



Mrs. Theresa J. (Martelli) Sportelli

November 8, 1932 - March 1, 2025

UTICA – Mrs. Theresa J. (Martelli) Sportelli, age 92, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Born in Utica on November 8, 1932, Theresa was the daughter of the late Ralph A. and Rose J. (Brigano) Martelli. She attended local schools.

On September 4, 1950, she joined in matrimony with Frank A. Sportelli. The couple shared a beautiful and devoted union of over 59 years prior to Frank's passing on April 11, 2010.

At one time, Theresa was involved with the family business – Sportelli Supermarket, which was located on South St. The main focus of Theresa's existence was her family. She always put others before herself, had a fastidious demeanor, and everything she engaged in was always done meticulously. She never did anything halfway, always putting her best foot forward and doing things right the first time.

In her free time, Theresa nurtured many hobbies, particularly caring for her marvelous flower gardens. She was also renowned as a phenomenal cook – her Italian pepper and Christmas cookies were particularly famous, and she always made a delicious sausage roll! She was a whiz with a needle and sewing machine, producing many beautiful needlework projects. She also

enjoyed attending her bible classes and relished the simple joy of sitting on her front porch. Theresa was an avid and competitive league bowler and participated in league bowling for many years. One of her catch phrases that will be remembered by all was, "Don't be fresh!"

A devout Catholic, Theresa was a proud member of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where she was heavily involved in the parish's activities, including acting as a eucharistic minister. As her faith taught her, she always put others before herself, including the many close relationships she formed at church. These dear souls also became a part of her "family."

Theresa is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Vito J. and Donna G. Sportelli. She cherished the memory of her son, Ralph A. Sportelli, who passed away on May 27, 1992. She will also be missed by her grandson and his wife Patrick F. and Michelle Sportelli; great-grandchildren, Sophia Sportelli, and Joseph Sportelli; sister, Angela Paolozzi (the late Joseph A. Paolozzi, Jr.); and brother and sister-in-law, Dominick F. and Kathleen Martelli. She fondly remembered her sister and brother-in-law who preceded her, Ellena M. and Norman H. Snogles, Jr. Her loss is additionally felt by many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; and many special friends, especially Rose Marie Chiffy, Terri Panuccio, Rose Bucciero, and Sam and Ellie. She was additionally predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Vito J. "Vic" and Palma Rose (Convertino) Sportelli; brother-in-law, Angelo D. Sportelli; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Vita and Joseph D. Brigano.

The Sportelli family would like to extend their gratitude to Theresa's personal physician Dr. Scott Brehaut and Danielle Patrei from his office for their care and compassion. Thanks are also due to Theresa's caregivers and home care aides Suzana, and Mimi, for their loving care.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Theresa's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 684 Jay St. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Funeral Service

MAR 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Vito, Donna, and family,
Sharan and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family.
It was wonderful to know your mom. May her Name be for a
blessing.
Sharan and Mitch Bonder

MITCH BONDER - April 19, 2025 at 09:27 AM

LM

“ Vito and family. It has been way too long since I have seen your
Mom. I have lots of fond memories of her, your Dad and my Mom-
one of her dearest friends Chancy DeLuca Mattison. Seeing her
photo in this obituary brings great memories of her twinkling eyes
warm personality and great energy I will always remember when I
think of her. DePeyster Ave will never be the same. I know when
she reaches the pearly gates, Ralphie will be there with open arms-
both will be missed but remembered well. Stay strong. God Bless.

Lisa Mattison - March 08, 2025 at 10:46 PM

SJ

“ Susan Martellotto Januszewski lit a candle in
memory of Mrs. Theresa J. (Martelli) Sportelli



Susan Martellotto Januszewski - March 07, 2025 at 10:40 PM

SJ

Although I am now living in New Hampshire, I will always hold
memories of Theresa and my Mt. Carmel family in my heart. Susan
Martellotto Januszewski "Nurse Susan"

Susan Martellotto Januszewski - March 07, 2025 at 10:41 PM

MF

“ Mike & Eleanor Franks purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Theresa J. (Martelli) Sportelli.



Mike & Eleanor Franks - March 04, 2025 at 01:03 PM

BO

“ Mrs. Sportelli was a very sweet lady and always shared a beautiful smile and a little kiss on the cheek in church. She'll be greatly missed at My Carmel. My condolences to the family. I'll keep her and you all in my prayers. May her soul RIP. 🙏🙏✝️💜

Bob Ollerenshaw - March 04, 2025 at 11:26 AM

EL

“ Eileen Long purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Theresa J. (Martelli) Sportelli.



Eileen Long - March 04, 2025 at 07:43 AM

FS

“ Vito and family, I am so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. Back in the day she opened her home to our crew and always treated us like one of her own. She was a beautiful woman and I will always remember her kindness. I'm sure we tested her patience many times but she hid it well. May she rest in peace.
Always, your friend
Frank Simonelli

Frank Simonelli - March 03, 2025 at 07:53 PM