



## Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender

December 25, 1985 - February 19, 2021

Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender was called to eternal life at sunrise on February 19, 2021, while surrounded at home by family.

Born to Beth and Frank Bender on December 25, 1985 she was the third of four children. Being a Christmas baby was just one of many things that set Katie apart.

Katie grew up on her family's farm outside of Poseyville, enjoying the simple freedoms of rural America and the blessings of a small community. From a young age Katie had a powerful mothering instinct. Under her watch each of the many barn cats would be named, and groomed into submission, and their kittens were treated as her own. She had an affinity for God's creatures and loved them with her whole heart. As a 4-H member, she raised calves, hogs, goats and chickens. No matter their size, smell, or their resistance to it... they would all be mothered and loved.

Katie loved people, and cherished her friendships deeply. She was disarmingly honest, funny, authentic, resilient and vulnerable, and always seemed to see the best in those around her. As a devoted member of St. Wendel Catholic Church, she never let anyone off the hook for missing mass, or forgetting their Lenten observations. Her siblings considered Katie the true test when it came to determining if their marriage prospects were "keepers" or not.

Katie was blessed with a large extended family and much of her childhood was spent surrounded by this loving tribe, camping and boating amongst a

swarm of cousins...watched over by aunts, uncles and grandparents.

Early on, she attended North Elementary grade school and then transitioned into homeschooling to complete junior high and high school. Thereafter, she went on to pursue college courses at Ivy Tech and eventually took up working alongside her mother remodeling rental properties in Evansville.

It was not until Katie was diagnosed later in her life with Cockayne Syndrome, a rare degenerative neurological disorder, that many of her limitations became better understood.

Katie had an incredible work ethic and a contagious enthusiasm for life.

Though she remained at home living with her parents, Katie gained a great sense of confidence from not only being an egg farmer, but renovating and renting two of her own properties.

This income would come to support one of Katie's most notable habits... the abundance of Christmas gifts that she stockpiled throughout the year for most everyone she knew. Her generosity and thoughtfulness knew no bounds.

'Christmas Kate' loved to see people happy.

Yet of all the gifts Katie gave over her lifetime, potentially the most impactful was her example... her ability to get up and keep trying despite adversity... and to love and accept those around her.

Her bright spirit, love of life and easy laugh will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her parents Frank and Beth Bender, Poseyville, IN, sister Holly (Eric) O'Neill, Indianapolis, IN, brother Jan (Julia) Bender, El Dorado Hills, CA and brother Dale Bender and his fiancé, Alicia Meklas, Evansville, IN. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews Azalea O'Neill, Clive O'Neill, Ronin Bender, Nariah Bender, Cruz Bender, Mila Bender and Laney Bender, along with her loyal companion and aunt, Linda (Jude)

Blankenberger.

A Mass of Christian Burial service will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, March 19, 2021 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Poseyville, Indiana. Father Ed Schnur officiating.

Visitation will be 2-8 p.m., with a Memorial service at 7 p.m., Thursday, March

18, 2021 at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Posey County 4-H Council 126 E. Third St., Room 29, Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620.

Due to the national health crisis and the state mandate, masks are required and social distancing should be observed.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the family online at: [www.werryfuneralhomes.com](http://www.werryfuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
10 N St. Francis Avenue  
Poseyville, IN 47633

## Memorial Service

MAR 18. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
10 N St. Francis Avenue  
Poseyville, IN 47633

## Service

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
10 N St. Francis Avenue  
Poseyville, IN 47633

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ I attended college with and even dated Katie for a short time. She was a ray of sunshine I miss even today. I only just found out she has passed and I wish I had know her better. All my love and condolences for the family who I never really met. Thank you to her parents for the happiness they brought into this world. I hope she rests easy.

Brent - October 13, 2023 at 06:28 PM

BL

“ Katie was a treasure. She was a student of mine for years. Everyone that knew Katie loved her

Barbara Lamble - October 08, 2023 at 09:01 PM



“ Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender

October 06, 2023 at 09:05 AM

CD

“ Bender family, we are thinking of you and praying you find moments of peace and comfort in the midst of your grief. -from everyone at County Line Diesel-

County Line Diesel - March 19, 2021 at 10:10 AM

JS

“ To the Bender Family,  
May God bless you and your family in this  
time of sorrow. What a wonderful girl.  
In deepest sympathy.



Judy A Keil Straw - March 18, 2021 at 07:33 AM



“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family  
of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.



