



## Clara "Vicki" Victoria Ninivaggi

May 9, 1941 - February 6, 2022

### Clara Victoria Ninivaggi

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida– Clara Victoria “Vicki” Ninivaggi (née Rivera) of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida passed away peacefully on February 6, 2022, in the loving arms of her husband, Angelo. Vicki was born in the Bronx, New York on May 9, 1941, to Mary Katherine (née Kiernan) and Victor Rivera. Vicki was a graduate of James Monroe High School in the Bronx. After high school, Vicki worked as a clerical associate in the family travel business. Vicki was introduced to her future husband, Dr. Angelo Donato Ninivaggi, on New Year’s Eve 1961. She was impressed by Angelo’s charm and dancing ability, he quickly proposed, and they were married for 58 joyous years until Vicki’s death.

Vicki and Angelo first settled in the Bronx, New York where they worked together to establish Angelo’s dental practice and start a family; Angelo the dentist and Vicki the bookkeeper running the office. They then moved their growing family to Closter, New Jersey in 1969. In New Jersey, Vicki supported Angelo as he pursued an advanced degree in orthodontics - a commitment to education that she championed throughout her life. Together, they raised four children and the family relished their formative years together in Closter and golf at nearby Rockland Country Club.

Vicki was a longtime parishioner of the Church of St. Mary in Closter where

she was an active participant in the choir, a lector, a eucharistic minister, and a catechism teacher. After moving to Florida, she was a parishioner at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens. She was as devoted to her family as she was to her Catholic faith. Vicki cherished her entire extended family, her children, and their spouses, but most of all, her grandchildren - whose pictures always sat on a nearby table. There was never a doubt that she would drop everything to nurture and support her family. There was no problem so big that it couldn't be solved over a cup of tea or her world-famous pasta. Vicki also treasured family gatherings and holiday traditions and often marked those occasions by preparing truly wonderful meals. She specialized in all food Italian, except on St. Patrick's Day when everyone was required to eat corned beef and cabbage.

As a wife, mother and grandmother, she gave wholeheartedly, providing all that was needed for memorable holidays, vacations and life events. Shortly after retiring, she and Angelo created a wonderful family retreat in Sag Harbor, New York that provided a lifetime of memories for their family. The time in Sag Harbor brought joy and happiness to all who visited and was so important to Vicki; bringing her rapidly growing and dispersed family back home mattered greatly to her. She especially loved playing dominos and card games with her grandchildren and taking them to the beach. Later in retirement, Vicki enjoyed her time in Palm Beach Gardens. She was an avid bridge player and golfer, having broken 100 many times and won multiple golf tournaments. With great pride, she also routinely outdrove her husband, Angelo, over the past decade or so. Whether in Sag Harbor or Palm Beach Gardens, there was never a shortage of family and friends surrounding Vicki and her contagious spirit.

Vicki leaves behind many who loved and admired her. In addition to her husband of 58 years, Vicki is survived by her children, Daniel (Janis), Bernadette Gozdz (Edward), Angelo Jr. (Jennifer), and Michele; grandchildren, Olivia Gozdz, Caleb Ninivaggi, Anne Caroline Ninivaggi,

Matthew Ninivaggi, Michael Ninivaggi, Jane Victoria Ninivaggi, Edward Gozdz, Jr., John Ninivaggi, John Berenbaum, Isabella Clara Ninivaggi; and her siblings, Margaret Mangieri, Richard, Katherine Jennings, Anthony and Robert. She also leaves behind numerous godchildren, nieces, and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents and siblings Mary Ellen Begnoche and Victor Rivera.

A visitation was held February 9, 2022, at Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home in Jupiter, Florida. A visitation and Memorial Mass for Vicki will be held at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 20 Legion Place Closter, New Jersey, on February 25, 2022, with visitation commencing at 11:00 am and a Memorial Mass at 12:30 pm. Please share your thoughts and memories with Vicki's family at the tribute page located at [www.taylorandmodeen.com](http://www.taylorandmodeen.com). In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Vicki's name to the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida or the Church of St. Mary's in Closter, New Jersey.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **9**. 3:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home  
250 Center Street  
Jupiter, FL 33458  
(561) 744-2030  
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church  
20 Legion Place  
Closter, FL

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **25**. 12:30 PM.

