



# Nanette Ann (Nicholas) Groat

MAR 18, 1947 - MAY 25, 2020



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## **Nanette Ann (Nicholas) Groat**

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**N**anette Ann (Nicholas) Groat, 73, of Syracuse, was called home to the Lord on Monday, May 25th, 2020 Memorial Day, after a courageous nine-year battle with cancer. A native Syracusan, Nanette was the oldest of seven siblings in a Lebanese and Italian family. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Elaine (Mercurio) Nicholas and the granddaughter of Habib and Susie (Monsour) Nicholas, as well as Antonio & Grazia (Molinari) Mercurio. She was predeceased by her brothers Jack and Thomas and her sister Susan.

It is said that behind every great man is a great woman; and, if that woman is a wife and mother, he is twice blessed. Nanette was that blessing. She filled those roles and then some. She passed away on her 52nd wedding anniversary and is survived by her loving husband Roderic Woodruff Groat, better known as longtime television news anchorman Rod Wood. She is also survived by sons John (Katie) Groat and Christopher (Lindsay) Groat of DeWitt; daughters Elizabeth (Robert) DiNardo of Webster, Rebecca (Kate Liddle) Groat of Baldwinsville, and Priscilla (Mike) Allen of Syracuse; as well as brothers Richard (Wen) Nicholas of Liverpool, Robert (Nancy) Nicholas of Onondaga Hill, sister Deborah (Nicholas) Spencer of Charleston, SC., and brother-in-law Hall Groat of Manlius; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins, including cousin and lifelong friend, Patti (Nicholas) Rusczyk.

Nanette was an adoring and doting grandmother to her ten grandchildren including Enzo, Madison, Mya, Taylee, Jace, Cooper, Hudson, Willem, Holland, and Pierce.

A woman of true Christian devotion, Nanette's faith was nurtured early on at Most Holy Rosary and St. Anthony's parishes. As an adult, she found a deep connection with the Lord as an active member of Church of the Resurrection of East Syracuse, and later as a communicant of Abundant Life Christian Center.



## Obituary

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A lifelong Southsider, Nan attended Most Holy Rosary and St. Anthony's Schools in her youth. She was a member of the last graduating class of Onondaga Valley Academy in 1965, where she enjoyed participating in the Chorus and Glee Club. She so loved "Valley".

She made sure her home was always filled with song and singing, with everything from The Beatles to Broadway cast albums...to her own piano playing...and an ever-present kitchen radio. She was a member of the chorus of the Pompeian Players and appeared in productions including "Fiddler on the Roof" and ironically, "No, No Nanette".

Before starting a family, Nanette worked at Farmers & Traders Insurance in administrative work; at Memorial Hospital as a medical transcriptionist; and at WNDR Radio as a receptionist, where she met her future husband. Upon the birth of their first child, Nan stayed home to care for her growing family. That care included daily "from scratch" home cooking. So very talented in the kitchen, Nanette learned at the apron strings of her mother. Suppertime meant friends and extended family were always welcome and a kitchen full of Italian, Mediterranean, and American culinary delights awaited. Nan cooking a heaping pot of homemade sauce and meatballs that had been simmering on the stove all-day, or making hand-rolled grape leaves that she herself had freshly-picked, were both commonplace sights and examples of everyday occurrences at the Groat house. She put great love and care into feeding her family and friends.

A kindhearted soul, she was quick with a smile, had a contagious laugh, and was slow to anger—all positive attributes with five children at home. Nanette loved Jesus and promoted a home of faith, care for family, and community. She was a longtime school lunch aide and volunteered for a time at Teen Challenge and Community Hospital.

Nan had an eclectic personal style and loved to dress to the nines. She was giddy to have her nails done or to have her naturally curly black hair tended to. She enjoyed her perfumes! She was a fan of Syracuse University basketball and the New York Yankees—a woman of good taste! She was the family cheerleader and championed the endeavors of her husband, children, grandchildren, and extended family.

Nanette is irreplaceable, the hub of our family, an absolute original.... She will be missed beyond measure. Each Memorial Day will now take on special meaning in our family.



