



## Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa

June 2, 1930 - September 21, 2016

Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa, age 86, passed away on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 in the comfort of her home with her family by her side. Born in Utica on June 2, 1930, Clara was the daughter of the late Frank and Anna (Contento) Bendino. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1948, and she remained active with her classmates and participated in reunions throughout the years. On June 28, 1952, Clara married her high school sweetheart, Angelo Papa. They were best friends and a perfect match. They were blessed because they chose to share each day together filled with companionship, love, concern, and devotion. After 63 years of marriage her beloved Ang passed away on March 26, 2016. Her loved ones take solace in knowing that they are together again and had only been separated for nearly 6 months.

Clara was the best mom and homemaker. She kept a tidy house, walked her children to school, had meals on the table, and carried on those traditions with the next generation. Her maternal nature and charity of heart were focused on the wellbeing of her family and even extended to her in-laws, as she was their caretaker and loved them as her own. In turn, she was admired by her family for her intuition, instinct, and intelligence. God made Clara a very special woman. She looked after her family and friends and they trusted her advice and confidentiality. Her energy was boundless, and laughter and silly moments brightened her day. She really had a gift for hospitality and the doors to her home were always open and her table was set as visitors were

welcomed and treated to a banquet. Her cooking and baking were prepared with pride in the old tradition using the bounty from her beautiful garden as ingredients.

Clara had a spirituality that was a comfort to people who looked to her for solace and support because of her deep faith. She was an honorable woman and she never wanted anything in return for a kindness. When her children were in school, she was active with the Parent/Teacher Association, and in most recent years, she faithfully attended her grandson A.J.'s Notre Dame football games. He was so proud to see his "Mimi" in the bleachers cheering him on. Clara had many interests. She could mend anything with her sewing machine and she crocheted delicate items as well. Creating ceramics was her favorite hobby and she gave items as gifts made with love. She also made macramé baskets and handmade Christmas ornaments. She loved to travel to Florida, especially on their family venture to Disney World. Her family camp at Verona Beach at Oneida Lake was a special summer getaway, and her summertime trips to Lake George and Saratoga were memorable. And every year she enjoyed time spent at the great New York State Fair. She enjoyed games of chance, the Casino, and supporting the family horses that ran at Vernon Downs Racetrack. Clara was devoted to her Catholic faith as a communicant of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where she participated in Tuesday Novenas. She made pilgrimages to Three Rivers, St. Ann's Shrine, and St. Joseph's Shrine in Canada, as well as many other religious and cultural gatherings. She honored St. Cosmos and Damiano and it is meaningful that today is the last day of the annual feast in their honor.

Clara is survived by her son, Angelo E. Papa, Jr. She cherished the memory of her son, Honorable Louis F. "Louie" Papa who passed away on April 22, 2013. She also leaves her grandson, Angelo "A.J." Papa III and his mother Cyndi Papa; and her sisters and brother-in-law, Betty Bendino, Alice Bendino, and Eleanor and Robert "Bob" Leone. She will also be remembered by her nieces and nephews, especially Annette Moore who was also her goddaughter and was like a daughter to her, as well as Annette's husband

Eddie, who lived above Aunt & Unc for many years. She was very close to their children especially Kelly Moore whom she helped take care of from when she was a baby and was like a grandchild to her; also Lucille Duniec who supported and comforted Clara with love; her great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, Donna Bendino, and Louis F. and Nancy Papa; and a kind and devoted family friend, Doreen Camerona. She was predeceased by her brother, Nicholas Bendino; her sister, Marie E. Bendino; and her in-laws, Philomena and Samuel Garfola, Josephine "Red" and John Donato, Gloria and Edward Schrader, Lucy and Peter Duniec Sr., Joseph L. and Clara Papa, Edward Papa, and Dominick "Red" Papa.

The family extends their appreciation to Dr. Joseph Booth for his time and attention to both Clara and her late husband; Dr. Scott Brehaut for his concern for her wellbeing; the personnel of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. who made it possible for Clara to return to her own home during her final journey; her sisters, Alice, and Betty who shared a home and were excellent caregivers; and her sister Eleanor who tended to her other needs with great devotion; a thank you also to Fr. Anthony P. LaFache who would come and pray with Clara.

Visitation will be held Sunday afternoon from 2:00-5:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. in lieu of flowers; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Clara's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 9:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark Kaminski. Committal Prayers and Interment will follow graveside in Calvary Cemetery.

