



# Ruth Ann Oester

NOV 18, 1935 - NOV 20, 2016



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## **Ruth Ann Oester**

NOV 18, 1935 - NOV 20, 2016

### **R**uth Ann Oester November 18, 1935 ~ November 20, 2016

Former Columbia City resident Ruth Ann Oester, 81, died Sunday, November 20, at her home in Orchards, Washington.

Ruth was born on November 18, 1935, in Independence, Missouri to John and Fern Herring. She was the middle of five children. The family moved from the Midwest to Clearfield, Utah, where John worked at a Navy base during World War II. After the war, the family moved to Oregon, living in the Yamhill and McMinnville areas.

Ruth met and married the love of her life and best friend, Bruce Oester; they have been married 66 years.

The couple eventually settled in Columbia City and had five children together, Deborah (husband Oscar Cerrillo), Dale, Michael (wife Kellie Leighton), Tracy (husband Doug Beck) and Lynnette (husband Joe Turner). Jose Baccan, a student from Brazil hosted by the family in 1976, remained a lifelong family member. At the time of her death Ruth had 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, she was a devoted mother and was very proud of all of her children.

Ruth took an active interest in her children's schooling and extracurricular activities, volunteering as a room mother, leading Cub Scouts and Girl Scout groups, baking copious amounts of cookies and cupcakes as needed throughout the years. She worked as a dispatcher for a number of years for both the Saint Helens police department and the Oregon State police. She was active in her community, holding elected positions with the City Council of Columbia City and the Saint Helens District Fire Board.

Ruth was also an accomplished homemaker, enjoy canning and freezing the produce from Bruce's gardens, sewing clothes for her daughters, and later in life gardening and bird watching. She was an avid reader and self-educator all her life. Instilling a love of reading and learning in her children that has continued to benefit her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After Bruce retired they became snowbirds for a time, traveling south to winter in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Eventually, wishing to be closer to their children, Ruth and Bruce moved from Columbia City to



## Obituary

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Orchards, Wash. They lived there until her death from pulmonary fibrosis on November 20, 2016.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, and her older sister, Rosemary Hinchman.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice.

Funeral arrangements are being handled through Columbia Funeral Home, with service at St. Frederic's Catholic Church on Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 11:00am.




# Events

**Ruth Ann Oester**

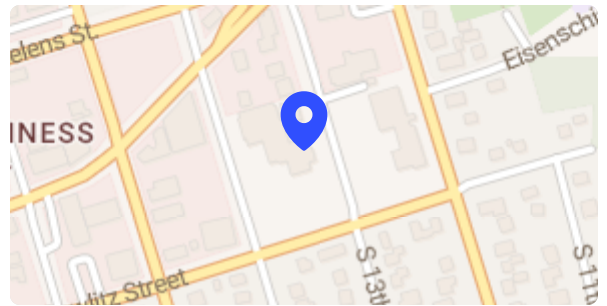
NOV 18, 1935 - NOV 20, 2016

## Funeral Mass


 **Wednesday**, November 23, 2016


 11:00 AM PT

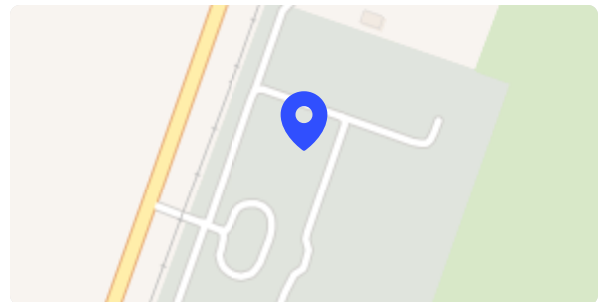
 **St. Frederic Catholic Church**  
175 S. 13th St., St. Helens OR 97051



## Cemetery Details

 **Columbia Memorial Gardens**  
54490 Columbia River Hwy., Scappoose OR  
97056

 **(503) 397-1154**





## Tribute Wall

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JE

**Joanne Eisenzimmer** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

June 11 at 6:46 PM



PL

**Paul Lafreniere** posted:

Bruce, I'm sorry for your loss, and I just heard of this. You and the family will be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all. Love, Paul LaFreniere

December 15 at 9:01 AM

JS

**Judy Sherlock Shadley** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

November 30 at 11:14 AM



JS

**Judy Sherlock Shadley** November 30 at 11:20 AM

Hi! Debbie, sorry to hear about your Mom and that I missed the service. Always a friendly St. Frederic's Mom! Take care. Judy Sherlock Shadley

JG

**Jim Gibson** posted:

So sorry to hear of your loss Bruce and family. I would have attended the service had I heard about it sooner. Ruth was a very hard working and caring lady. Prayers for comfort for the family as you grieve your loss!

