



Francesca Amelia French

NOV 3, 1929 - JUN 6, 2025



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Francesca Amelia French

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Francesca Amelia Sanfilippo French November 3, 1929 - June 6, 2025 Francesca passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Friday, June 6, 2025.

She was born in her maternal grandmother's home in Camden, New Jersey, on November 3, 1929, and was named after her grandmother, Francesca Cuccinata Mangano. Proud of her Sicilian heritage, Francesca grew up between Camden and her parents Grace and Alfonso Sanfilippo's farm outside of Bridgeville, Delaware.

She shared many stories of childhood fun and mischief with her siblings-Angelina (Trotman), Pasquale (Pat), and Anthony (all of whom preceded her in death)-and her New Jersey cousins during visits to the farm or their lively city adventures in Camden and Philadelphia. Francesca loved movies, especially those from her youth.

She knew all the actors and enjoyed rewatching classic films on TCM, often sharing them with family during dinners or barbecues. She loved music and dancing and could jitterbug with the best of them. Francesca was very proud of her work accomplishments.

She began her career at Stoltz Variety Store in Seaford, Delaware. At the age of 18, she was recognized for her exceptional customer service and recruited to work as a telephone operator for Bell Telephone. It was during this time she met her future husband, Bob French, through a mutual friend.

As her children grew, she had a short but meaningful career at International Latex, where she was proud to have contributed to the production of materials used in astronauts' suits. She later worked at Wilmington Trust Company, initially on the night shift while raising her family. In 1970, she moved back to Seaford and found joy helping her brother Pat and their mother fulfill a dream by opening Sanfilippo's Italian Restaurant.



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Francesca adapted well to every role, whether at the family restaurant, the Milford Country Club, or later at Kennard's clothing store on Market Street in Wilmington. She also worked as a nanny for a local family and returned to clerical work before retiring. Raising her children was the most important role in Francesca's life.

She was a fierce protector and loving mother whose care was unwavering, profound, and full of joy. Her door was always open to friends, especially when Rob and Joan joined the Blue Rocks Drum and Bugle Corps. Many young members found comfort in her home and her delicious Italian cooking.

Francesca will be forever loved, honored, and missed by her children: Rob (Anne), Joan (Phillip), and Mike (Tara). She was predeceased by her youngest son, Steve, and his wife, Cindy. She was a proud grandmother to Robyn, Ryan (Shenandoah), Randy (Andrea), Mariah, Haley, James (Avery), Logan, Emily, and step-grandsons Gabriel and Ivan Bannowsky.

Her great-grandchildren-Jacob (Havannah), Joshua (Alaina), Jocelyn, Mason, Max, Miller, Ezri, and Shain-brought her continued joy and pride. She was also eagerly awaiting the birth of her great-great-granddaughter to Joshua and Alaina, due any day now.

She is fondly remembered as "Aunt Fran" by a wide circle of extended family, nieces, and nephews-Dottie, Cassie, Megan, Noah, Wilfredo, Lamani, and Noel-and as "Franny" by her dear friend Marilyn and her loyal canine companion, Jade. Francesca became the matriarch of the Mangano and Sanfilippo families and will be deeply missed by all, especially her niece Ann Marie (Bill Cavage) and her Mangano cousins: Anthony, Eileen, James, John, Lillian, Denise, Anita, Frances, Joseph, Jeanette, and John Simon.

Francesca was strong, resilient, and kind-hearted, and lived a rich, full life despite the challenges she faced. Her family is deeply grateful to the loving staff of ACT1 Connections of Delaware and Bayada Home Health Care, who provided invaluable support in her later years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at St. John/Holy Angels Church, 82 Possum Park Road, Newark, DE 19711. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., prior to the Mass.



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A Celebration of Life luncheon will follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will take place on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery 26223 Seaford Road, Seaford, Delaware.

Please sign the tribute wall located on this site. FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLOWERS DELIVERED ON TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025 BY 3PM TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.