"I don't know honey, Chi scaccia"...

# Cemetery Details

## **Calvary Cemetery**

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

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ In 1967 I married into the Schrader. Gloria Papa Schrader became my sister in-law. It was then I met the Papa Family. All of them. I remember her beautiful smile, her loving caring ways with everyone who had the honor of walking through the doors of their home. You were always welcome, you became family. Deeply saddened to read of her passing, however, she is now back in the arms of her loving and devoted husband Angelo. Her faith was everything to her, and she truly did God's work here on earth. In her, He is well pleased.

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**Beverly Yero Schrader** - September 25, 2016 at 11:17 AM

BS

“ Beverly Yero Schrader lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa



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**Beverly Yero Schrader** - September 25, 2016 at 11:11 AM

JT

“ Angelo & Family - Stephen and I send our sincere condolences to you and your family. May God bless all of you during this time. Jackie & Stephen Teti (Doreen Camerona's sister and brother in law).

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**Jackie Teti** - September 25, 2016 at 08:35 AM

SC

“ Susan Schrader & Cheryl, Angie & Christine purchased the Pink & White Standing Open Heart for the family of Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa.



Susan Schrader & Cheryl, Angie & Christine - September 24, 2016 at 12:46 PM

CM

“ I'll never forget the laughs we'd all share as a family around your kitchen table. The stories and just hours of conversations and laughing. You always supported me in whatever I took on in life and I knew I could always count on your love. I am a better person today for having known you and for having been loved by you. You are simply wonderful. I will miss your cards, kind thoughts and of course, all of us gathered around that kitchen table on Blandina Street. I'll hold those memories dear to my heart and look forward to you seeing you again on the other side.  
Love you so much and may God Bless Angelo and AJ.  
Cheryl (Zaglaniczny) Murphy

Cheryl Murphy - September 24, 2016 at 11:54 AM

CM

“ Cheryl Murphy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa



Cheryl Murphy - September 24, 2016 at 11:50 AM

CP

“ So much I could say about how wonderful you are Aunt Clara. You have washed my clothes, fed me, talked with me and supported me in so many ways. Truly one of gods greatest creations and I will always remember you. Rest In Peace and enjoy the family gathering up above. Your nephew, Carmen Papa



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**Carmen Papa** - September 23, 2016 at 07:26 PM

CP

“ So much I could say about how wonderful you are Aunt Clara. You have washed my clothes, fed me, talked with me and supported me in so many ways. Truly one of gods greatest creations and I will always remember you. Rest In Peace and enjoy the family gathering up above. Your nephew, Carmen Papa

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**Carmen Papa** - September 23, 2016 at 07:24 PM

SG

“ Love you Aunt Clara. I have many fond memories of the huge Papa gatherings on Blandina St, Hammond Ave and Verona Beach. My last favorite memory was of you and Uncle Angelo at my daughters wedding on the Jersey Shore and of course a drive that weekend to Atlantic City for some slot machine action ! RIP dear Aunt for you are in good hands with Unc, Louie and all our deceased family members ....

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**SAM (Butch) Garfola** - September 23, 2016 at 05:10 PM

SM

“ Such an amazing lady--difficult to capture in words. She made everyone's life better just by knowing her. God Bless you, Aunt Clara--you are already dearly missed....

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**sharon marshall** - September 23, 2016 at 05:04 PM

TM

“ *Tina Mahoney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa*



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**Tina Mahoney** - September 23, 2016 at 03:31 PM

AM

“ *Ann Marie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Clara A. (Bendino) Papa*



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**Ann Marie** - September 23, 2016 at 07:40 AM

AP

“ *God Bless you Angelo and A J , Aunt Clara was special to me & my brother Carmen growing up. She was beautiful inside and out. We love you all.*



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**Angeline Papa** - September 23, 2016 at 07:31 AM

LD

“ Angelo and family,

*There are so many memories too numerous to count. The birthday parties, the sponge cakes, the holiday baking, Aunt Clara made everyone feel so special. I remember my mom, Lucy and her were together so much your mom would finish her thought and then they would laugh.*

*My mom only had to say a few syllables and your mom knew exactly where the conversation was going.*

*I will miss her dearly and will always think of her warm smile and her putting the coffee on. We have lost a wonderful person. I am so glad I had the privilege of being her niece.*

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**Lucille Duniec** - September 23, 2016 at 05:56 AM