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We extend a heartfelt thank you to the doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers who assisted in her care with extra special thanks to her “dream team” of Drs. Jeffrey Bogart, Barbara Clayton, Ajeet Gajra, and Anil George, the staffs of the Upstate Cancer Center and The Cleveland Clinic.

All are invited to calling hours to be held from 4-8 pm on Thursday, June 25th, 2020 at THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME at 3401 Vickery Rd., (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held the next day, Friday June 26th, 2020 at 12:30 pm at Holy Family Church, 127 Chapel Dr. in Fairmount, with burial to follow at Onondaga Valley Cemetery.

Donations in Nanette’s honor may be made to: The Nanette Groat Music Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 49, Syracuse, NY 13214. Please sign the guestbook at: [syracuse.com/obits](http://syracuse.com/obits)



# Events


**Nanette Ann (Nicholas) Groat**

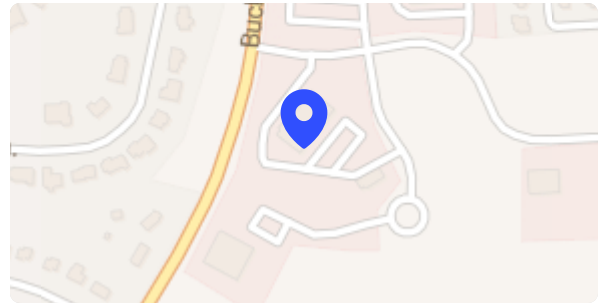
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## Visitation

 **Thursday**, June 25, 2020


 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET


 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**  
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

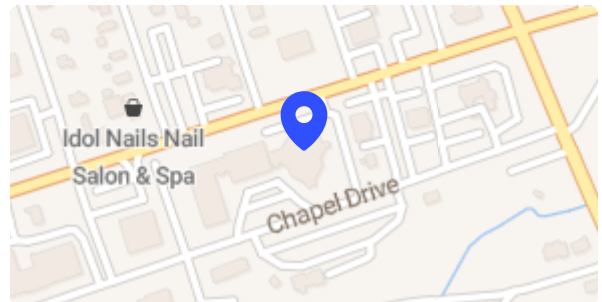


## Mass of Christian Burial


 **Friday**, June 26, 2020

 12:30 PM ET

 **Holy Family**  
127 Chapel Drive, Syracuse NY 13219



## Cemetery Details

 **Onondaga Valley Cemetery**  
2500 Valley Drive, Syracuse NY 13205





# Tribute Wall

## Nanette Ann (Nicholas) Groat

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**The Togni Family** posted:

Thoughts and prayers go out to the Groat Family. If children are the true representation of greatness, she was an all time Great.The Togni Family

June 25 at 8:39 AM



**Jim Carrick** posted:

Rod & family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord comfort you.Your friend and fellow co-worker Jim & Kathy Carrick

June 24 at 6:48 PM



**Leslie Sisto** posted:

Rod I am so sorry to hear of Nanette's passing. She sounds like a force of nature and the bedrock of the Groat family. Thinking of you and your family at this difficult time.SincerelyLeslie Sisto

June 24 at 1:25 PM



**The Patla Family** sent an Arrive in Style to the (Nicholas) Groat family.



June 24 at 12:29 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Summer's Light Bouquet to the (Nicholas) Groat family.



June 24 at 10:05 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the (Nicholas) Groat family.



June 23 at 4:50 PM



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CC

**Connie C** posted:

Sincerely sorry for your loss. Rod Wood has always been my go-to for the news. God bless you and keep you. Connie C.

June 23 at 2:04 PM

TF

**The Rocco's - Ron, Sonya, Jason, Travis, Kris & Family** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the (Nicholas) Groat family.



June 22 at 2:35 PM

CD

**Christine Dunne** posted:

I'm sorry to hear of Mrs. Groat's passing. She seems like an amazing woman! Sincerely, Jim and Christine Dunne

June 22 at 10:58 AM

RJ

**Rich Jarrett** posted:

To Rod and family, my sincere condolences - you are in my thoughts during this difficult time.

