



## Mrs. Janice L. (Brezinski) Monescalchi

September 22, 1938 - October 8, 2016

Mrs. Janice L. (Brezinski) Monescalchi, age 78, was escorted by angels to the Lord in heaven above as she peacefully passed away on Saturday, October 8, 2016, at the Upstate Medical University Hospital with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on September 22, 1938, Janice was the daughter of the late Leo and Angela (Iezzi) Brezinski. She attended Wetmore Elementary School and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1956. You could count on her enthusiasm and involvement for her alma maters' reunions because she valued the friendships she formed there, fostered over the years, and always held close to her heart. On October 13, 1956, she married Anthony P. Monescalchi with whom she shared nearly 60 years. She had a great love for Anthony and a graceful way of catering to his every need. She loved him... no doubt about it. Her relationship began when she was a young lady and she lived with harmony in her heart and shared an unchallenged friendship with her lifelong partner.

Janice began her working life at the New York State Unemployment Office in the Claims Department where her grace and sensitivity found their way to people who were in stressful situations and seeking her professional guidance. All were met with a smile and a respectful desire to help. Janice subsequently accepted a position with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)/District Union Local One/Health Care Fund where she worked for 20 years processing members' claims. She held

her work ethic in high regard and was remembered by her administrators and co-workers for her energy and expertise. You could find Janice among those working at the election polls, for once again her heart was in the right place. Janice was a staunch defender of the defenseless, an attribute that was reflected in every facet of her life. Because she did things with love, all her endeavors were performed with perfection, out of goodness, not glory. Her home, like her, was warm and inviting, classy and timeless in appointment. She had a knack for decorating with style, especially for the holidays, and took pride in maintaining her house. She appreciated the beauty of nature and the walkway to her front door was lined with bands of blossoms that welcomed visitors with great friendliness. She loved to have family and friends to dinner and went all out cooking and baking incredible meals and desserts. She opened her heart and hearth to so many for so many years. Her humble, benevolent nature allowed her to see the best in others, and as a mother, she taught this by example. She was mindful of her children's merits and reminded them to be aware of others' feelings. As a young mom, she was vibrant and music filled her home as she played with her children in creative ways. Even the neighborhood kids knew of her love. Because Janice and Tony were young grandparents, they loved to babysit and attended all their grandchildren's events. They counseled them through tough moments in life and their love knew no bounds. They were blessed again when they became great-grandparents.

In her younger years, Janice traveled with family and friends to memorable destinations, especially her trips to Italy. She was a frugal shopper and was the quintessential window shopper. Janice loved the outdoors and she so enjoyed visiting her daughter and son-in-law at their camp at Otter Lake where she found a moment to relax, observe woodland wildlife, and take in nature in this little piece of heaven surrounded by the sweet scent of cedar and pine.

Her Catholic creed was the center of her life. A lifetime member of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, she attended Tuesday night Novenas throughout her life

and was active when the school was in session. Her priority was to offer the children of that parish the benefit of her warm heart in endless deeds. As a faithful parishioner she volunteered herself in many capacities including the annual feast, fish-fry Fridays, and the basket festival for which she was an instrumental committee member. She was a silent giver and never looked for recognition, due to her love of the Lord. She was involved in the preparation of these events, attended the activities, and consistently joined the clean-up crew. Janice lived a wonderful life that was interwoven with the lives of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They adored her and will keep her memory alive. They are brokenhearted that she had to leave, but they “promised her” they would carry on her traditions and live by the lessons they learned through her love.

Janice is survived by her husband, Tony; her children and their loves, Cathy and Anthony “Tony” Nicotera, Dario Monescalchi, Michael J. Monescalchi Sr. and fiancée Tracey Rex, and Carla Costello. Janice put credence in these words of wisdom from her beloved mother-in-law, “Each child is like a finger on your hand; each is different in its own way, but not more important than any of the others.” She also leaves her grandchildren, Marisa and Brett Cardillo, John Nicotera; Michael J. Monescalchi Jr., Anthony P. Monescalchi, and their mother Natalie Monescalchi; and Janice L. Costello. She was also Nonnie to her great-grandchildren, Maggie, and Nicholas Cardillo. She also will be remembered by her in-laws, who have been a great source of love in her life, and she held them in her heart and never forgot them, Dario Monescalchi, Lydia Cofano, and Linda Monescalchi; also left to remember her are her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. She had a host of wonderful, lifelong friends, but she also made new friendships daily. She created a legacy of kindness and loyalty in those she loved, and even though they were numerous, each one was important. She was predeceased by her sister, Beverly A. Brezinski; her son-in-law, Brian Costello; her in-laws, Anthony and Primina Monescalchi, Joseph and Josephine Monescalchi,

Albert Monescalchi, infant Annunzio Monescalchi, Rosemary Monescalchi, and Jack Cofano; and her nephew, Anthony Monescalchi.

