



## Joan M. Klonowski

July 14, 1969 - February 18, 2011

Joan M. Klonowski, 41, of Bourbonnais, died Friday (Feb. 18, 2011) at Riverside Medical Center. Private visitation for Bishop McNamara students and faculty will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday; with public visitation from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Maternity BVM Catholic Church in Bourbonnais. Father Dan Belanger will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service. Memorials may be made to the family wishes. Mrs. Klonowski was a teacher at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School. She was born July 14, 1969, in Kankakee, the daughter of Robert and Lenore Brule Dieter. She was a graduate of Central High School at Clifton, received a Bachelor of Science from Eastern Illinois University and a Master of Science from Governors State University. She loved her children and enjoyed astronomy and traveling. Surviving are her husband, Thomas M. Klonowski, whom she married Oct. 23, 1993, in Kankakee; one son and daughter, Dylan and Skylar, both at home; her father, Robert Dieter, of Clifton; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Sue and Chris Gregory, of Shorewood, and Kathy Kinka, of Rockford; one brother, Jim Dieter, of Kankakee; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Her mother is deceased.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

FEB **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church  
308 E. Marsile  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-8285  
<http://www.mbvchurch.org/>

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ I wanted to share this because my father, who now is working in Pastoral outreach is absolutely correct. This woman changed my entire life by willing the good of another through the love of learning and growth. I taught in her room my first year of teaching, and I never told anyone, when they gave me her room. I went home that day almost crying happy tears. She meant the world to me as a teacher. And it hurt so much that she didn't get to get the hug, the message, the friend request after I graduated to see what she did through her ministry that was teaching. I'm finally returning to my vocation of being an educator, and I always cling to her principals, in and out of that classroom. My father is always so glad he had the courage, when she was alive to express the gratitude for how she ignited my inner passion. She changed my life and I can't wait to pay it forward.- Ms. Clodi

Jessica Clodi - September 15, 2025 at 08:51 AM

JB

“ I never met Mrs. Klonowski personally, but my daughters spoke of her highly. She gave herself unselfishly to her students and loved what she did. An understanding and loving heart blossomed in the classroom. Please just remember how she touched so many children and make it fuel for your days to come. jodi brandenburg

jodi brandenburg - February 24, 2011 at 11:31 AM

EP

“ A one in a million teacher, gone too soon. Rest in peace Mrs.K

Elizabeth Provance-Hansen - February 23, 2011 at 09:32 PM

MT

“ Mrs. K I always enjoyed your class! You made science fun and always made sure we were being kind to others. You were a great teacher, an inspirational part of the Mac family, and will always be remembered. You brought out the best in everyone <3.

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**Mandy Tutt** - February 22, 2011 at 11:58 PM

AR

“ Mrs Klonowski is a wonderful teacher and person. After I graduated she and I would see each other at Toms Pizza she would always tell me to call her Joan. You will be missed Joan! RIP.



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**Alan Rood** - February 22, 2011 at 10:14 PM

 Shari Sowell

“ Shari Sowell lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



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**Shari Sowell** - February 22, 2011 at 06:11 PM

LR

“ Homeroom periods with Mrs. K were the best. I will always remember listening to the first Taylor Swift CD with her everyday. Not only did she help all of her students immensely, but she was fun to talk to, make jokes with, and hang out with after school. She even got our homeroom free pizza and ice cream days! She was one of the most loving and caring persons I knew. You will truly be missed and remember forever, Mrs. K.

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**Libby Rogers** - February 22, 2011 at 01:46 PM

CN

“ Mrs. Klonowski came to McNamara just before I graduated, although I did not know her well, she was a very kind advisor to us kids in student government. We will keep you in our prayers.



Colleen Nelson - February 22, 2011 at 11:58 AM

Josh Allen

“ Josh Allen lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



Josh Allen - February 22, 2011 at 08:45 AM

DF

“ Sorry for your loss. I did not know Joan, but I do know Skylar and Dylan. Your family is in my thought and prayers.



Dev Family - February 22, 2011 at 08:07 AM

DE

“ I am a former student of Mrs. K . She was a very kindred spirit, and wasnt afraid to have a few laughs in the classroom. I always remember her having a smile on her face ( unless I was talking out of turn). My condolences to the family. She will be missed

Devon - February 22, 2011 at 05:18 AM

JL

“ James Lindner lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



James Lindner - February 22, 2011 at 05:05 AM

Erik Schultz

“ Erik Schultz lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



Erik Schultz - February 22, 2011 at 01:55 AM

GH

“ Gina Hendricks sent a virtual gift in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



Gina Hendricks - February 21, 2011 at 09:31 PM

EB

“ I am a former student of Mrs. Klonowski's. I was also her lab assistant during my senior year at Mac. It was wonderful to have spent so much one on one time with Mrs. K. She was a wonderful teacher, and she is a very large part of why I went into the science field. I am so thankful for her guidance. She will surely be missed by the entire McNamara family. She truly was any extraordinary person. My prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

Elizabeth Boyd - February 21, 2011 at 08:50 PM

SA

“ I am a former student and friend of Joan. I have so many great memories of her class, and all the laughs we shared together. She was truly a great friend and teacher to so many. She was such a large part of the McNamara family, and will be missed by all. My sympathies are with her family at this time. May you stay strong and know that our prayers are with you.

