



Esther Cruz

July 28, 1926 - December 10, 2022

Mrs. Esther Cruz (nee Cerna), a strong and loving wife and mother who devoted her life to family and friends, died peacefully in Othello, Washington on December 10, 2022, with loved ones at her side. At the age of 96, Esther, who has been preceded in death by her husband Fausto and daughter Mary, is survived by sons John, and his wife Carol, Daniel, and his wife Kathy, Joe, and his wife Peggy, and Richard, along with dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss her cheerful smile, hearty cooking, joyful laughter, and sincere kindness.

Esther was the youngest of 13 siblings, born to Tomás and Felicitas Cerna on July 28, 1926 in Minitare, Nebraska. She and Fausto were married in 1946 in Pasco, Washington and raised their family in various towns in central Washington. In the Moses Lake area, the Cruzes settled into the farming community, saw their daughter and boys marry and have their own kids, frequented wrestling matches and baseball games, and maintained a garden large enough to sell truck-loads of corn, beans, and raspberries at the farmer's market. In addition to being a regular parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima, Esther was a friendly face behind the grocery deli counter for many years and an active volunteer at the senior center. Going into town with "Grandma Esther" was sure to involve numerous spontaneous conversations with people passing in the aisles, as she was well-known and respected by many.

Esther was warm and outgoing, and generous with the gifts of hearth and home. A dearest wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt, she will likely be remembered most for her devotion to family, including her and Fausto's extended families. She will be admired for her ability to plan ahead for very large meals, hospitality and warm welcome for friends of the family, and commitment to the work that went into bringing the family together regularly. She taught family members her favorite cooking techniques and recipes, and was more than once asked to help rescue a meal over the phone. "Grandma Esther" was skilled and efficient at everything that needed to be done at home, as well as patient and good-natured when teaching hijos/as to pick from the garden, turn out tortillas that were round (or not), and make a silky smooth mole. She loved card games with her grandchildren, somehow always winning, and was there to share a boozy drink when those kids got older.

Esther's family wishes to thank the community members for their fellowship and sympathies, inviting all those who wish to partake in remembrances to join them on Friday, December 16, 2022. There will be a viewing at 8:30 a.m. at Kayser's Chapel & Memories, followed by praying of the Rosary at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church and a special mass at 11:00 a.m. Afterwards, the burial service will be at Pioneer Memorial Garden at 12:15 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne
Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 16. 8:30 AM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel & Crematory
831 South Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-7848
kayserschapel@gmail.com

Rosary

DEC 16. 10:30 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Holy Rosary)
200 North Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Mass

DEC 16. 11:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Mass of Christian Burial)
200 N. Dale Rd
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

CL

“ I am very sorry for your loss Johnny -still can picture going out to your house for holidays n the wonderful feeling of family n friends ; always welcomed to eat like you were one of the family -a very dear lady -God bless you n your family

Caroline Lee - July 22, 2023 at 06:50 PM

RV

“ A beautiful soul matched by her beautiful smile. Always caring and thinking of others ...anytime I would see her she would always ask how my Mom was doing. Proud to have her and the entire Cruz as friends.

Rich Victor - December 20, 2022 at 06:28 PM

TM

“ Condolences to the family. I knew the family from Wapato. Tito Moreno

Tito & Denise Moreno - December 17, 2022 at 09:32 AM

CK

“ Esther was a beautiful lady, who was so willing to help others. She loved her family, and I loved running into her at a store, so she could tell me about each and everyone of you! She and Fausto were a "team". They were such hard workers, and both strong Christian people. So many years ago, we were invited with dozens of others, to eat homemade tortillas, tamales, and everything on the list of great food. Esther and Katherine truly were awesome cooks!! Everyone loved the Cruz family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Cathy and Paul Kersey

CATHY KERSEY - December 16, 2022 at 09:48 PM

TA

“ Our deepest condolences to the Cruz family. Esther was a very sweet lady and always had a beautiful smile. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.
Luis and Trina Alfaro



Trina Alfaro - December 16, 2022 at 01:16 AM

RS

“ Ron Simpson lit a candle in memory of Esther Cruz



Ron Simpson - December 15, 2022 at 11:47 PM

GB

“ Gina Bates lit a candle in memory of Esther Cruz



Gina Bates - December 15, 2022 at 10:06 PM

LR

“ The entire Cruz family was a light to people in Moses Lake for years. They were great customers of us at Moses Lake Ford, and they were a joy to be around and visit with. They will be missed.

Larry Rigsby - December 15, 2022 at 06:42 PM

EM

“ *What a beautiful tribute to Esther. In the short time I knew her, I loved her. And I know she loved you all so much. She expressed that so many times. May she rest in peace.*

Elton and Juli Miller - December 14, 2022 at 04:18 PM