



## Odette M. Assile

April 27, 2021

Odette Marie Assile left us to be with her husband Elias on April 27, 2021. She was 92 years young.

Odette was considered the matriarch of the family - a title that she wouldn't acknowledge but greatly deserved. Born in Manila, Philippines to Khalil and Suraya, she and her brother Joe survived the Japanese invasion. After the war and armed with American passports the family made their way to the USA where Odette finished High School and married the love of her life Elias Assile.

Once the Philippines declared their independence, all Filipino issued American passports were revoked. Odette, Elias and their son Eddie were forced to leave NYC and made their way to the Dominican Republic where they rebuilt lives that included a thriving shirt factory. They welcomed Vivian while living in the DR and became a happy family of four. Almost ten years later, Odette, then pregnant with Michael, had to once again, due to political turmoil, pack up her family in search of a safer place to live. The family made their way to Brooklyn, NY where Odette would welcome her 4th and final child, Robert.

Mom was an amazingly strong woman. She and her best friend and husband Elias built a business that sustained their little family and afforded them the

American Dream of living free in the USA. Throughout the difficulties life presented, Odette always persevered. She always had a positive outlook and realized that a strong, loving family is truly life's greatest treasure. To that end she looked after extended family as fiercely as her own. She took care of her sickly aunt and took in her aging uncle. Our Brooklyn home had a revolving door as she welcomed relatives coming to America, regardless if she knew them or not. Our relatives from all over the world always knew that Odette and Elias would provide a soft place to land while they created their own American dream. None of these relatives ever forgot the efforts mom made to help them settle here. Mom was as proud of the cousins as she was of her own sons and daughter.

She was very active in the church, joining the women's club, fund raising through bake sales and white elephant sales. She sang with the choir and was an usher. She also volunteered her time to teach reading and writing English.

Throughout her life, Odette was also a true believer in the Grace of God almighty and His Son Jesus. Her strong faith led her to make countless novenas and said many rosaries asking for God's grace. Her faith was a true source of strength which she shared with all of us. She continued to pray for all of us, doled out advice and was the one who kept the entire family together. She will be greatly missed.

Odette was the beloved wife to the late Elias, who passed away in 1995.

She is survived by her four children and their families:

Son Edward and his spouse Arlene,

Granddaughter Robyn and Spouse John with great grandchildren Leyla & Zachary

Granddaughter Dana and Spouse Robert with great grandchildren, Elias &

Gregory.

Daughter Vivian and her late spouse Maurice

Grandson, the late Joseph

Grandson Paul and his spouse Kalynn with great grandchildren Karson and Camden

Granddaughter Judy and spouse Dice with great grandchildren, Aya and Zara.

Son Michael and spouse Hala with grandchildren Christian, Andrew and Mary.

Son Robert and spouse Susan with granddaughter Grace.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at St. Clare Church located at 110 Nelson Ave Staten Island, New York 10308. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Salesian Missions and Boys Town USA would be appreciated.

<<https://salesianmissions.org/>>

[www.Boystown.org](http://www.Boystown.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

49-02 Laurel Hill Blvd.  
Woodside, NY 11377

# Previous Events

## Service

MAY 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Clare Church  
110 Nelson Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10308

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Odette M. Assile*



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**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - May 04, 2021 at 11:44 AM



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Odette M. Assile*



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**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - May 02, 2021 at 11:53 AM



“ *Odette M. Assile*

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October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Odette M. Assile.



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May 04, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Odette M. Assile.



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May 03, 2021 at 02:33 PM



“ Tante Odette was such a big part of our family in Fort Lauderdale. She was our only family there until her move to California. As others have reflected, Imad’s story is similar with his arrival in the U.S. in 1973. The Assile family welcomed him into their home & Tante Odette took him to Manhattan for his interview at NYU and lunch at Carnegie Deli. He had never seen such a huge American sandwich! When we moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1980 she & Uncle Elie were a big part of our family. For many years she and Imad’s Mom became weekly backgammon players. She was almost always with us for Sunday dinners and other family events. Her kindness and helpfulness were ever present. Teaching Jo-Ann to wallpaper, sewing & mending, advice on gardening...she was always there for us. Our girls have many good memories and will miss her too. Especially Alex, who felt Tante Odette was like her other grandma. One of the most recent events we shared was the Assile cruise to celebrate her 90th birthday. Also, we had the occasion to visit her on a subsequent trip to California. Although we were sad that she left Florida, we realized how happy she was to be near her California family. We will surely miss you Tante but we will always have the great memories we shared. May you Rest In Peace near your beloved Elie.

