

## Rita (Oswald) Sonntag, 56

*Nov. 19, 1948 - July 23, 2005*

**ATLANTIC** — Rita Joyce Sonntag was born Nov. 19, 1948, in Maryville, MO, to James Kenneth Oswald and Jean Frances (Weedin) Oswald. She was raised in rural Fairfax, MO and graduated from Fairfax High School in 1966. She attended Northwest Missouri State, where she met her husband, Marvin Ralph Sonntag.

Rita married Marvin Feb. 8, 1970, in Fairfax and then lived in Maryville, MO, and Harlan from 1970 – 1976. They then moved to Brayton to work their farm, large garden and raise four children. They lived there until 2002 when they built their present home in Atlantic. She was a farm wife and a homemaker all her life. She worked at DeLong's in Exira from 1992 – 1997. After that, she did part time house cleaning and substitute cooking at the Exira Schools and the Exira Congregate Mealsite. She was a member of the Exira Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Atlantic and the Fairfax United Methodist Church. She also belonged to the Neighborhood Bible Study and the Jolly Neighbors Card Club. She died July 23, 2005, at her home after a 4 1/2 year battle with ovarian cancer at age 56.

Rita was preceded in death by her mother, Jean Frances (Weedin) Oswald. She is survived by her husband, Marvin of Atlantic; four children, Todd Joseph Sonntag (Jolene) of Atlantic, Steven Lee Sonntag (Mikalah) of Prescott, Dennis Michael Sonntag (Julie) of Brayton, and Rebecca Jean (Sonntag) (Brad) Willich of Casey; her father, James Kenneth Oswald of Fairfax, MO; two brothers and their wives, Richard and Mary Ellen (Davis) Oswald, Marion and Tonya (Shineman) Oswald, all of Fairfax, MO; 12 grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 26, 2005, at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Atlantic with Father Dan Siepker celebrating and Father Fred Reischl concelebrating. Burial was in the Atlantic Catholic Cemetery. Hockenberry Family Care in Atlantic in charge of arrangements.