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church  
Closter, NJ

# Tribute Wall



“ *Clara "Vicki" Victoria Ninivaggi*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Vicki, Roger and I have so many beautiful memories of our life shared raising our children around people like you and Angelo. Our prayers are extended for you and your family. May the values you shared with your family continue into tomorrow. You shared your love and it was felt by all.*

*We are not sad, we rejoice in your life.*

*Roger 'n' Angie  
The Girardin's*

*P.S. Special remembrances from Denise, JoAnn and Nancy too*

Angaie Girardin - February 25, 2022 at 09:57 AM



“ *MY SISTER VICKI, I am in such sorrow and pain to not see you or talk to you and lose the best gin rummy player around. Vickie you have always showed me love and direction. I always remember all the good times in closter and when Angelo took me for first haircut. How you always made sure Angelo checked my teeth. I will miss all our holidays and special occasion gatherings and your hugs and smile. I will hold you always dear to my heart. You are now with DAD, MOM, Victor, Mary watching over us all. We love you and Miss you Always, GOD*

*BLESS <https://storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/9.png>*

ROBERT RIVERA - February 22, 2022 at 06:11 PM

HA

“ Vicki was indeed a most remarkable lady. From first meeting in Sag Harbor, then Leland and Palm Beach Gardens it was clear that Vicki was extraordinary. From exciting domino games to dancing at Carmine’s, animated conversations to “happy hour” Vicki will be fondly remembered and missed!  
Hugh and Nikki Acosta

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**Hugh Acosta** - February 09, 2022 at 03:32 PM

VD

“ I have fond memories of visiting Aunt Vicki and the family at the house in Closter. I remember watching the moon landing there! Years later, I brought my girls to the home in Sag Harbor. Such a class act, beautiful inside and out. So sorry we never got to see you and Uncle Angelo in recent years. My heart hurts for all of the family.  
Valerie Ninivaggi Dockery

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**Valerie Dockery** - February 08, 2022 at 11:43 AM



“ There are no words to ease the pain in these tragic moments. the only consolation is having lived so many good times with Vichy and knowing that she will always be close to the people who loved her  
Love Stefania

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**Stephany Mangieri** - February 08, 2022 at 09:30 AM

MC

“ My beautiful God Mother, we will all miss you. I have countless memories that we've shared together. I will never forget all the cousin sleepovers we had at your house growing up. So much fun! I think there was about 10 of us or more. I think I got to sleep in your massive closet! Michele, Denise and I would share a bed. I somehow always got stuck in the middle. We went ice skating and bowling. I was there when you broke your leg playing ball in the yard with the kids. I saw my first scary movie Sasquatch(sp?) during our many cousin outings with you. I remember coming to see you and Uncle Angelo every month for a fitting. We ALL owe our smiles to Aunt Vicki and Uncle Angelo! I remember all the glorious clothes you handed down to me (thanks Mich!). I would wear the fanciest dresses to school and when the teachers complimented me I would say “My Godmother gave me this”. The things we remember as kids. We had wonderful visits to Sag Harbor. The fabulous parties and weddings we all shared together. Oh and the dancing! How we all loved to dance together and still do. I especially loved your laugh. That deep “he he” that brings a smile to my face as I try to capture it in words. You had a regal way about you that I so admired. I loved you like a mother, and when I lost mine you were there for me. Always a phone call away and always the best advice. I will treasure the video clip you did for me for my ## birthday and I will treasure the memories I carry in my heart.

*Thank you for being such a beautiful role model for me. I love you so very much. Rest In Peace my dearest Aunt Vicki. You will be dearly missed.*

*With love, your God daughter, Monique*

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**Monique Chiarito** - February 07, 2022 at 09:44 PM

RP

*Vicki was certainly a warm, elegant and gracious person. We have such fond memories of enjoyable dinners with Vicki and Angelo and dancing the night away in her New Rochelle home. She had such a generous and nurturing way with everyone.*

*Our prayers and thoughts are with Angelo and her loving children...*

*RIP Dear Vicki*

*Rosemary & Bob Pappalardo*

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**Rosemary & Bob Pappalardo** - February 08, 2022 at 05:55 PM

JE

“ *Please accept our sorrow at the passing of Vicki  
We had many years of wonderful memories with Angelo and Vicky  
RIP sweet lady you will, be missed Al and Jeannette Jannotta and  
family*

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**jeannette** - February 07, 2022 at 02:49 PM