



Mrs. Claudia A. (Cappuccia) Nivaggi

August 22, 1939 - January 21, 2019

UTICA – Mrs. Claudia A. (Cappuccia) Nivaggi, age 79, went peacefully to the Lord on Monday, January 21, 2019 when she passed away at the Siegenthaler Center.

Born in Minturno, Italy on August 22, 1939, Claudia was the daughter of the late Stefano and Elisabetta (Lepone) Cappuccia. She was raised and educated in Italy where she was employed as a hairdresser. She married Vincent (Jim) Nivaggi on October 8, 1961 in the Basilica di Santa Teresa in Anzio, Italy, a beautiful city near Rome, and in 1962 she immigrated to Utica. When she made her new home in Utica, she enjoyed taking morning walks through Proctor Park (for over 40 years), as a way to socialize and a means to maintain her health. She took pleasure in playing cards, particularly the game of 31, with her sister-in-law Lena, her dear nieces, and friends, a relaxing way to share an afternoon with loved ones and occupy her time. She became a devoted Yankees fan, and almost never missed watching a game.

Claudia and Jim explored the world together, traveling to six of the seven continents. They made many dear friends on their tours and would always bring back souvenirs and trinkets for their family. Claudia enjoyed learning about the customs and culture of people around the world and sharing her experiences when they returned.

True to her 'old world' roots, Claudia and Jim cultivated amazing vegetable and floral gardens, tended to their fig trees, and out of love for their family, pursued the labor intensive art of canning their homegrown bounty. Known for

her meticulously maintained home as well as for her baking and cooking, she was famous for her homemade blackberry brandy and her chocolate chip cookies. Claudia was happiest when she was cooking for her loved ones, especially for holidays and Sunday dinners.

A woman of deep faith, Claudia was very active in parish life at the former St. Agnes Church. She volunteered for many years in the cafeteria at St. Agnes School, was a member of their Altar Rosary Society, and worked many pizza frita sales and church bazaars. In her later years, she returned to her home parish of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel.

Claudia is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Vincent (Jim); her daughter Elisabetta and husband Michael DeGironimo; and her son Stefano Nivaggi and his fiancée Tamie White. She also leaves her cherished grandchildren: Jeffrey DeGironimo, Mia DeGironimo, Eric and Nicole White, and Cory and Kayla White; and her great-grandchildren, Selena and Maci White, and Weston and Colter White. She will also be remembered by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Nicandro and Paula Cappuccia, and Antonio and Lorena Cappuccia; many special nieces, especially Joanne Yacco; nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her sister Antonietta and husband Andrew Passarelli; and in-laws, Lena and Carmen Grasso, Angelina and Joseph Ducato, Josephine and Thomas Graziano, and John and Emily Nivaggi.

The family wishes to thank their family and friends, including neighbor Arzett Bosco, for their support; Dr. Scott Brehaut for his kindness and genuine concern; and the nurses and staff at the Siegenthaler Center and her home health caregivers Rosana, Jessica, Mary, and Rachel for the loving care they provided to Claudia since her stroke.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Claudia's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday afternoon at 12:30 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. James Cesta. In lieu of floral offerings, please consider a donation in Claudia's honor to Hospice & Palliative Care,

Inc. at <https://hospicecareinc.org/> or to the American Heart/American Stroke Foundation at <https://www.heart.org/>. Envelopes will be available at the service. Entombment will take place in Calvary Mausoleum at the convenience of the family.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN **26**. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay St
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Profondamente addolorati partecipiamo al Vostro dolore per la scomparsa della cara Claudia. Mario Cappuccia*

Mario Cappuccia - January 30, 2019 at 04:30 AM

DC

“ *Io personalmente non ti ho mai conosciuta però mi è sempre stato detto che eri una persona bellissima di animo nobile, ti ricorderò per quello che mi hanno raccontato. La distanza non ci ha mai permesso di conoscerci. Riposa in pace. Daria Cappuccia*

Daria Cappuccia - January 30, 2019 at 04:27 AM

KM

“ *I will miss this beautiful woman so much. Her and Jim always made my husband and I feel like family. Claudia and I would have the best conversations and we would laugh until we cried. She made the most wonderful meals with the freshest ingredients from her garden. She loved to see people enjoying her food. My husband Brian bragged to everyone about how Mrs. Nivaggi made the best Pizza, cookies, brandy, pusties, etc. Claudia was also known as the baby whisperer. She had such a way with children. She would just Beam when her grandchildren and great grandchildren would come around. It was pure joy to see her relationship with them. May Claudia rest in Paradise until we all meet again.*



