



## Ms. Sofia M. Salce

June 20, 1955 - March 29, 2026

Ms. Sofia M. Salce, 70, of Cortland, passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at University Hospital, Syracuse.

Born June 20, 1955 in Cortland, Sofia was a daughter of Ricky and Mary Fumarola Salce and had been a Cortland resident her entire life.

Sofia was a communicant of St. Mary's Catholic Church and was recently employed at Cayuga Orthopedics in Cortland. She dedicated many years of service to Cortland Memorial Hospital before continuing her career at Cornell University. A tireless and devoted worker, she often held two jobs while raising her family as a single mother, demonstrating remarkable strength and commitment. In her 50s, she returned to school and proudly earned her degree from Tompkins Cortland Community College, reflecting her perseverance and lifelong belief in growth and education. Above all, Sofia loved her family deeply and took great pride in her Italian heritage, which was reflected in the traditions she cherished and passed down through generations.

Survivors include; two daughters; Mary Tracy (Michael) of Sempronius and Anitra (Israel) Garcia of Homer, her two sons; Nicholas (Sarah) Whitt of Cortland and Anthony (Andrea) Whitt of Groton, her siblings; David (Amy) Salce of Newfield, Cristina Salce (Darrell) Pollard of Abingdon, Maryland, Terri

(David) Jordan of Syracuse, Peter Salce of Glenside, Penn., Paul Salce of Oneida, N.Y. and Angelo Salce of Horseheads, 9 grandchildren; Brysen Wilson, Carsen Wilson, Emily Tracy, Abriana Whitt, Nicholas Whitt, Isabella Garcia, Alexia Whitt, Winnie Whitt and Leo Whitt., as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins in Toronto.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday April 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church with Rev. Malachi Clark presiding. The Christian Rite of Committal and Burial will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. The family will be present to receive friends on Tuesday April 7, 2026 from 5–7 p.m. in the Chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home, 69 N. Main St., Cortland, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association in Sofia's memory, honoring the loving care she provided to her father during his illness.

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ I was very saddened to hear about Sofia's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time.

*Dee and Lisa MacLeod*

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**Lisa MacLeod** - April 07 at 02:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Sofia M. Salce.



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April 07 at 07:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Sofia M. Salce.

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April 07 at 07:31 AM

KW

“ Kathy Walker lit a candle in memory of Ms. Sofia M. Salce



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**Kathy Walker** - April 06 at 02:50 PM

MA

“ *Maria Adsit lit a candle in memory of Ms. Sofia M. Salce*



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**Maria Adsit** - April 05 at 07:02 AM

DM

“ *Donna Murphy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Sofia M. Salce.*

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**Donna Murphy** - April 04 at 04:56 PM

DM

“ *Donna Murphy purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ms. Sofia M. Salce.*



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**Donna Murphy** - April 04 at 04:56 PM

F(

“ Sofia and her family were one of the first people I met when my family immigrated from Italy in 1969. We lived only a few houses away from each other on Union St, and with both of us being the same age we soon developed a strong friendship. She helped me navigate through learning a new language, living in a different country with her easy graceful, kind self. I was honored to be a bridesmaid at her wedding.  
After I moved away we lost touch, but I was so happy to reconnect with her years later on Facebook. She had not changed much, beautiful as ever. I'm so saddened to hear of her passing, sending my deepest condolences to her family.  
Rest easy Sofia. 🙏❤️

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**Francesca Higgins. (Pizzola)** - April 03 at 09:13 PM

JB

“ My condolences to Sofia's family.  
It's been years since I've seen her but will always remember the love she had for her children, they meant everything to her.  
It's a sad day.  
John Bennett

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**John Bennett** - April 03 at 05:26 PM