



Josephine Padalino Tortorici

June 16, 1921 - March 15, 2015

Josephine Padalino Tortorici

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bessemer, Alabama for Josephine Tortorici, 93, who died Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Merrill Gardens Assisted Living in Albertville, Alabama, surrounded by loving family members. Father Patrick Cullen, pastor of St. Aloysius Church, will be the celebrant. Interment will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Bessemer, Alabama. Survivors include two daughters Carolyn Wisner and her husband Johnny; Mary Ann Wilson; three grandchildren Alayna Horton, Anthony David Wilson, and James Matthew Wilson; three great-grandchildren Hudson Horton, Lucas Wilson, and Michael Wilson. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Tony Tortorici, and her brother Norman Padalino. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Josephine was born to Marco and Maria Padalino in 1921. Her parents were part of the large community of Sicilian immigrants who settled in Bessemer in the early decades of the twentieth century. They had a small grocery store there. Josephine graduated from Bessemer High School, excelling in all of her classes. She worked alongside her husband Tony for 40 years in their small corner grocery store in Bessemer. Josephine loved life, dressing up, dancing, and traveling with her husband. She cooked wonderful Italian meals over the years for all of her family. She was a strong and independent woman, living alone in her Bessemer home for almost 20 years after her husband died. Josephine communicated her love to her children and grandchildren

throughout her life, leaving them with wonderful memories and delicious recipes. One memorable trip she took in 2003 with friends and family members was to Sutera, Sicily, where her parents were born. While she was in Sicily, she attended Mass in the church where her parents were married. It was a lifelong dream of hers to make this trip. Her family gives thanks for the long and fruitful life she was able to lead, and for the many lessons in courage and strength Josephine taught them. And we thank the caregivers at Merrill Gardens and Gentiva-Hospice for providing a loving and caring last home for Josephine. The family requests that visiting hours be observed at St. Aloysius Church from 9-11 on the day of the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made either to St. Aloysius Church, 751 Academy Drive, Bessemer, Alabama 35022/www.staloyusiuscc.org; or to the Foundry Ministries, P. O. Box 824, Bessemer, Alabama 35020/www.foundrymission.com. Personal condolences may be sent to the family at Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home: www.bessemerbrownfh.com. Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home, 1300 4th Ave. N., Bessemer, Alabama, is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

ML

“ Dear Mary Ann, Carolyn, and Family,
We never got the chance to meet Ms. Josephine but know and love her because of the wonderful stories Mary Ann shared with us over the years.
We are thinking of you at this time of sorrow.
A donation in your mother's name has been made to her church, St Aloysuis.
With our deepest sympathy,
Mark & Lisa LeBlanc

Mark & Lisa LeBlanc - September 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

ML

“ I enjoyed taking care of Mrs. Joe, she was a wonderful woman and will be missed.

Mary Ladd - March 19, 2015 at 07:15 PM

PR

“ Josephine Padalino Tortorici

Pamela Roberts - March 19, 2015 at 06:11 PM

ML

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Mark & Lisa LeBlanc - March 19, 2015 at 12:35 AM