



## Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar

April 17, 1927 - August 28, 2020

UTICA - Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar, age 93, passed away on Friday, August 28, 2020 in the comfort and dignity of her home with her loving family by her side.

She was born on April 17, 1927 in Utica, a daughter of the late Vincent and Mary (Acierno) Bonomo. Angela began her formal music training when she was 8, studying piano with Catherine Parker, and later with Cecil Davis.

Angela was named outstanding musician of her senior class at Proctor High School. She studied piano, organ, and cello.

Angela was a graduate of the prestigious Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester where she was an organ major studying under Evelyn Prior. After graduation, Angela worked for a year at Marcy State and Utica State Hospitals as their organist.

In 1950, Angela became the organist and musical director at the iconic Historic Old Saint John's Church in Utica. At that time, she was the youngest organist in the Syracuse Diocese and remained in her position, at the top of her profession, for 70 years. She was a consummate professional who never took her musical gift for granted. Until the time of the pandemic, she continued to practice each and every day. Angela was legendary for her Midnight Mass and Easter services, as well as her wonderful choir, whose members were a second family to her. She directed both the adult and children's choir, as well as played at thousands of funerals and weddings for parishioners. She regularly conducted concerts as part of the Downtown Monday Music Series.

In addition, Angela played a vital role in influencing the lives of children in the parish and generations of church musicians, many of whom sent her notes of thanks this summer.

She also taught music at Utica Catholic Academy, and directed the Glee Club, where she was able to influence the musical talent and interests of her students.

Angela was an avid golfer, curler, and all-around athlete. She was well known around town as a champion baker, and shared her output with many. Her Christmas fruit cakes were a prized gift. Angela was the center of her family and very much enjoyed family gatherings where a Manhattan was sure to be served.

Angela loved the Adirondacks where she spent summers from her childhood until her death. The Adirondacks were her happy place where she enjoyed spending time with her summer family completing puzzles, playing games, and having a good talk.

Angela was united in marriage to her childhood sweetheart Michael J. Nassar, Jr. on August 30, 1952. They celebrated 52 loving years of marriage that was filled with happiness, family, and mutual respect. This past Sunday they celebrated 68 years of their union in heaven.

Angela leaves behind her children: Susan (Joel Fredell), Michael (Dianne), Sondra, and Elizabeth, as well as her beloved grandchildren Alexis and Michael Nassar, and Leila and Mishkar Nunez-Fredell. She also leaves behind her sister Betty Forte, and was predeceased by her sisters Gertrude Darman, Gina Murano, and Vi Bonomo. She leaves numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and their families, who filled her life with so much joy. She will be greatly missed by her canine companions Sophia and Carlo.

The family would like to extend special thanks to all who surrounded Angela with love and care during these difficult months. Much gratitude to the ladies of Notre Dame Elementary School for the enormity of their kindness. A particular thanks to special niece and nephew, Teri and David Murano for their weekly visits; and thanks to Gina and Steve Surace, and Nancy Zumpano for

all they did to make Angela's final summer in the Adirondacks a reality; and to the cherished members of the St. John's Choir, who were a second family, there are no words to express our gratitude for your devotion and love. The visits, food, gardening, and companionship were an enormous comfort to her and to the family.

Visitation will be held Friday from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at her home parish, Historic Old St. John's Church, 240 Bleecker Street. We kindly ask the cooperation and patience of guests as we adhere to current health guidelines and restrictions. All are welcome to attend Angela's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday morning at 10:00 at Historic Old St. John's Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. At both the visitation and the funeral, social distancing, registration for contact tracing, and a mask covering your nose and mouth will be required. Angela loved reading and saw the importance of education. You may honor her by making a contribution to either Notre Dame Elementary School Library or the Scholarship Fund at St. John's Church by mail to Notre Dame Elementary School (Library) 11 Barton Ave., Utica, NY 13502 or St John's Church 240 Bleecker St., Utica, NY 13501 or online at <http://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/stewardship.htm>; envelopes will also be available at the church. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Please take a moment to connect with Angela's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church  
240 Bleecker Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6159  
<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

## Funeral Service

SEP 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church  
240 Bleecker Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6159  
<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

# Tribute Wall

PF

“ Oh my GOSH: I am so sad to learn of Angela's passing. I wondered many times if she was still with us.



*I was a member of Old St John's Choir from 1973 to 1989; I was in the Alto section, standing next to her sister, Vi Bonomo. I learned so much from Angela, about to LOOK AT HER during Sunday mass, and special services like Good Friday, Easter and Christmas. (I'm sorry I missed the one Holy Saturday, when the Randall Thompson 'Alleluia' was attempted; I learned it sank like the Titanic...) And we sang so much great music: Faure's 'Cantique de Jean Racine', the Beethoven and Handel 'Hallelujah' Choruses, the Mozart 'Coronation' mass, a Pietro Yon Latin mass at Midnight mass--the list goes on and on.*