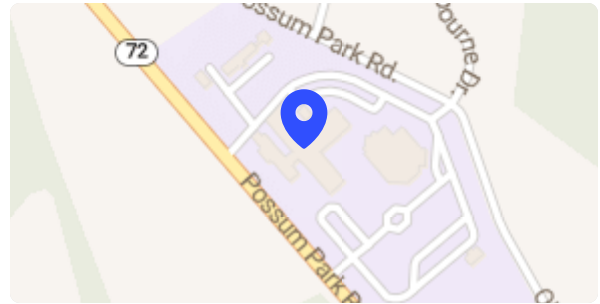
Events

Francesca Amelia French




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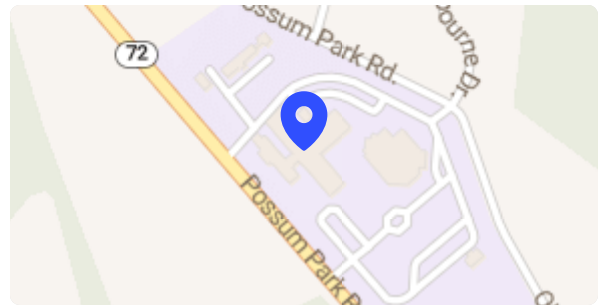
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, July 2, 2025
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
-  **St. John/Holy Angels Catholic Parish**
82 Possum Park Road, Newark DE 19711






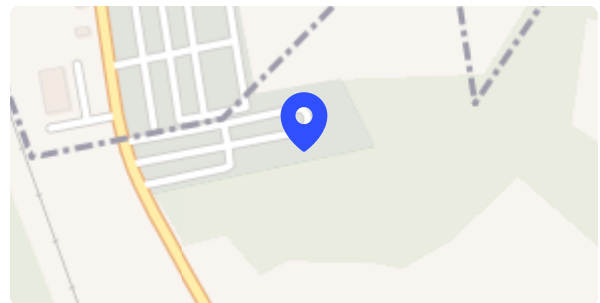
Mass of Christian Burial

-  **Wednesday**, July 2, 2025
-  11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
-  **St. John/Holy Angels Catholic Parish**
82 Possum Park Road, Newark DE 19711



Interment

-  **Thursday**, July 3, 2025
-  11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
-  **Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery**
26223 Seaford Road, Seaford DE 19973





Tribute Wall

Francesca Amelia French

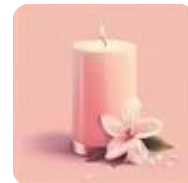
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Fabiola Tanyi lit a candle in honor of Francesca.

My condolences to Ms. Francesca family. My prayers are with the family in this challenging time. Ms. Francesca was such a sweet and loving lady. She will always be in my heart. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

July 1 at 6:32 PM



Marianne A. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Francesca.

June 30 at 4:26 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Francesca.

June 26 at 3:16 PM



Anonymous sent a Basket of Memories to the French family.

June 26 at 3:16 PM



Lola Campbell Colburn shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 18 at 6:15 PM





Tribute Wall

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LC

Lola Campbell Colburn sent a virtual gift in honor of Francesca.

Please accept my deepest condolences. My heart goes out for the family during this difficult time, those who live in our memories are never truly gone.

Mrs.French/Mommy was such a wonderful sweet soul. I missed her so much and it hurts me because I didn't get to see her in her last days but Mom you will always be in my heart we share so much laughter, singing and dancing to Cher music but I know you're in the arms of God. R.I.P beautiful lady. I love you always



June 18 at 6:01 PM

SW

Stephanie Williams posted:

She has most certainly lived a long great life. I always told her I wanted to be like her if i was blessed to make it to my 90s. She holds a very special place in our hearts here at Bayada. I know she will be greatly missed!

June 17 at 2:32 PM

SW

Stephanie Williams posted:

I was always so in awe of Mrs. French. Every time I visited she had her hair done and was dressed as if she was ready to go out and about. I always told her you are who I want to be if I'm blessed to make it to my 90s. She was an amazingly kind woman but fiercely Sicilian and I loved that about her as well. I will always have a special place in my heart for her. Im sure she will be greatly missed by many.

June 17 at 2:26 PM



Lola Campbell Colburn shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 18 at 6:15 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Francesca by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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