All our love,

Imad, Jo-Ann, Meagan, Stefanie & Alex

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**Jo-Ann Tabry** - May 03, 2021 at 08:30 AM

MA

“ Maria Teresa Assily purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Odette M. Assile.



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**Maria Teresa Assily** - May 02, 2021 at 05:54 PM



“ *Taunte Odette will be greatly missed! I felt so lucky to have gotten to see her more often ever since she moved to California. She was so sharp! I always enjoyed sitting with her and talking about anything and everything under the sun. She always greeted me with a smile and a hug and she was so beautiful and sophisticated. I truly enjoyed her company.*

*May God rest her soul in peace. Love, Tania and Danny Bajada and family*

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**Tania Bajada** - May 02, 2021 at 04:14 PM



*Love you Tania.*

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**Robert Assile** - May 02, 2021 at 05:53 PM

IA

“ *Imad, Jo -Ann, Meagan, Stefanie & Alex purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Odette M. Assile.*



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**Imad, Jo -Ann, Meagan, Stefanie & Alex** - May 01, 2021 at 07:01 PM

VF

“ Mom was very happy in California, it was her fifth big move in her life. She loved having her grandchildren and great grandchildren in her life. I visited her most every day and used to do chair exercise before the pandemic. She was very insightful to pick the ground floor for her apt. We were able to just sit outside every day while they were in quarantine. Her family, neighbors and friends would visit her at her window. She looked forward to our visits. Once the pandemic was over you couldn't find her in her room. She would do all the activities Alma Via had to offer. She loved painting and playing games. I will miss visiting her, it was part of my routine and looked forward to seeing her.

With love  
Vivian

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**vivian Franjeh** - May 01, 2021 at 11:30 AM

BC

“ Our heartiest condolences on the passing of dear Aunt Odette. She was an amazing woman, gentle and gracious, had a generous spirit, hospitable and kind. She was the very first person who met us at JFK airport upon our arrival to the US almost 45 years ago, having been torn away from our close-knit families in Lebanon, refugees fleeing a vicious civil war. We arrived here like zombies, worn out and in a daze. I (Bassam) remember Aunt Odette taking me to her home in Brooklyn while Aunt Julia took Randa to her home. Utterly exhausted, I slept that first night at Aunt Odette’s home. We’ll never forget her kindness, driving us more than once all the way up to the Bronx to Fordham University, helping us find a place to stay and giving us pointers to find our way in the massive city of NY. The next 3 years we would take the subway countless times and come down to Brooklyn to Aunt Odette’s or Aunt Julia’s house for the Sunday meal. So kind, so generous, so hospitable!! One cannot forget such love and caring. Unforgettable are the numerous times in subsequent years when we’d visit family in Ft. Lauderdale and Aunt Odette would always insist on having us over and treating us to a feast! There’s so much more to share. May God bless her greatly in His heaven for all the kind Christian deeds she did to us and many other people. And our heartiest condolences and love to all of you dear family of Aunt Odette. —Bassam & Randa Nader 💕💕

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**Bassam & Randa Nader (2nd cousins)** - April 30, 2021 at 04:28 PM



“ *What a great picture of Aunt Odette! She was a part of all of us and it is all our loss. She was such a great story teller and lived such a full life...a world traveler who experienced the highs and true lows of life in war and peace and came out on top. She ran the gamut of life experiences. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were her pride and joy, but she was inclusive and made us all feel her love. She will be missed but a piece of her is in all of us. In the same way I see Uncle Elie in Michael and Bobby in their walk, smile or laughter, I will see pieces of Aunt Odette here and there. That is what happens with a person who lived a great life, all 92 years and almost 4 months of it. I am sorry for her loss but grateful for her life. You are all in my thoughts and prayers, but I look forward to celebrating her life well lived.*

Her niece, Gisele - April 29, 2021 at 09:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Odette M. Assile.*



April 29, 2021 at 07:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Odette Assile*



Robert Assile - April 29, 2021 at 04:16 PM

PE

“ *Loving memories of our dear Aunt Odette. My sincere condolences to the entire Assile family.* ❤️

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**Patti Zacharia Estep** - April 29, 2021 at 04:15 PM