*There were times at rehearsal, when Angela would go on one of her 'infamous' TIRADES--when we were goofing off, or just singing lazily. She would not tolerate sloppy singing, or anyone not looking at her during a service. And yet: there were Friday nights when members like Patrick Marthage and Jim Delitto would make us all bust a gut laughing so hard. :) I hope Patrick and Jim are still in the choir.*

*And our post-Christmas and post-season parties were legendary, for all the laughs and songs that were shared. Listening to the Midnight mass (on TAPE!) was always a treat. Not to mention all the great food shared.*

*To Angela's family and friends: Please accept my heartfelt condolences (even a year later). Angela was an amazing musician and organist...I can't believe she was at St John's for SEVEN decades. I hope she was wearing those gold 'organ shoes', as she was laid to rest.*

*Most sincerely yours,  
(Ms.) Patricia Finnegan*

*(She always called me 'Patty', BTW)*

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**Patricia Finnegan** - December 01, 2021 at 03:05 PM

EL

“ *Dear Sondra and Family,  
Your mother's music enriched my spiritual experience on Sundays many times over. It often was so beautiful that it drove me to tears. She no doubt had a gift, and she clearly touched our lives by sharing it.  
Warmest condolences,  
The Lemire Family (Libby, David, Duffy, Nicholas and Kate)*

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**Elizabeth Lemire** - September 10, 2020 at 01:58 PM

RG

“ *So sorry for your loss.  
I certainly can empathize with you during this great sadness in your life.*

*RoseAnn Grasso*

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**RoseAnn Grasso** - September 10, 2020 at 11:40 AM

LA

“ To Angela's family. We were very saddened to learn of Angela's passing last week. Due to medical issues I was unable to attend the services at St. John's Church last weekend. Angela was a truly fine musician and a person who will be missed by many. I always enjoyed working with her and her wonderful choir members.

*My wife Connie and I send our condolences to all her family and friends.*

*Lou and Connie Angelini*

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**Louis and Connie Angelini** - September 09, 2020 at 11:48 AM

AR

“ I wish to express my condolences to both the family and Historic St John's parish for the loss of their mother, aunt, grandmother and sister and outstanding and irreplaceable musician.  
I started taking organ lessons from Angela (she will always be Mrs Nassar in my mind) at the age of 11 as part of the Syracuse Diocese's Organist Training Program. I had to audition to be accepted as a student. Angela was a bit intimidating at first but that was only at first. She was a warm and loving teacher to me. She focused on bringing out the musicality in me and she had plenty of practical advice that I needed when I had to take over as organist of my church at age 13. Our organist died suddenly and Angela drove up to our small church in Forestport and played the funeral for us so I wouldn't have to.  
In my teens, she gave me many funerals and weddings to cover while she was on vacation. It was a wonderful learning experience and also contributed to my college fund!  
I'm very grateful to have had such a wonderful person in my life. I have spent my life working as a church musician (among other things) and brought a piece of Angela to each church I worked in. Thank you for the beautiful funeral Mass and the Jesu at the end. I recognized it was Angela playing within a few measures. May God's peace be with you all as you grieve.

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**Andrea Siegel Radesi** - September 08, 2020 at 02:46 PM

DF

“ Angela Is a wonderful Soul. She has inspired many. Her contributions to our community musically and otherwise are immeasurable. My condolences go out to her family and all close to her.

*Dan Fusco and Family*

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**Daniel Fusco** - September 04, 2020 at 08:13 AM

“ I offer my heartfelt condolences to the loved ones regarding the passing of a musical treasure, a consummate professional, the quintessence of dedication and a legend at St. John’s Church: Angela Bonomo Nassar.

*Every year when the hot days of summer would give way to the cool, brisk days of September marked the return of Angela Bonomo Nassar from summer vacation to the organ loft of Old St. John’s. Sadly, this year it will not be the case; and it is hard to fathom that after 70 years, she will not be there. I almost thought she would do it forever. I always awaited her return with elation and would eagerly anticipate her concluding the mass with some triumphant postlude such as Nun Danket Alle Gott. - S. Karg Elert.*

*It is exceedingly difficult to envision her not being at St. John’s because she was such an integral part of the heart and soul of this church. The two were entwined and when I think of St. John’s, I think of Angela Nassar. In fact, other than the summer months of the latter half of July and the month of August, I cannot remember a time when she was not there. She obviously, earlier in her career, was absent when she gave birth to her children; but other than that, I can never remember her not being present — whether it be due to sickness, weather, or other obstacles. It is no surprise that her anniversary date of May 1, is the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.*

*Angela has been a part of the history of the parish for a third of its existence. Her time at St. John’s is unparalleled by any other organist in this diocese or in fact, the world. Her love for music and love for St. John’s were commingled and the two could never be separated accompanied with the belief that “he who sings prays twice.” St. Augustine. On last Friday morning, the great organ that she cherished; and of which she was the faithful custodian for so many decades, must have cried a note of sadness.*

*Angela could make the organ talk and her music brought solace and consolation in a time of grief at many funerals; and patriotism*

