lake area.

Ruth attended East High where she was the class of 1947 valedictorian. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mount Union College. She became a first grade teacher at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Euclid, Ohio before she switched her career to full time

motherhood.

In 1955, Ruth Elizabeth Holmes married the love of her life, Raymond Buganski and together they created a family that included 12 children. Ruth and Ray shared 67 admirable years together before Ray passed away in 2022. They had an exemplary marriage united in the Catholic faith, with unparalleled love for each other and an unwavering commitment to family. Their home on Goddard Road was a gathering place for all: family, friends, neighbors, and sometimes strangers that daughter Sr. Pam would bring to the dinner table! Ruth was absolutely in love with the chaos of it all. She thrived on the telling of stories old and new that brought laughter into the room. She was a quiet counselor to many and a true confidante.

Ruth and Ray were devoted parishioners of St. Pius X for over 60 years. Later in life, they spent as much time as they could at a cottage they bought on Lake Hamilton. At this time, they also joined St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waterloo, Indiana where they made new, wonderful friends. Ruth cherished her time at the lake and formed lifelong bonds with the neighbors. She was known to gather groups together to watch the sunset. Just like Goddard, the Hamilton cottage, while not spacious, was constantly overflowing with kids, grandkids, and friends.

Ruth was a true one of a kind: simple, yet elegant; quiet, yet loudly consistent; busy, yet always freeing up time for others. Someone whose actions spoke louder than words. She found excitement in the simple things and was secretly teaching her family to put away the electronics and live in the real world. For example, Ruth had a long standing contest with her grandchildren to see who could find the first Robin to fly back north after a long winter. She encouraged all of us to go “jump in the lake” (with lifejackets on) and stay tuned in to a sunrise or a sunset. She loved to take a group for a walk over to the fire station or to the library. Finally, Ruth was absolutely famous for pulling

a little red wagon down to Churchills at the end of her street to fill up with groceries, always at least 3 kids in tow. Ruth never got her driver's license, and she had a sharp sense of humor, so the bumper sticker on her wagon said: "If you don't like the way I drive, stay off the sidewalk".

Ruth is survived by her loving children, Cynthia (Bob) Starkweather, Mark (Gloria), Lynn (Stephen) Roberts, Joseph (Stephanie), Laura (Sean) O'Toole, Joan (Stephen) Sadowski, Robert (Anne), David (Melissa), Michael (Leslie); son-in-law, John Bishop; and Grandchildren, Alicia (Parke) & Matthew Shull, Ellen (Parke) & Matthew Christ, Nathan Parke & Shannon Desmond Parke, Tracy (Buganski) & Craig Costello, Ryan Buganski, Coeli Roberts, Claire Roberts, Cady (Roberts) & Ryan Grable, Jillian (Buganski) & Cory Brunton, Nicholas & Rachel Buganski, Meredith Buganski; Andrew (Julianna), Brett, Kevin, Brian & Lauren Bishop; Owen, Connor, Erin & Kelsey O'Toole; Emma (Sadowski) & Devon Frankevic, Libby (Sadowski) & Trent Zampelli, Cooper (Jessica) & Molly Sadowski; Jacob, Tyler, Lucas & Abigail Buganski; Brooks, Beckett & Amelia Buganski; Dylan, Camden & Anabella Buganski; and Great Grandchildren, Sylvia & Jack Shull, Adelaide & Oliver Christ, Aubrey & Olivia Costello, Kayleigh Parke, Theodore Brunton, Charles & Harris Grable, Navy & Baylor Frankevic, and Jack Bishop. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother; daughters, Sr. Pamela Marie SND, Ann (John) Bishop; infant daughter, Beth; son-in-law, Lee Parke; and grandson, Lee J Parke.

Family and Friends may visit Friday May 8th from 4 - 7 p.m. at Ansberg West Funeral Home, 3000 W. Sylvania Ave. Prayer service at 7:00 p.m. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday May 9th at 10 a.m. St. Pius X Church, 3011 Carskaddon Ave. Friends are also invited for visitation at St. Pius X anytime after 9 am. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, 5725 Hill Ave.

The family wishes to express gratitude to Ashanti Hospice for the care and compassion provided.

A very special thank you goes to Ruth's best friends as of late, Nicole Raczkowski, Nancy Langenderfer, and Micah Hall and the many other nursing aides at Otterbein Sunset House and Cornerstone Caregiving.