The family extends special gratitude to Dr. Fred Talarico and Pat Rosati/NP, who earned the friendship and respect of Janice who was their longtime patient; Dr. Teresa Gentile who is incredibly kind and a credit to her profession; the staff at Upstate Medical University Hospital/Oncology Unit who were truly compassionate in their care of Janice and her family. Their manner was so comforting and gentle that the family forever will hold them in respect and dignity; Fr. Mark Kaminski, her pastor, whose prayers and visits were of great comfort; and Deacon Bill DiSchiavo, a lifelong friend whom she dearly cherished.

Janice's life will be honored and commemorated at a private time. Relatives and friends respectfully are invited to attend her funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday morning at 11:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Fr. Arthur Krawczenko. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church in lieu of floral offerings; envelopes will be available at the service.

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ Thank you everyone for your kind words and condolences. Everyone's kind words and prayers are truly comforting and genuinely helps during this sad and most difficult time. I am very proud to be my mother's daughter. My mom was the very best mother and I miss her each and every day. Carla Monescalchi Costello

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**Carla Costello** - March 30, 2017 at 08:45 PM

SC

“ Tony - So sorry to hear of your loss - I was in Italy with the church trip. Janice was a warm and beautiful woman - and I am sorry I didn't know her longer.

*Tony & Sandra Plescia Cotrupe*

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**Sandra Cotrupe** - October 23, 2016 at 08:10 AM

MR

“ *Carla and Family:*

*I'm very sorry to learn about the passing of your mom. May beautiful memories of her live-on through all of you.*

*Sincerely,  
Marcia Reesh*

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**Marcia Reesh** - October 22, 2016 at 12:08 AM

MD

“ Tony, Cathy, Dario, Mike, Carla & Families, I am so sorry to hear of Janice's passing. I have so many memories of her while growing up on Eleanor Place. I can still picture her sitting at our kitchen table late at night while she and my Mom drank coffee, or walking outside only to find her on a ladder painting something or decorating. Your home always looked perfect. She was a wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

*Melanie DiPerna-Cortese*

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**Melanie DiPerna-Cortese** - October 16, 2016 at 08:04 AM

KZ

“ Dario, I am so sorry for your tremendous loss.

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**kathy zacek-torbitt** - October 15, 2016 at 09:15 PM



Anthony  
Macera

“ Mike and family,

*We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept our condolences to you and your family.*

*Anthony & Kim Macera*

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**Anthony Macera** - October 15, 2016 at 06:53 AM

CS

“ Mike, Sorry to hear of your mom's passing.

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**Charlie Smith** - October 14, 2016 at 03:54 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janice L. (Brezinski) Monescalchi.*



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October 14, 2016 at 02:11 PM



“ *Dario,  
Very sorry to hear about the passing of your Mom.*

*Maryann (LaComb) Moore*

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**Maryann** - October 14, 2016 at 01:50 PM



“ *Mike I'm very sorry to hear of your Mother's passing! Please accept my sincere condolences to you and your family!*  
*Maureen Nardacci*

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**Maureen Nardacci** - October 14, 2016 at 12:37 PM



“ Tony & family,  
I can't find enough words to express my sorrow when I read about Janice's passing.  
I worked with her for many years at UFCW and she was a beautiful friend. So energetic, so gracious and giving of her time and talents. She was a dedicated, dependable co-worker and we had many laughs. I am so sorry for your loss. Heaven has truly gained an Angel. May she rest in peace and may you all find strength that she is now watching over you. My condolences to all.

*Karen Rumbutis Gilot*

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**Karen Gilot** - October 13, 2016 at 03:09 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janice L. (Brezinski) Monescalchi.



