



## Anita (Santoro) Esper

July 14, 1958 - December 21, 2010

Mrs. Anita (Santoro) Esper, age 52, of North Utica, joined the choir of Angels when she passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 in the comfort of her home with the love and support of her family by her side.

Born in Utica on July 14, 1958, Anita was the daughter of the late Thomas A. and Jeanette (Nogas) Santoro. Raised and educated locally, she was a 1976 graduate of St. Francis De Sales High School. On June 28, 1980 she married Joseph P. Esper with whom she shared 30 years; the cornerstone of their marriage was based on mutual respect, honest communication, commitment, and the depth of their love.

Anita worked at various area businesses, including St. Elizabeth Hospital, Coldwell Banker Realty as a secretary, the Utica Public Library, and lastly Calvary Cemetery as a receptionist. A graceful and elegant woman, she was also blessed with an unselfish nature and was a “servant to all”. Her presence and sincerity in her eyes reflected what was in her heart. She was private and independent, and she carried her burden with such strength and composure. Anita’s motherly instinct defined her as a true family woman, and when her loved ones gathered for special occasions it made her so happy. She held her personal spirituality in the depth of her soul and she was a communicant of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Anita is survived by her husband, Joe; and her daughter, Angela C. Esper of N.Utica. She was anticipating the birth of a granddaughter in several months, “Emily Grace”. She cherished in her heart the memory of her granddaughter,

Marlana Natalie, who passed away on October 17, 2007. She will also be missed by her sisters and brothers-in-law, Annette Santoro and Mark Punzi of Utica, Debbie and Michael Kowalczyk of Whitesboro, and Celeste and Bill Boris of VA; her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws, Carmen F. Esper, and Tony and Joseanne Esper, and Patty Esper; and her dear and loyal friends, Ella, Marjie, and Ruby. She was predeceased by her in-laws, Anthony and Natalie Esper, and David Esper, Sr. The family is grateful to Dr. Richard Cherny of Syracuse, and the staff at the Regional Cancer Center at Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center, especially Annie Flagg; thanks also to Fr. Abe Esper, Fr. Amedeo Guida, and Fr. Richard Dellos for their spiritual guidance; and Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. for their compassion, especially the dedication of Navaz, whose presence made all the difference.

Visitation will be held Wednesday (today) from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Anita's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Thursday morning at 11:00 from the funeral home and at 12:00 noon at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered.

Committal prayers will take place at Christ Our Savior Chapel with interment to follow in Calvary Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2727

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com  
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

## Service

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com  
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

## Service

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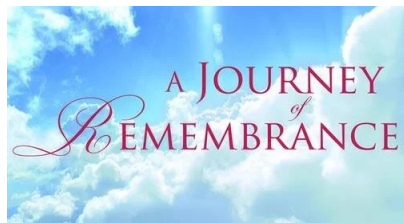
DEC **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish  
648 Jay Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-1482  
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Anita (Santoro) Esper*



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**Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.** - December 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *It's probably safe to say December 21, 2010 was one of the hardest days of my life. Watching my best friend and mother suffer so much and finally be taken from us as a repercussion just simply wasn't fair. It never gets easier, though they all said it would. Mom, I love you with all of my heart and I miss you more each day, especially as Em gets older. You were taken way too soon, even you knew that. Miss you:( <3angela and punkin \**

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**angela** - May 06, 2013 at 11:41 AM

GW

“ *Annette, I am profoundly sorry for your lose Geo.*

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**George wolstenholme** - January 15, 2011 at 11:29 AM



“ Heidi Pettengill lit a candle in memory of Anita (Santoro) Esper



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Heidi Pettengill - December 22, 2010 at 04:36 PM



“ Joe, Angela and the Santoro girls-  
I'm so sorry about Anita's passing. Just the other day I was telling my husband about how I was a flower girl in your wedding. I'm sorry I won't be able to make it to NY in time for the services but please know you are in my heart and on my mind.

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Kathleen Williamson - December 22, 2010 at 03:17 PM



“ Annette-  
Although the years have taken us in very different directions I will always have a special place in my heart for your family. I am saddened by the loss of your sister Anita. She was a kind and caring person a characteristic instilled in all of you by your beloved mother. I have fond childhood memories of sitting at the dinner table with all of you and feeling like I had three more sisters! My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.  
-Carlene

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Carlene Mahanna - December 22, 2010 at 02:07 PM



“ Joe and Angela, I am so sorry to hear about Anita's passing. I have so many fun memories of her when we were at Grandma and Dziadziu's house. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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Carisa Osvaldik - December 22, 2010 at 11:45 AM

MA

“ Celeste - I am so very sorry to hear of your sister's passing. I remember meeting Anita at your house when you and I were friends in high school. I extend my sincere sympathy to you and all of your family for this tragic loss and pray that your faith will help all of you through this difficult time. Her suffering has now ended and may she enjoy eternal happiness in heaven. Sincerely, Melissa (Zurakowski) Acquaviva

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**Melissa Acquaviva** - December 22, 2010 at 09:22 AM

SF

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I worked with Anita at the Utica Public Library.  
Anita was a lovely lady. I will miss her.  
May God Bless this family.

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**Saveria Fuller** - December 22, 2010 at 08:08 AM

LL

“ I didn't really know Anita, but her sister Debbie is my sister-in-law, and I know how much Debbie loved her and will miss her. Paul and I are very sorry for the loss of this very special person, and our love and prayers go out to the family, and especially to Debbie. May God bless this family and lift them up during their time of sorrow. Love,  
Linda

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**Linda Losier** - December 21, 2010 at 05:51 PM