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**Sarah** - February 21, 2011 at 06:35 PM



“ Heather Zilske Preston lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



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**Heather Zilske Preston** - February 21, 2011 at 06:30 PM

TF

“ The Family lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



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**The Family** - February 21, 2011 at 06:17 PM

GE

“ Thank you for not thinking I was just a lost cause. It was truly a honor and a privilege to be your student.

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**Gena** - February 21, 2011 at 05:39 PM

Shari  
Sowell

“ *Shari Sowell lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



Shari Sowell - February 21, 2011 at 05:10 PM

MW

“ *My sincerest sympathies to the family. Joan was a beautiful, caring young woman. I knew her as a student worker and as a teacher/coach for the math & science contests at KCC. She will be greatly missed by everyone.*

Mae Watson - February 21, 2011 at 03:57 PM

TF

“ *The Family lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



The family - February 21, 2011 at 02:38 PM

MzNichole  
Crenshaw

“ *even though i was only at bishop mac for my freshmen year about 4years ago., but i remeber day of class and the fun times in your class. my heart goes out to the family and friends at this sad time in need.. you and your family will remain in my prays.. i just cant help think that your in a much better place now...*

MzNichole Crenshaw - February 21, 2011 at 02:11 PM

AR

“ We are so sorry for your loss. My sons enjoyed Joan as a great teacher. My God bless your family during this time and always.  
Anne Reilly

Anne Reilly - February 21, 2011 at 01:33 PM

AR

“ Anne Reilly lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski



Anne Reilly - February 21, 2011 at 01:31 PM

LD

“ Tom and family ... I wish you peace, strength and unending prayers for you during this difficult time. Joan was a wonderful wife, mother, friend and teacher .... she will be sorely missed by so many people whose lives she touched ... I know that my life is richer because I had the pleasure of knowing her ~

Lisa Drury - February 21, 2011 at 11:49 AM

J(

“ Tom, I am very sorry to hear about your loss. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.



Jill (Kotowski) - February 21, 2011 at 11:45 AM



“ *Molly Knapper lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



**Molly Knapper** - February 21, 2011 at 11:26 AM

BP

“ *We are friends of Joan's sister Kathy. We never met Joan, but from the wonderful tributes on here, she must have been a heck-of-a person. She will live on through her students and looking out through her children's eyes. We are so sorry for her family and will be thinking about them and rooting for them.*

**Bruce Lori Piper** - February 21, 2011 at 11:03 AM

KB

“ *We were lucky to have known Joan as a neighbor and friend. Her loyalty to her students and her love for her family was always shining. She will be missed.*



**Karen Dave Bayer** - February 21, 2011 at 09:17 AM

ME

“ *I have no doubt that Joan's inspiration will live on through her Children & Family , as well as the students she inspired daily. The world was blessed to have a soul as wonderful as Joan with us for her shrot time.*



**Merikay** - February 21, 2011 at 07:33 AM

AM

“ *Abigael McMillin lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



Abigael McMillin - February 21, 2011 at 05:07 AM

MW

“ *Marc Wilson lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



Marc Wilson - February 20, 2011 at 09:02 PM

MM

“ *My Daughter Gina Absolutely Adored 'Mrs Klonowski' when she attended Mac. She had a Special Way of Truly Caring & Helping Each Student, God Rest her Beautiful, Loving Soul.*

Mary McGrath - February 20, 2011 at 08:38 PM

MM

“ *Mary McGrath lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



Mary McGrath - February 20, 2011 at 08:32 PM

AG

“ *Amy Granger sent a virtual gift in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



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**Amy Granger** - February 20, 2011 at 09:37 AM

AG

“ *I remember my first year at Bishop Mac and she was the one teacher who took the time to make me feel welcome. Words can not express how much she is loved by past students and current students. She is going to be greatly missed and loved forever. Words can not express what I feel for the family she has left behind. My thoughts and prayers are going out to the family in this difficult time.*

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**Amy Granger** - February 20, 2011 at 09:35 AM

AG

“ *Amy Granger lit a candle in memory of Joan M. Klonowski*



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**Amy Granger** - February 20, 2011 at 09:34 AM

(W

“ *Tom, Dylan and Skylar, you are in my heart and have my deepest sympathies! I am happy that I got to know you and Joan. Some people touch your life and we will forever hang onto them. I will always remember Joan, with a smile on my face! My Love to you!*

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**(Grandma) Wood** - February 20, 2011 at 03:44 AM

GT

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your children, Tom. May our heavenly Father bring you comfort and peace as He welcomes Joan into His kingdom. We are so sorry for your loss.

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**Gary Tammy Thomas** - February 19, 2011 at 08:15 PM



“ Tom and Family,

*Please know that you have our prayers and thoughts at this very difficult time. Joan's legacy as wonderful wife, mother, and teacher will be forever with you.*

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**Jaime Barbee** - February 19, 2011 at 06:08 PM

NA

“ Our sympathy and prayers to you, Tom, and your children. May the Lord ease your sorrow at this time.

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**Nick Shirley Africano** - February 19, 2011 at 02:43 PM