



## Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina

September 15, 1928 - March 10, 2026

SCHUYLER, NY – Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina, age 97, gently passed on to her Lord and found her heavenly peace on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, surrounded by her faithful family.

Born in Utica on September 15, 1928, Mary was the daughter of the late Pasquale “Patsy” Sr. and Fortunata “Florence” (Rocco) Leone. She attended Utica Schools.

On October 7, 1950, she joined in holy matrimony with Rosario “Charlie” Digristina. The two of them were a seamless pair – their love always a constant harmony. From their earliest years together, their marriage was built on love, trust, and respect. Even after Charlie’s passing, his love for Mary remained a guiding light, which inspired her children and shaped a legacy of strength, love, and the importance of family values. Charlie passed away on June 8, 1995, after 45 beautiful years of marriage.

Together, Mary and Charlie owned and operated Charlie Digristina and Sons Produce at their original Home Farm, as well as operating the Holiday Motel.

Mary was a woman who seemed to belong to an era when character was just as important as beauty, and she possessed both. Mary was born into a large family. She was one of 13 siblings, yet Mary still stood apart due to how she

carried herself with a natural confidence that made others take notice.

Mary was no one's fool. She possessed a keen mind and a graceful way of speaking that reflected both love and kindness. Many remembered Mary for her calm and composed manner, but those who knew her best understood that her true strength lay in her judgment, her dignity, and the quiet confidence with which she carried herself through life. Whether caring for her family or welcoming customers at the businesses along Herkimer Road in Schuyler, Mary moved with purpose and intention. Customers trusted her not only because she served them well, but because she treated each person with a sincerity that could not be imitated. She understood people—knowing when to listen, when to guide, and when to stand firm.

Family was the center of her world. She cared for them with a devotion that never needed to be announced; it simply lived in her daily actions—in the way she kept things in order, offered wise counsel, and made sure everyone felt seen and valued. There was a quiet strength about Mary, the kind that does not fade with time. She belonged to a generation that believed in responsibility and perseverance, and she carried those values with distinction throughout her life.

Women like Mary are not easily replaced; there will always be a feeling in those who knew her that a truly remarkable woman once touched their lives in a unique and meaningful way. To coin a couple of Mary's phrases, "39 forever-at heart," and whenever anyone said, "I love you," her response was, "I love you more."

Being surrounded by her family soothed her soul and gave her a wonderful quality of life. She showered her love on her 5 children, 15 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. She was affectionately known as "Grandma" to her family and was blessed to enjoy each generation of her loved ones, who filled

her heart with joy.

For her whole, long life, Mary was a dedicated woman of faith, hope, and love, who exemplified strength and courage in all things she experienced. Her parents set the stage with their spiritual guidance, teaching her to know the love of Our Lord. She had unwavering faith and stood firm in her beliefs. She constantly prayed with her rosary and always had a personal prayer book by her side. There was no question—it was written in stone—that she knew she would one day be reunited with the love of her life, Charlie.

Mary is survived by her devoted children and their spouses: Vincent and Brenda Digristina; Flo Russo and Robin “Bernie” Lindsay; Russell and Janice Digristina; Cindy and Pat Magro; and Charlie and Danielle Digristina. She treasured her grandchildren: Valecia and Luigi Stocchetti; Philip and Rina Russo, Michael Russo, Regina Russo, Noelle and Paul Santos, and their father, Phil Russo Sr.; Santina and Brett Hughes; Christina and Matt Mazur; Sabrina Digristina; and the late Christina Digristina; Francesca Magro, Salvatore Magro, and Stefano and Amra Magro; twin brothers Rosario and Charlie, Vincenzo Digristina, and Wilfredo Gonzales; and her adored great-grandchildren: Giuliana and Luca; Anastasia and fiancé Michael Chiarito, and Giavanna; Landon, Peyton, and Hudson; Aaliyah and Elijah; and Aria and Luca. Her loss is also felt by her sister, Angeline “Shirley” Cannistra (and the late Frank A. Cannistra), and her brother and sister-in-law: Russell F. and Laura Jean Leone, and Violet A. Leone. She held close the memory of her siblings and their spouses who preceded her: Carmella and John Caputo; Theresa M. and Alfred Stivali; Lena H. Bruzzese Papa and her first husband, Paul Bruzzese, as well as her second husband, Anthony Papa; Kathryn and Frank Delia; Victor C. Sr. and Carmella “Cora” Leone; Rocco A. Sr. and Angeline Leone; Frank Sr. and Grace Leone; Joseph V. Sr. and Flora Leone; Patsy L. Leone, Jr.; and Antonio “Anthony” Sr. and Dorothy Leone. Mary was

also blessed with many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and sisters-in-law: Rose Juliano (the late Joseph Juliano); Clara Lidano (the late Joseph Lidano); and Cecelia Amey (the late Bill Amey). She cherished many lifelong friendships and was additionally preceded by her in-laws: Leo and Clara Digristina; Nancy and Anthony Spohn; and Mary and Dominick "Mickey" Gerace.

It takes a special love, compassion, and devotion to care for one another as we age. Had it not been for the trust and close bond she shared with her daughters, Flo and Cindy, and their spouses, Bernie and Pat, Mary's later years would have been much more challenging. Their siblings are truly grateful and will never forget their care and devotion. Special thanks are also extended to her caregiver Jessica, and the assistance of Nancy and Maddie, who were so dear and special to Mary.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The Digristina family graciously accepts floral offerings or memorial contributions in Mary's name may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital online at [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate); envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Mary's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. Interment will take place alongside her beloved Charlie in West Schuyler Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

**West Schuyler Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**MAR 17.** 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>

### Funeral Service

**MAR 18.** 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church  
422 Tilden Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-1177  
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ My heartfelt and deepest sympathy to the Leone-Degrissima Families for the loss of my wonderful cousin Mary. Mary was a true legend who has definitely left her mark on the hearts of everyone who ever met her. My heart breaks over her loss. She will be deeply missed.

