



## Joseph M. Calemme

January 21, 1926 - June 1, 2016

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Huntington Woods, Michigan

Joseph Mathieu Antoine Calemme passed away on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, peacefully surrounded by family. He was 90 years old. Joseph was born on January 21, 1926 in Greasque, France. He grew up in Lyon, France during World War II. As a child, he joined the Lyon Boxing Club. While in Lyon, he taught ballroom dancing and played semi-professional soccer. He taught physical education with the French army in Morocco before returning to France to study la cuisine Francaise at Ecole Hoteliere de Nice Riviera. In 1948, Joseph traveled to the United States onboard the S.S. DeGrasse in New York. After traveling back and forth to France, he settled in Detroit, Michigan. In 1957, he met the love of his life Angelica Mancini-Mignotti. They later married in Ortona, Italy. Together the couple relocated to Southfield, Michigan to raise their five children. In 1971, Joseph relocated his family to Menton, France. There, Joseph owned Le Santa Lucia restaurant. The Franco-Italian restaurant served seafood, pizza and pasta. Many Italians from Milano, Genoa and Turino came to eat his famous bouillabaisse and paella. In 1975, Joseph with his family returned to Michigan and settled in Huntington Woods. Joseph was the unofficial ambassador to the Detroit Grand Prix in the 1980s as he spoke four languages and had an international flair. Prior to his retirement as the Maître D' at La Fontaine gourmet restaurant in the

Renaissance Center, he worked as Maître D' or sommelier at several of the city's top restaurants, including the Golden Mushroom, Douglass Douglass, the Loophole at the Sheraton Hotel in Southfield and the Benchmark at the Michigan Inn. As Gourmet magazine once put it "There is no one else quite like Monsieur Joseph in Detroit. Nor, I expect, could there be... he is perhaps best described as Maitre d'hotel and sommelier-at-large to the city of Detroit." Joseph was also quoted many times in several magazines and newspapers about the great debate over the classic Caesar Salad and the inclusion of anchovies. Joseph is survived by his family; wife Angelica, children Carlo, Sylvain (Pam), Claudia (Doug) Siewert, Sandra (Scott) McCarthy, and Joe; and three grandsons Dylan Siewert, Aidan McCarthy, and Liam McCarthy. He is survived by sisters, nieces and nephews in France. Visitation is from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. with an evening prayer service on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. Eleven Mile Road (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. A celebration of life will be held for Joseph at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Royal Oak at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that you give a donation to St. Mary's Catholic Church by either calling 248-547-1818 or by mailing to 730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, MI 48067 (envelopes will be provided at the funeral home). Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street  
(south of 12 Mile Road)  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Prayer Service

JUN 5. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>


## Funeral Mass

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JUN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
730 S. Lafayette Avenue  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Tribute Wall

 Mark Bryan

“ *Worked with Joseph Calemme years ago at The River Bistro. He taught me a lot, had great stories to tell of his youth and I remember him as a classy individual who could always make you laugh. A True Professional at his job and what he taught me I still practice to this day. I will miss you Joseph.. Rest In Peace my Friend.. Mark Bell Bryan*

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**Mark Bryan** - August 15, 2020 at 04:09 PM

CA

“ *Carlo lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**carlo** - June 04, 2018 at 08:12 PM

CC

“ *Carlo Calemme lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**Carlo Calemme** - June 12, 2017 at 10:45 PM



“ *Vanessa Anne lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**Vanessa Anne** - June 13, 2016 at 02:20 PM



*I had the pleasure of taking care of Mr. Calemme. I also met two of his sons and his wife--what a beautiful family! My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the family. PS I always told Carlo how adorable and cute Mr. Calemme was.*

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**Vanessa Anne** - June 13, 2016 at 02:25 PM

CS

“ *Claudia Siewert lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**claudia siewert** - June 09, 2016 at 08:46 PM

CS

*from Claudia, Doug and Dylan.*

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**claudia siewert** - June 09, 2016 at 08:48 PM

SM

“ *Sandy McCarthy lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**Sandy McCarthy** - June 08, 2016 at 02:58 PM

SM

*From Aidan and Liam*

**Sandy McCarthy** - June 08, 2016 at 02:59 PM

MD

“ *My condolences to the family. May you draw close to God in prayer and he will sustain you.-Psalms 55:22*

**Ms. Dee** - June 08, 2016 at 06:35 AM

MS

“ *Our thoughts & prayers go out to you!*  
*Michalle Skorski*

**michalle skorski** - June 05, 2016 at 10:19 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph M. Calemme.*



June 04, 2016 at 10:48 AM

LW

“ *Prayers and condolences to your family from the children of Ralph and Helene Cortese. We have warm memories of Joe and our parents and the lifelong friendship they shared. The dignity, elegance and kindness with which Joe lived his life was an example for us all. He was a true gentleman. May he rest gently in the arms of Our Savior.*

**Linda Williams** - June 04, 2016 at 10:17 AM

SP

“ *Sylvain And Pamela lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**Sylvain and Pamela** - June 03, 2016 at 02:24 PM

AJ

“ *Angelica & Joe lit a candle in memory of Joseph M. Calemme*



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**Angelica & Joe** - June 03, 2016 at 07:15 AM

AN

*Angelica & Joe we stand with you until the end. Rest in peace.*

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**Angelica** - June 03, 2016 at 07:18 AM



SP

“ We traveled many places together.  
I will never forget you dad.

*Pam and I said many prayers at many church's through France and italy.*



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**Sylvain and Pamela** - June 02, 2016 at 11:54 PM

RS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the  
Calemme family from the Smedo family



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**Robert Smedo** - June 02, 2016 at 01:11 PM

CC

“ Carlo Calemme lit a candle in memory of  
Joseph M. Calemme



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**Carlo Calemme** - June 02, 2016 at 11:08 AM

CC

“ Thanks Dad for everything...life experiences,  
wonderful family, and ALL the moments shared  
....coffee's up! ...Carlo



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**Carlo Calemme** - June 02, 2016 at 11:07 AM