March 17, 2021 at 10:10 PM

FB

“ Family, my prayers and love during your time of grief! May Katie  
have eternal rest! Fr John Boeglin

Fr John Boeglin - March 14, 2021 at 07:13 AM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was  
purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane  
Bender.



March 11, 2021 at 05:04 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.*



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February 24, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ *We always enjoyed seeing and talking with Kaitie at the Posey Co Fair. She loved taking care of her goats and showing them. Katie seemed to always have a kind word for everyone. Prayers to the family.*

*Sincerely Todd, Angela and Jacob Wiley*

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**Todd Wiley** - February 23, 2021 at 09:57 PM



“ *Beth and Frank and family know that I am thinking of you during this difficult time. Praying for peace and comfort during the coming days.*

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**Debbie Dunham McCollum** - February 22, 2021 at 08:34 PM



“ *I will treasure seeing how kind Katie was to children and how she loved showing off her animals. Our prayers are with your family. - Mary Biever*

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**Mary Biever** - February 22, 2021 at 07:57 PM



“ *My sympathy to all of the Benders. My prayers are with all of you.*  
*Genise Huey*

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**Genise Huey** - February 22, 2021 at 04:54 PM

ML

“ Complete sympathy for the Bender family. Thoughts and prayers for this remarkable lady who no doubt has her wings.



Mark & Brenda Lyon - February 22, 2021 at 02:58 PM

GE

“ I did not know Katie, but she sounds like a wonderful daughter, friend, and businesswomen. I want to say how very sorry I am for your loss. I can't imagine losing a daughter as we have two of them. May the Lord surround you with His love and peace.

Glenda Elpers - February 22, 2021 at 11:22 AM

JL

“ I will always remember Katie paying me a visit to see our goats, my goose, and help make cheese. She set an example for all on how to live fully, be kind and serve others. The world was a richer place because of her and she will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved her.

Jerrilee LaMar - February 22, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.



February 22, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.*



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February 22, 2021 at 08:20 AM



“ *Nathan and Jackie (Neumann) Oakley-NP Class '05 purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.*



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**Nathan and Jackie (Neumann) Oakley-NP Class '05 -**  
February 21, 2021 at 01:04 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss of Katie. Prayers for comfort.*

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**Dale Crumbacher -** February 21, 2021 at 12:30 PM



“ *Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.*



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February 21, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.



February 21, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Kathrine "Katie" Jane Bender.



February 21, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ *We are SO very sorry for your loss! She is just joining the Angels now, because she already wore the wings. As we well know, sometimes God calls them early because they have already achieved Heaven here on earth. Such a sweet & beautiful soul. Memories are your lifeline. ❤️🙏*

*God Bless,  
The Pat Singleton Family*

**Patricia & Patrick Singleton** - February 20, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ *Prayer to all the family. or your loss. Richard and Kathy Wilson*

**Richard and Kathy Wilson** - February 20, 2021 at 08:33 PM

LP

“ So very sorry for your loss 💔 Katie was such a beautiful light of Jesus! She was always so kind to me and my girls. Even when we would go a year without seeing her, she still smiled and treated us as a good friend 😊 Her smiles were so contagious and comforting 💖 She has the blessings of being with her Heavenly Father and I'm sure will continue her work by becoming a real Angel working for Jesus 🙏



Luann Perry - February 20, 2021 at 06:52 PM

MW

“ I send my sympathies on your loss of Katie, a true blessing to all of us who knew her or knew of her. I want to share a favorite memory of my mom and Katie. At Christopher Blankenberger's Wedding(mom was about 80 yrs. old with a bad knee) Katie ask my mom, Betty Blankenberger to dance. My mom went out on the dance floor before the family realized what was up. All my sisters and sisters-in-laws quickly pop up and went out on the dance floor too in case mom had any problems. Of course there were no problems and mom enjoyed dancing with Katie. That is one of my fond memories of my mom and of Katie too. It always puts a smile on my face when remember how much mom enjoyed the dance. Many of the family also enjoyed seeing and being on the dance floor too. Sometimes Katie visited my parents with Linda. They always enjoyed seeing her. So, yes today I am grateful for the blessing of your daughter, Katie in our lives.

Maureen Wysopal - February 20, 2021 at 05:54 PM

BG

“ SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO KATIES' family. She's a welcome addition to many other angels.

Bob Gee - February 20, 2021 at 04:10 PM