June 22 at 7:37 AM

JU

**Julie** lit a candle in honor of Nanette.



June 22 at 6:32 AM

TR

**Tony Russo** posted:

To Rod and his family ,I'm sorry for your loss ,may Nanette be at peace now in Heaven.

June 22 at 5:15 AM



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KD

**Karen Douglass** posted:

My sympathy to the Groat Family. Karen Douglass A Channel 9 viewer and Valley neighbor.

June 21 at 7:24 PM

RC

**Rich Cifra** lit a candle in honor of Nanette.

To the entire Groat and Nicholas families, I am so sorry for your loss. What a tribute... mother, wife, sister, and grandparent. My sincerest condolences. Rich Cifra

June 21 at 1:24 PM



MJ

**Mary Jarvis** lit a candle in honor of Nanette.

My prayers and love i send to the family. Nanette was a sweet lady and i use to have incredible conversations with her when her grand children were in my daycare program. She was a very sweet grand ma and such a classy lady. Heaven gained a beautiful angel and my family sends its prayers and hugs to all who are missing this dear lady. Hugs to Priscilla from Ms. Mary & Mr. Rodney during this difficult time. We send our love to ur dad and others during this time as well...RIP sweet Nanette God bless...

June 21 at 10:32 AM



PR

**Patricia A Rusczyk** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the (Nicholas) Groat family.

June 21 at 7:34 AM



ML

**Michelle (Rusczyk) Lagrange** posted:

To Uncle Rod, John, Chris, Elizabeth, Becky, Priscilla. My heart goes out to your family. I was always extremely happy when my mom ( Patti Rusczyk) would say " Michelle you're sleeping at Aunt Nanett's house tonight. She must have known I was coming because when I walked in the house all u smelled was grape leaves being made or any Lebanese dish. Your Mother was such a Respectful, Caring, and Loving Person. She will truly be missed. Michelle (Rusczyk) LaGrange

June 21 at 3:12 AM



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**Carrie Forkhamer** posted:

Chris~ My heartfelt sympathy extends to you & your family, I'm saddened to hear the loss of your mother, may she rest in peace!! Keep the memories & may they comfort you today, tomorrow & everyday!!

June 20 at 5:09 AM



**Rob Cartwright** posted:

My thoughts are with Rod and his entire family during this difficult time.

June 19 at 6:09 PM



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AB

**Anna Bresovski** lit a candle in honor of Nanette.

CONDOLENCES TO ROD AND FAMILY,RIPAnna BresovskiSyracuse

June 19 at 4:29 PM



FR

**Frank Roche** June 25 at 12:49 PM

My condolences to all of the Groat and Nicholas family. There was a time when we had quite the neighborhood down on Kirk Ave.

TB

**Tom Breen** June 25 at 12:30 PM

Please accept sincere condolences. Our Father Mike passed earlier this year and used to work at WSYR and WSTM in the day. He always enjoyed your telecasts and often told the story of when you used to come to the old WSYR and he would let you hang out as an interested youngster enjoying the action.We are very sorry for your loss.The Breen Family

LE

**Lisa Esford** June 25 at 2:09 AM

Please Accept My Sincere Condolences On The Loss Of Your Beloved Wife, Mom, And Grandma.

RZ

**Roger A. Zinszer** June 22 at 10:49 AM

My heartfelt and sincere condolences to you Rod, and your family on your loss. Seems like only yesterday we haunted the control rooms of WNDR, WOLF and later, WHEN/WT VH.May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and yours in light of the hope found in His resurrection.

PR

**Pat Rusczyk** June 21 at 4:52 PM

Sincere condolences to the family of Nanette (Nicholas) Groat. Many prayers and caring thoughts at this difficult time. Danny and Patty Rusczyk

JG

**Joseph Guinto** June 20 at 4:52 AM

Sincere condolences to Rod and family from a long time viewer Joe Guinto

MW

**Michelle A. White** June 19 at 4:58 PM

Becky, I pray that wonderful memories bring peace to all of your hearts at this difficult time. I'm sorry for your loss.Love, Michelle White & family



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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