

Dorothy Collins of Elburn: A funeral Mass for Dorothy Collins, 78, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, at St. Gall Church, Elburn. The Rev. Richard Paddock will officiate. Born March 25, 1922, in Bloomingdale Township, the daughter of August and Mary (nee Fank) Heinberg, she passed away peacefully at McAuley Manor in Aurora, where she had been receiving rehabilitation care following recent hip surgery. Interment will be in St. Gall Cemetery, Elburn. Dorothy grew up on the family farm and attended country schools long before Bloomingdale was Bloomingdale*. She met James Collins shortly before he went off to war and waited patiently for his return. On Feb. 14, 1946, she was united in marriage to her sweetheart at Holy Cross Church in Batavia. They began farming on the White Gate Farm near St. Charles and later moved to Elburn where they operated the Morris Farm, east of town on Keslinger Road for many years. The hallmark of the farm was the baseball field which stood in the southeast corner near the road. It was a tribute to a farm family that never missed a chance to share good times, good food and good memories. Dorothy was the matriarch of the family and dutifully worried and prayed for everyone and everything. She was devoted to her faith and the ritual of daily Mass and prayer. At St. Gall Church, she was a member of that generation of farm wives who helped make famous the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and when sorrow came to the parish, was among those who volunteered to cook and serve the funeral meal. A devoted wife and mother, she raised a bountiful garden, canned, baked and cooked as though she were feeding an army. Her hands were never idle as she crocheted many Afghans for her children and grandchildren as well. Up to her last days, her sense of humor rose to every occasion. A bedside table drawer was found to hold dozens of handwritten jokes, transcribed from magazines and heard on the radio. Through a lifetime of challenge and change, Dorothy never lost her focus on family and faith. Survivors include her daughters, JoAnn Collins of Streamwood, Kathy Freeburg of St. Charles, Shirley (Michael) Stoffa of Elburn and Mary Rogerson of North Aurora; sons, Richard (Terri) of North Aurora and Donald (Karen) of Batavia; grandchildren, Tammy (James) Lloyd, James and Adam Collins, Matt Freeburg, Todd and Sarah Stoffa, and Stephanie, Jamie, Jaclyn, Christi, Scott and Rebecca Collins; great-grandchildren, Amanda and Johnathan Briggs, and Jacob Collins; siblings, Edwin (Adele) Heinberg of Itasca, and Ruth French and Edna Plass, both of Schaumburg; and many nieces, nephews and other family members. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James; son, David; infant great-grandsons, Brian and Eric Lloyd (Oct. 29 & 30, 2000); brothers, Louis and Harry Heinberg; and sister, Florence Benhart. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today, at Conley Funeral Home, 116 W. Pierce St., Elburn, with rosary prayers at 3:30 p.m. Masses would be appreciated or memorials in her name may be made to St. Gall Church or the Delnor Community Residential Living Center in St. Charles, where she happily made her home for the past two years. For information,(630)365-6414.

Source: The Daily Herald - Monday, December 18, 2000

***Ed.note: Bloomingdale was established in 1833 and incorporated in 1889.**