



James Murray, 89, of Rantoul died Friday evening (Aug. 22, 2014) at his home.

He was born May 22, 1925, in Champaign County, a son of Harold and Anastasia (Gordon) Murray. He married Jean Anderson on April 3, 1948, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Champaign. She preceded him in death on Aug. 7, 2013.

He is survived by two sons, Michael (Terri) Murray of Champaign and Patrick Murray of Rantoul; two daughters, Donna (Steve) Manders of Oak Park and Deborah Warner of Rantoul; a brother, John (Betty) Murray of Champaign; nine grandchildren, Brian (Amelia) Manders of Valley Falls, N.Y.; Rebecca (Tom) Dransoff of LaGrange Park, Maggie (Michael) Barger of Littleton, Colo., Steve Mandres of Osseo, Minn., Alex Manders of Oak Park, Megan Murray of Champaign, Matt (Roganne) Murray of Dewey, Kristi (Mark) Pflugmacher of Thomasboro and Kathy McBride of Rantoul; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Rosemary Murray; and a son-in-law, Joseph Warner.

James was a graduate of Fisher High School. He farmed this area all his life. He was a member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, a fourth-degree Knights of Columbus member and a member of St. Malachy Catholic Church where he was a church lector for many years. He was also a member and president of the Ludlow Coop Elevator Board for many years. In his youth, he flew planes and enjoyed boating. He also enjoyed reading, history and spending time with family.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Malachy Catholic Church. Father Joseph Donton will officiate. James will be buried beside his wife in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday evening at Lux Memorial Chapel, 1551 E. Grove Ave., Rantoul.

Memorials may be made to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.