*commemorating heroic loss as in William Steffe's arrangement of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Who could not be stirred to emotion in Handel's Messiah, reverence, and awe on Good Friday with Jane Marshall's My Eternal King. Inspiration on Palm Sunday with When I Survey the Wonderous Cross. Jubilation and exultation with Sprague's Via Dolorosa; Faure's Palms or joy in Regney's, Shayne's Do you hear what I hear? Or solitude and peace of heart in Gruber's, Mohr's Silent Night on Christmas Eve.*

*Ted Blehar, said on Angela's 50th anniversary that she could have gone anywhere after graduating, but she chose to come back to her own parish of St. John's — how true.*

*Bishop Thomas Costello remarked on the celebration of her 50th , "But the splendor of the past is made more glorious by the beauty of the present and that inevitably is your creation - your contribution. The music that emanates from the instrument and from those voice bears your signature alone and its awesome. Liturgy in this venerable place lifts the heart and Angela Nassar artistry makes the celebration a song of praise."*

*Thank you for sharing the gift of Angela and may she rest in peace with the Choir of Angels.*

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**Kevin Schultz** - September 03, 2020 at 10:19 AM

CB

“Cathy, Michelle, Ray and Rich, Pete and Buddie purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



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**Cathy, Michelle, Ray and Rich, Pete and Buddie** - September 03, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



September 02, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



September 02, 2020 at 03:11 PM



“ Dear Sondra, Elizabeth & family, We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Love, Tracy, Don, Jacque & Tricia

**Tracy Rueckert** - September 02, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



September 02, 2020 at 12:55 PM

MH

“ To the Nassar Family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Angela's music has been the accompaniment to my church experience since birth. A full circle moment was having been in the children's Christmas and Easter pageants myself and then bringing my own children to participate under Angela's guidance and direction. And anyone who has attended a midnight Christmas Mass to hear Angela play and the St. John's choir sing, knows how transcendent her musical ability and choral direction was. Rest in Peace. Love, Bob, Mary Beth, Roman, Luke and Maryna Harrod

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**Mary Beth Harrod** - September 02, 2020 at 08:49 AM

BH

“ Angela's pearls of wisdom that I always keep in my heart, The gift god gives us is the light, it's up to us to let it shine for all who need it.  
Thank you for being a mom to me when mine wasn't able to. My love is everlasting, my light is brilliant because of you.

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**Bobbiejo Ann (Sutton) Hall** - September 02, 2020 at 03:01 AM

KC

“ Sang in Angela's 11 o'clock Choir for 4 years of high school and for a while afterwards. She was a wonderful person and so very talented. We enjoyed every practice and every time we were able to sing with her. RIP Angela.

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**Karen Wright Clark.** - September 01, 2020 at 03:43 PM

LN

“ To the Nassar Family Don and I extend our deepest sympathy thoughts and prayers for your loss. Angela was a a very special person and will be missed. She'll be playing the organ in heaven and smiling down at all of us. May she rest in peace.

*Don and Lucy Nojaim*

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**Lucille Nojaim** - September 01, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ *With Distinction* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



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September 01, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



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September 01, 2020 at 01:05 PM

EO

“ I met Mrs. Nassar when I went to visit my dear friend Elizabeth in Utica with my dog, Izzy, and of course Mrs. Nassar fell in love with Izzy. She would always ask for us and want to know what was happening with us in Boston. She remembered this past Wednesday that it was an important day for me and told Elizabeth to be sure congratulate me. This was just so considerate, special and amazing she remembered me on my day!!! I know how much she will be missed by everyone. My heart and prayers are with you all at this most difficult time. “May her memory be a blessing”. With Love, Ellen

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Ellen Orne - August 31, 2020 at 08:35 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Angela M. (Bonomo) Nassar.



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August 31, 2020 at 02:46 PM

TM

“ Angela was my dear organ teacher when I was 14 years old, a freshman at Utica Catholic Academy. She was also our choir director and her passing means a star in heaven has been lit for all eternity. I have not seen her or spoken with her in more than 50 years for I entered the Daughters of Charity and then the Monastery at New Skete in Albany, NY ... since 1981 I have lived in Brooklyn and have been unable to travel. I shall never forget Angela. When she had her first baby, I delighted in being her "adopted" baby sitter and spent many a happy hour in her wonderful home. Thanks to Angela, I was able through these long years to often play the organ, sing in or direct a choir, and never have I forgotten her or all she gave to all of us. May she rest in peace among the souls of the just and may her memory last forever. Sincere and heartfelt sympathy and greetings to her dear ones and may their grief be turned to joy and thanksgiving as they, with many others, reflect on the life and work of Angela and know that through this great woman, organist, teacher, choir director, singer, friend --- many lives were profoundly touched and brought closer to God. Farewell, dear Angela. YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE US OR OUR HEARTS ... FOR NOW YOU ARE IN THE FATHER'S HOME AND FROM THERE WE BEG YOUR INTERCESSION AND WE THANK GOD FOR YOU IN OUR LIVES!

- Theresa Mancuso, Brooklyn, New York

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Theresa M. Mancuso - August 31, 2020 at 02:44 PM