In the spirit of Ruth's lifetime support of Catholic organizations and passion for teaching and education, contributions in the memory of Ruth Buganski may be directed to St. Pius X Parish, Notre Dame Academy, St. Francis DeSales High School or Mom's House.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Ave.
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Prayer Service

MAY 8. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Visitation

MAY 9. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St, Pius X Church
3011 Carskaddon Avenue
Toledo, OH 43606

Mass of the Resurrection

MAY 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St, Pius X Church
3011 Carskaddon Avenue
Toledo, OH 43606

Tribute Wall

RD

“ *Ruth and Ray were great neighbors and friends for many years.. We were not able to attend the visitation due to illness but please know your family is in our prayers.*
Russ and Deb Damschroder

Russ Danschroder - May 12 at 08:42 AM

CS

I noticed your absence, I hope whatever illness was present is resolving quickly.
Cindy

Cindy Starkweather - May 18 at 12:58 PM

KS

“ *Ruth Buganski was an amazing woman, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother! She was a woman of deep faith and great love and kindness!*

Kathleen Shea - May 08 at 01:59 PM



“ *Bugs family, we are so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Bugs, aka "Ruthie!" truly set the mom bar high and had a gift for making everyone feel welcome. I'll always fondly remember looking down that big breakfast table one morning only to have Greg Carter catch my eye and say, "Hey Keel, can I have a ride home?" Neither of us even knew the other was there, yet that table welcomed so many friends and created a place where everyone belonged. She made such a positive impact on so many lives. Thank you for sharing her with all of us. Your family is in our hearts and prayers. What an incredible soul she was.*

Keely Aman - May 07 at 06:02 PM

KH

“ Ruth was my hero! She was so supportive of me having a large family! Cindy(myBFF) and I always joked that she was the “real Dr. Bugs”. I loved her support of her husband who was the best pediatrician ever and her kids who were and are all great humans!! Love and hugs to you all!❤️

Kimberly Hertzfeld - May 07 at 05:47 PM

NR

“ Im so blessed to have known Mrs Ruthie also meeting her entire Buganski family . I admire her for her poise demeanor, the ease of our humerus daily conversations, as nothing was never taken too seriously. Loved welcoming her several great grandchildren into the world the last few yrs. I have never witnessed so much love and so much support from family as Ruth received. The Christmas cards ,well wishes , letters and post cards in the mail daily , showed how much she meant to so many . I was honored 3+ amazing yrs of providing comfort care , companionship and anything that life threw our way . Our adventures include driving to Rosery Cathedral for Andrew and Juliannas wedding . My favorite memory is meeting family members, their friends, roommates , former dorm, pals, girlfriends /boyfriends, soon to be fiancé ect for weekly dinners and always leaving room for one more ❤️

Nicole Raczkowski - May 07 at 12:37 PM

GR

“ Sending love to the Buganski Family. Love, your HC Family

Grace - May 07 at 09:42 AM

PM

“ Mark and whole extended Family. Find memories of your Mom and Father. Condolences from the Whole Monaghan Family.

Pete Monaghan - May 07 at 08:29 AM

MB

Thanks Pete, Mark

Mark Buganski - May 07 at 03:50 PM

CO

“*Condolences to all The Bugs family for the loss of your “hall of fame” matriarchal leader... lots of reflections and great memories come pouring into mind since I learned of Mrs B passing ... so grateful for the profound impact she made on this Goodard “hood rat”! Sending love from Atlanta in this time for celebration... what a life well-lived!!*



Chris Orphey - May 06 at 12:38 PM

MT

To the wonderful family of Ruth Buganski. Mike and I send our deepest sympathy on the loss of their dearest mother. Through the many years with Ruth's children and ours especially Jody and Joan's friendship since high school we think of all the family who we have shared times with. Our special memories of Dr Bugs - who took care of all our five children since their birth and how we got to know dear Ruth always a mother of the year. Now she is with her dear Ray and in God's presence. We regret we will be out of town and unable to attend her Celebration of Life Mass. With love Mike and JoAnne Tressler

Mike & JoAnne Tressler - May 06 at 06:24 PM

RO

My Prayers to the family. I was fortunate to have known Ruth and Ray for many years he was pediatrician to my three boys and Ruth was my CONSULANT as she referred her self to raising my three boys if the Dr wasn't home if I called she gave me advice on what to do but always told me I'll LET THE BIG GUY KNOW YOU CALLED but I already took care of the problem. Ruth was such a kind and caring person so thankful to have known her and will cherish times I visited with her.

Rosie Olejownik - May 07 at 11:12 AM