

Hannappel Phyllis Bulletin Note
St. Joseph, St. Anselm and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Bulletin
May 24, 2026

Phyllis Marie (Bolling) Hannappel
January 3, 1933—May 20, 2026

“My Mom died.” I’ve said and written this three word phrase countless times since last Wednesday morning 5/20/2026 at 5:55 AM. I always knew the day would come when I would have to say these three words, but I am amazed at the range of emotions I feel depending on the time, place or person to whom I am speaking or writing. Since you are my family in faith and ministry, I want to share this important part of my life journey with you.

When my mom reached 85, she would often say “When the good Lord is ready to take me, I am ready to go. I have had a good life and I'm happy to stay and enjoy my family and friends until the time He calls me home.” Mom turned 93 on January 3, 2026. She has been on a steep uphill climb toward heaven with declining health the last few months. From the beginning of December to the end of January she fell 3 times and was in the hospital after each fall. I asked her if she was doing her own Stations of the Cross by falling 3 times like Jesus and she said “I guess I am.”

Last Saturday we had a wonderful celebration of my oldest brother Lawrence’s 70th birthday. He is the oldest of the six children co-created by Wallace and Phyllis Hannappel: Lawrence, Kathy, Joe, Mark, Von and Irene. She was especially proud of her 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

My Mom was admitted into hospice last Tuesday morning. When I left her to return home, she told me “the Good Lord is calling me and I’m ready to go.” I told her I would miss her and she said she would miss me too and “that I would be OK and the Holy Spirit would watch over me.” I thought I would see her the next day and even more days ahead, but this was to me my final goodbye. I received what was to be my final blessing, as she made the sign of the cross on my forehead and I blessed her in the same way. This was the blessing she gave to everyone when they arrived and departed, and many people called it “the Phyllis Blessing.” Wednesday she made her translation from this life into the fullness of her eternal living after a good long life of 93 years 4 months and 17 days.

Mom’s vigil service and rosary will be on Monday, May 25 and the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, May 26. It is fitting that it is right after we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, because the Holy Spirit was her favorite person in the Holy Trinity. Very often she would say to me and others, “**remember you can always trust the Holy Spirit to help and guide you!**” Pentecost was also the Feast Day when I presided at Mass for the first time in Christ the King Church in Cozad, after my ordination 42 years ago on June 8, 1984.

“I AM Joseph beloved son of Wallace and Phyllis and your brother!” (Genesis 45:4)