Kristine Massocco - January 26, 2019 at 12:13 AM

DS

“ Stef, and the rest of this family, by reading your moms obituary, she was a remarkable mom and a great person may she rest in peace and so very sorry for your loss and stef i could see how you turned out to be a remarkable person in having a great mother like yours. with love, Diana and Bill Stefanovich

Diana and Bill Stefanovich - January 25, 2019 at 10:35 AM



“ Ciao Claudia ora che sei insieme a papà, mamma e Antonietta, spero che la pace che hai raggiunto possa in parte trasferirsi con noi. A Jimmy, Elisabetta e Stefano che ti hanno avuto vicino un forte abbraccio. Rimarrai per sempre nei nostri cuori e nelle nostre preghiere. Antonio, Lorena, Stefano ed Eleonora

Antonio Cappuccia - January 25, 2019 at 04:01 AM



“ Rosa Morales lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia A. (Cappuccia) Nivaggi

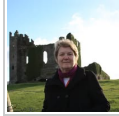


Rosa Morales - January 24, 2019 at 09:19 PM



Dear jim Liz and Stef and entire family! My condolences to you all in the loss of your dear one Claudia! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to know and hold her dear to my heart! Ti amo Bella! With my deepest sympathy! Rosana!

Rosa Morales - January 24, 2019 at 09:24 PM



Carissima Claudia mi rimarrai sempre nel cuore per la tua simpatia , la tua intelligenza e la tua generosità . Ho passato con te tante ore piacevoli a parlare di noi e delle nostre esperienze di vita, dei viaggi, della famiglia , dei nostri figli , dell'Italia e degli USA , di cui mi hai raccontato tante cose interessanti, e infine anche delle tue ricette , in particolare dei buonissimi dolci che sapevi fare. Sei un'amica speciale, indimenticabile : è stato un grande dono per me averti conosciuto a casa di Alba in occasione del matrimonio di Kaled e averti rivisto poi ogni volta che sono tornata in USA . Ti saluto e ti ricordo dalla tua Italia che tanto amavi e di cui parlavi con molto affetto e orgoglio. Ciao.
Anna Herrmann

Porgo sentite condoglianze a Jimmy , Elisabetta (che ringrazio per avermi tenuto costantemente informata) , Stefano e alle loro famiglie.

Anna Herrmann - January 25, 2019 at 03:25 AM

AB

“ *Claudia, nostra cara Claudia, quanto ci duole il cuore al pensiero di non poter più vedere il tuo dolce e gentile sorriso, abbracciarti e scambiare quattro chiacchiere come si era solito fare. Nonostante il gran vuoto che tu lasci, siamo contenti che tu sia in un posto migliore dove non dovrai più soffrire. Resterai sempre nei nostri cuori pieni d'amore per te e riconoscenti per tutto ciò che tu generosamente hai dato a noi tutti. Grazie, cara cugina e che il Signore ti benedica in eternità.*



Sentite condoglianze, Jimmy, Elisabetta, Stefano ed alle vostre famiglie. Vi vogliamo tanto bene e ci dispiace molto non potere essere con voi in un momento così triste.

Our deepest regrets for not being able to attend the services. We hope to see you in not too far distant future.

Alba & Soliman

Alba & Soliman Ben-Barka - January 24, 2019 at 05:52 PM

JR

“ *The Nivaggis lived next door to us on Blandina Street. We were family. I remember when Jim and Claudia arrived from Italy. Everyone was excited to see the new Mrs. C. Nivaggi. She was beautiful and oh how she could speech Italian. Rest In Peace dear Claudia. We will miss you. Sadly, Jane, Bob, John and Jackie*

Jane Reitinger - January 24, 2019 at 10:21 AM

SB

“ *Such a great obituary. Rest In Peace Mrs. Claudia. I was so glad and honored to see and meet her in person. She will be missed, I and Walid will never forget her great smile in our wedding.*

Sanaa & Walid Ben-Barka - January 24, 2019 at 10:15 AM

NS

“ *Beautiful tribute. I wish I could attend the services, but I will send my love with my father. May Claudia rest in peace with the Lord.*

Norma Cappuccia Sabol - January 24, 2019 at 10:01 AM

HM

“ *Dear Stef and Elisabetta,*

I've only seen your mom a couple of times, and in those times I found her to be the most caring, thoughtful, loving person. You both are in my thoughts.

Love & Hugs to you both,

Holly M. Massocco

Holly M. Massocco - January 23, 2019 at 07:01 PM