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October 13, 2016 at 07:17 AM

GO

“ Tony and Family, I was so shocked to hear of the loss of Janice, what a wonderful woman, I have been wanting to stop over to see you and Janice to have lunch and just say hi, the time goes by so fast and I have had you both in my thoughts. I did enjoy coming over to see you and have lunch and just talk about the good old days. Janice was always so nice when you came over to see her for lunch ,you never left there hungry. It was so nice to talk to her after mom died because we could talk about the past and she made me feel good even through the darkest times. I will never forget all the love she showed when Dad,David and Mom died she was the best. I will miss you Janice but know I have had such great memories of you from when I was a child till my my most recent years. You always opened your house to all of us and that is something I will treasure forever. Janice rest in peace and Tony and family you are all in my thoughts and prayers through this rough time. I just want to say what a pleasure it was to know Janice and your whole family and she will be missed by so many. Janice again rest in peace

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**Gary Ollerenshaw** - October 12, 2016 at 08:11 PM

GO

“ Gary Ollerenshaw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janice L. (Brezinski) Monescalchi



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**Gary Ollerenshaw** - October 12, 2016 at 07:52 PM

CM

“ Tony, Kathy and family....I am so very sorry for the loss of your "mom", who was a co-worker of mine long ago. She was always a "lady" and I can remember the energy I admired in her. She always had a kind word or a helping hand to lend. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Prayers of healing sent your way.

Cheryl Mondri - October 12, 2016 at 07:17 PM

BE

“ Dear Tony & Family!! i can't tell you how sorry we are for your great loss. Tony ist been a long time since I walked into your homey kitchen. I LIKE THIS SAYING!! Friends are like stars,you might not always see them,but you always know they are there. Thats how it was with Jan & I. WHEN WE SAW EACH OTHER WE talked like we saw each other all the time. her beautiful obituary was all her for sure & her family were her jewels. She came to see me with the girls when I had my heart surgery,Im sure with a great dessert,that was Jan. She like came out of the woodwork when you had something wrong LOL Im happy that God choose her as one of his Angels & didnt let her suffer. Rest in Peace Jan. GOD bless LUV Beverly & Fred Abounader

beverlypaciello - October 12, 2016 at 04:08 PM

JR

“ Jacqueline R. purchased the Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mrs. Janice L. (Brezinski) Monescalchi.



Jacqueline R. - October 12, 2016 at 01:49 PM

SD

“ Mike,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I pray that the love  
of God, family and friends help you and yours  
during this difficult time.  
Sandy Cameron DeJohn



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**Sandy Cameron DeJohn** - October 12, 2016 at 01:34 PM

CP

“ Tony and family, Please accept my condolences. My prayers are  
with you and your family at this very sad time.

Sincerely

Cissy Durso Pastorella

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**Cissy Pastorella** - October 11, 2016 at 09:17 AM

BO

“ Tony and family, my deepest condolences. Johnny called this  
morning and I knew it wasn't a good call just by his voice. My heart  
sank as he told me about Janice. Janice was like a second mother  
to my brothers and myself over the years. She was an absolute  
sweetheart and will be missed dearly. I will do my best to get to  
Utica Saturday morning to pay my respects to her and the family.  
We all have a deep faith that was given to us by our families, and  
with that faith I know she is looking down on everyone with that  
beautiful smile of hers. May she RIP.

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**Bobby Ollerenshaw** - October 11, 2016 at 08:09 AM

HH

*Mike, my condolences. You represent the best of your Mother. You and your family members will forever carry in your hearts her loving spirit and all the wonderful memories you created together. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Helena (Heath), your friend always*

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**Helena Heath** - October 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM

JD

*“ My thoughts & heartfelt prayers go out to all of you with the passing of your beautiful mother. We came to know her, when my brother Daniel ( & Barbara) were your neighbors over the years. I always enjoyed waiting on Mrs.Monescalchi over many years in the mall.. She would love to tell me how proud she was of her children...she loved & adored her family ...this was always what she loved to chat about as I was cashing her out .May Jesus be with all of you during this very sad time ..You will now have a beautiful angel forever watching over you. Prayers are with you..from. Joanie DeGeorge & the DeGeorge family*



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**Joanie DeGeorge** - October 11, 2016 at 08:01 AM