



# Catherine J. Lukaschewski

Nov. 25, 1894 - Nov. 18, 1966

Catherine Julia Lukaschewski was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1894. Her parents were Rudolph Lukaschewski and Annie Jenzen. Annie immigrated in 1881 and Rudolph in 1887. They both came here from a German dominated area of what previously was and now is Poland.

Catherine was the third child of seven children born to Rudolph and Annie: Frank (b. 1892), Phillip (b. 1893), Catherine (b. 1894), Theresa (b. 1895), George (b. 1897), Lucy (b. 1899), and Helen (b. 1901). Rudolph and Annie were married in 1891.

Catherine grew up on the eastside of Detroit. The Lukaschewski family was Catholic and probably belonged to St. Anthony's parish.

The 1910 census lists the occupation of Catherine, then 15 years old, as a dressmaker. The census stated that all members of the Lukaschewski household spoke English. However, records show that many of the neighboring households spoke Polish.

Catherine Lukaschewski married Frank Steil on October 28, 1920. The ceremony was performed at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. The invitation stated that "Mr. Rudolph Lukas requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of his daughter." Lukas was an Americanized version of his real surname which was Lukaschewski.

Although Catherine and Frank had been raised on the eastside of Detroit, after they married they established a home on the westside. Their first residence as a married couple was at 362 Fullerton Avenue.

Catherine Steil gave birth to her first and only child, Kathleen Jeanette, who was born to Frank and Catherine on December 16, 1921. The birth occurred at home with Dr. George C. Pratt attending. The residence on the birth record was listed as 2158 Fullerton Street in Detroit.

In 1930, the census shows Frank and Catherine and Kathleen living in a duplex they owned at 2258 Fullerton Street in Detroit. The value was listed as \$11,000. A real estate document also shows the duplex being located at 2258 Fullerton. The duplex was purchased in 1928.

Catherine and Frank lived at 2258 Fullerton until they moved to Royal Oak in the 1950s. Kathleen lived with them on Fullerton until she married Murray Coleman in 1944. Kathleen then moved to Louisiana where Murray was stationed during World War II. When Murray was discharged, he and Kathleen and their son Larry moved into the upper apartment in the duplex, while Frank and Catherine lived below. Tom was born in 1948 while the Coleman family was living with the Steils on Fullerton.

The Coleman family moved to Royal Oak about the time

their third child, Daniel, was born in 1950. A few years later, Catherine and Frank moved to 209 N. Rembrandt in Royal Oak, about two miles from the Colemans.

Catherine was an excellent housewife, mother, and grandmother. She and Frank always had gifts for their grandchildren on birthdays and at Christmas and Easter. They spent a lot of time with the grandchildren at the cottage they built at 88 McGregor in Lake Orion. Frank would teach his grandkids how to build things and make repairs. Catherine would cook, sew, and nurture the grandchildren. They both taught the youngsters how to play card games such as pinochle and Michigan rummy. They attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lake Orion.

For many years, Catherine served as a Gray Lady. Gray Ladies were hospital volunteers who visited with patients, helped them write letters, read to them, and brought them cheer. Two of her friends, Agnes and Helen, worked at Providence Hospital where Catherine volunteered.

Catherine died of breast cancer in 1966. She took her last breath at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit.

Links to documents and photos mentioned above:

St. Anthony Parish – [photo](#) – [history](#) – [more history](#)  
[1920 Wedding Invitation](#) – [Wedding Photo](#) – [1932 Photo](#)  
[1930 Census - Frank and Catherine Steil household](#)  
Fullerton photos – [house](#) – [Frank, Kate, & Steil Parents Survey for Fullerton duplex](#)  
Tax Forms: [1941 1040](#) – [1952 W2](#)  
Catherine: [1915](#) – [1922](#) – [1923](#) – [1927](#) – [1932](#) – [1932](#)  
[1932 with Timmy](#) – [1932 on right](#) – [1936](#) – [1957 on left](#)  
Cottage: [1936](#) – [1952](#) – [1963](#)  
With grandkids – [Easter 1953](#) – [birthday party](#)  
Birth register: [part 1](#) – [part 2](#)  
Gray Ladies - [stock photo](#) – [history](#)  
[Photo of 209 N. Rembrandt taken in 2001](#)  
[40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary photo](#) – [Various photos](#)  
[Last hospital stay](#) – [Cemetery](#) – [Burial card](#)