*May she be surrounded by angels forevermore.*

*Jeanne Castronovo*

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**Jeanne Castronovo** - March 18 at 08:00 AM

PL

“ Our heartfelt condolences to To ALL of my Digrissima cousins and their families. May God Bless you all. Aunt Mary was indeed a verry special person. She always showed how much she loved everybody, especially her family. There's a phrase we use in the sports word that identifies Aunt Mary to a T. That word is "generational talent". Yes, indeed, she was a "generational" matriarch loved by many. Her love had no bounds, it was unprecedented. She got it from her mother and passed it on to her children and grandchildren. She always saw the positive in every situation. Her care and concern for people was noticeable the minute she met you. She was steadfast in her ways. Everything she did had a purpose. Even if you disagreed with her, she won you over, lovingly, without you knowing you just moved over to her side. Ha! I will miss her. I adored her from afar, since most of my adult years, I spent away from the area. I'm happy for her, since she gets to rejoin the love of her life, her husband Charlie, in spiritual bliss. You DESERVE IT ALL Aunt Mary. I love you and will never forget you. God Bless!

*Godson Pat & Anne Leone  
(Monroe, Georgia)*

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**Pat and Anne Leone** - March 17 at 06:04 PM

MB

“ Marie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.

Marie B. - March 17 at 03:46 PM

TK

“ The Kost's purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



The Kost's - March 17 at 03:11 PM

TK

“ The Kost's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.

The Kost's - March 17 at 03:11 PM

RD

“ Roslyn High School Counseling Department purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



Roslyn High School Counseling Department - March 16 at 07:35 PM

RD

“ Roslyn High School Counseling Department planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.

Roslyn High School Counseling Department - March 16 at 07:35 PM

FF

“ Fish Foodies purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



Fish Foodies - March 16 at 01:30 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



March 16 at 10:16 AM

GF

“ Giammarino, Pereira, Zullo & Santos Fam purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



Giammarino, Pereira, Zullo & Santos Fam - March 15 at 09:06 PM

MJ

“ *Magro Families of Stefano, Vinny & Joe purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.*



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**Magro Families of Stefano, Vinny & Joe** - March 15 at 04:07 PM

DP

“ *D'Anne R Paratore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina*



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**D'Anne R Paratore** - March 15 at 02:19 PM

FM

“ *Russ and family:  
Very sorry to hear about your mother. What a terrific lady who raised a wonderful family. I'm sure she is very proud of you and your siblings. Warm thoughts and prayers for you all. God Bless the entire family.  
Frank Martello  
Ormond Beach, FL*

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**Frank Martello** - March 15 at 09:01 AM

MS

“ *Mike and Debbie Sawanec purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.*



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**Mike and Debbie Sawanec** - March 14 at 08:38 PM

LR

“ Love, Nikki, David, Alessandra & Ross purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



Love, Nikki, David, Alessandra & Ross - March 14 at 03:47 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



March 13 at 09:19 PM

KL

“ My deepest condolences to the whole Digristina family. Mary was an amazing person, I pray for peace for you all!!

Kimberly Lindsay - March 13 at 06:28 PM

VG

“ Dear Russ, Janice and Family,  
We are so very sorry to hear of the loss of your dear mother. Losing our mother is one of the hardest sorrows to face. The times we met your mom, she was the sweetest kindest woman always smiling. May the loving memories you shared be a comfort to you now.  
All our sympathies  
Chuck and Vita

vita gaetano - March 13 at 02:28 PM

JB

“ John Feimer and Boys purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



John Feimer and Boys - March 13 at 02:27 PM

JB

“ John Feimer and Boys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.

John Feimer and Boys - March 13 at 02:27 PM

WD

“ With Love, Dan & Cathy DeSimone purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



With Love, Dan & Cathy DeSimone - March 13 at 12:55 PM

FF

“ Fetterly family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



Fetterly family - March 13 at 11:53 AM

FF

“ Fetterly family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.

Fetterly family - March 13 at 11:53 AM

TK

“ Tina Khuro purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Mrs. Mary V. (Leone) Digristina.



Tina Khuro - March 13 at 11:42 AM

DK

“ Dear Flo, Charlie, and Families, Our deepest condolences on the loss of your beloved Mom. May the beautiful memories she left you carry you all through this difficult time.

*In Sympathy,  
Mike, Dawn(Korzec) and Mason Carpenter*



Dawn Korzec-Carpenter - March 13 at 11:29 AM

TL

*What a beautiful tribute to your mom. My deepest condolences for your loss. Mary was indeed a beautiful soul, prayers of comfort for you & your family.*

Tina Leiby - March 13 at 11:55 AM

DL

*Aunt Mary will be missed by everyone. She was a precious one of a kind woman. My fondest memory was when Liz and I went to visit her at your house Flo. When she asked where Rick was and I told her he was working. It was heartwarming that she remembered him even in difficult times! She'll always hold a special place in my heart as will all of your family. Love and prayers to all of you. 🙏💕*

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**Donna Leone** - March 13 at 02:03 PM