November 25 at 7:55 AM

LS

**Leola Wilson Stanwood** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

November 24 at 6:11 AM





# Tribute Wall

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**Kathy Cooper Ashley** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

November 23 at 5:06 AM



**Jim & Cindy Stansbery** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

Sorry for your loss

November 22 at 12:08 PM



**Columbia Funeral Home** shared 36 photos to the **LifeTributes** album.

November 21 at 12:00 PM



**Leona Zimmer** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

November 21 at 12:14 PM



**Susan Ogan** November 23 at 10:13 AM

Sorry for your loss, Ruth was a very dear friend to my parents.



**Leona Zimmer** November 21 at 12:19 PM

Ruth was a very smart Lady! I admired her so much. It was always a joy to see Ruth. She always had a big smile. God Bless Ruth and all the love and memories she has left for all her loved ones. Her family was so Blessed to have her to themselves. I wish I could have known her better. Bruce, please take care of yourself. Keep spending time with your loved ones. Enjoy, Love Leona Zimmer



# Tribute Wall

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**Columbia Funeral Home** shared an album called **LifeTributes**.

November 21 at 12:00 PM





# Media

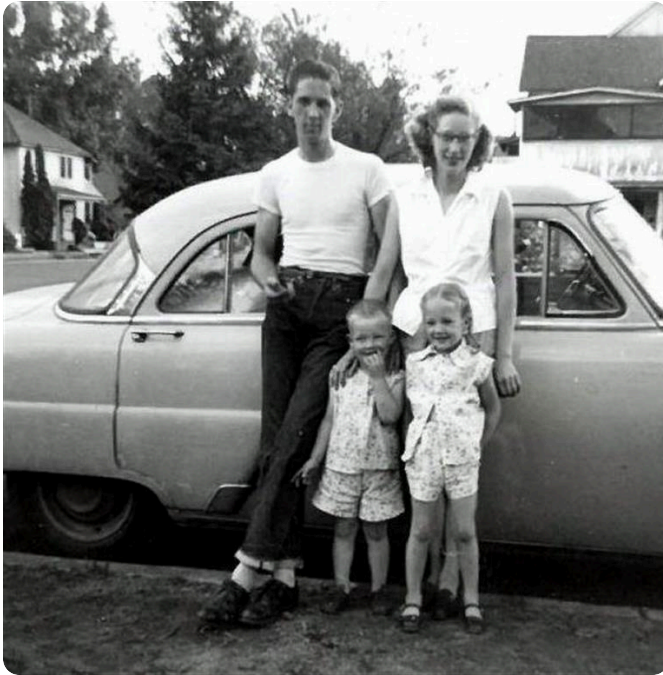
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**Columbia Funeral Home** shared 36 photos to the **LifeTributes** album.

November 22 at 8:24 AM





**Media**

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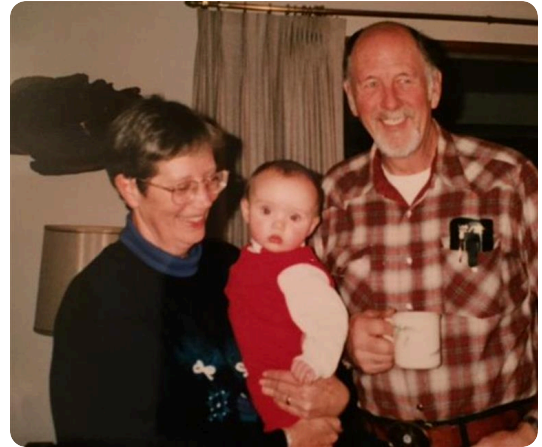




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Columbia Funeral Home shared 6 photos to the **LifeTributes** album. November 21 at 12:00 PM





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# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Ruth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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