



## Wanda Zwolak (nee Wolszczak)

May 12, 1928 - April 19, 2025

April 19, 2025 of Lancaster, NY. Beloved wife of the late Chester Zwolak; loving mother of Richard Zwolak, Eve (James) Gelley, Ann (late Jacques) Rouleau, and Celestine Arena; cherished grandmother of Jessica Zwolak, Jenny Rouleau, and Julie (Tia) Kinney-Rouleau; great grandmother of River Cruz; also survived by nieces and nephews. No prior visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday May 5th at 10AM in Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta R.C. Church, 496 Terrace Blvd., Depew (East of Transit Rd). Inurnment in St Adalberts Cemetery, Lancaster. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made in Wanda's name to Hospice Buffalo. Please leave condolences online at [www.SmolarekCares.com](http://www.SmolarekCares.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Adalbert Cemetery - Lancaster

6200 Broadway  
Lancaster, NY 14086

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 5. 10:00 AM (est)

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish  
496 Terrace Blvd.  
Depew, NY 14043

*Please Assemble at Church*

# Tribute Wall



“ *In hard times you always were there for help and advice. You took me in instantly and made me family. I can't explain how much our talks helped and how influential you were with River and more. Rest easy and thank you so much. With much love ...*

*Mike Cruz*

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**Mike Sarah** - May 05, 2025 at 09:44 AM

TW

“ *Thank you for being you. You not only loved my children but all children. They all gravitated to your kindness and gentleness. It will never be forgotten. Thank you for you're most wonderful cooking, especially the donuts. You left a unforgettable mark on this family. Love you, miss you.*

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**Tom Wolszczak** - April 30, 2025 at 08:06 PM

KZ

“ *Dear Mom Z,  
I wanted you to know how much it meant to me, accepting me as another daughter, for all the shared holidays, the many conversations with you, including the stories of your life, or just sitting, watching Hallmark movies together. You were my second mom, the heart of the family, the glue that held it all together, and a woman of faith, compassion, and generosity. I will always be grateful to have been a part of your life, and so lucky to have called you Mom. You are in my heart always.  
Love, Kathy*

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**Kathy Zwolak** - April 26, 2025 at 11:08 AM

MS

“ I have very fond memories of visiting my Great Aunt Wanda’s home throughout my childhood, but the most memorable visits were the many Christmas Eves that we gathered together as a big family! We always put on a Christmas pageant, enjoyed a visit from Santa himself, and feasted on a delicious Polish meal. As a mother and wife myself now, I can appreciate how much work she put in to hosting our whole extended family for such a special holiday. I’ll never forget the beautiful handmade outfits she crafted for my American Girl doll, one of a kind creations that I still have to pass on to my children some day.

Aunt Wanda was the warmest soul and always so welcoming, kind, and caring. You genuinely always felt like she was happy to see you.

I am so honored that one of the last times I got to see her was when she still traveled (at about 93 years old) to Rochester to celebrate my baby shower - actively socializing and participating in party games. I’ll always cherish that she was able to make that trip. May she rest in peace.



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**Megan Wolszczak Solomon** - April 26, 2025 at 05:21 AM

EA



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**Elizabeth W Appleby** - April 26, 2025 at 05:30 AM

“ My Ciocia Wanda was probably the kindest and caring person I have known. She always made me feel special. One of my fondest memories was of her putting us young cousins down for a nap after Sunday dinner at my Grandmother's home. My Aunt would softly tell us Polish fairy tales, sing songs and rub our backs until we all fell asleep all on the same bed.

She also had the most beautiful and distinct handwriting. You could immediately know who sent you a card. It was unlike any other handwriting.

Ciocia had many talents. She was a wonderful cook and baker - made the best Polish doughnuts, had unbelievable seamstress skills, she taught us all how to braid flower crowns at Podhale, and she was also a gifted gardener.

My Aunt always loved being with children. She was known to take over control of every infant in the room. Her smile and joy always showed the love she had to give.

She was an avid reader, in both Polish and English and she was of a strong faith in God and said the rosary and Divine Mercy most days. Her first Church in Buffalo was St Stanislaus on the East side and many family marriages, christenings and funerals took place there.

Wanda's early family life was disrupted with the invasion of Russia into Poland and subsequent relocation to Kazakhstan. After years of struggle and living in refugee camps in Persia and Palestine and moving to England before settling in Buffalo, the Zwolak, Wolszczak and Wolski families joined a community of other immigrants, creating a culture-filled life, owning homes, enjoying the freedom to plan and succeed. Wanda always reached out to individuals that needed a friend, or a shoulder to cry on and she presented a positive can-do attitude that encompassed all in her orbit, despite what she had lived through.

*I will truly miss my Aunt. Her presence in my life was both comforting and an inspiration.*

*Dowidzenia Ciocia Wandzia.*

*Elizabeth Wolszczak Appleby*

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**Elizabeth Wolszczak Appleby** - April 25, 2025 at 01:40 PM

AR

“ *It was a challenge caring for my over the last few years. However, I know she is happy being reunited with those she loved who went before her and missed greatly!* ”

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**Ann Rouleau** - April 25, 2025 at 08:38 AM

EA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



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**Elizabeth Wolszczak Appleby** - April 24, 2025 at 10:11 PM

EA

*A lovely selection of photos that recall many life moments*

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**Elizabeth Wolszczak Appleby** - April 25, 2025 at 02:12 AM

AR

*Beautiful job! Thank you!*

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**Ann Rouleau** - April 25, 2025 at 08:31 AM

CA

“ My mom was such a warm and loving person. It was an honor for my sisters and I to keep watch over her in the final weeks of her life. I am also beyond grateful for the many years that my sisters helped care for both my parents, while I came home off and on from my home in Michigan. We are very grateful to Hospice of Buffalo and the team at Terraceview Long-term Care. With their daily assistance, we were able to spend more quiet time with our mother. In better times, she and I could always find things to talk about, like two best friends. My mom was my teacher, my mentor, our revered family elder. She outlived nearly all of the Polish immigrant peers in her social circle, indeed outlasted most in her entire generation. Our family was blessed to have had her with us for so long. Her life story of 96 years reveals a brave, resilient, compassionate child and woman, one who placed tremendous faith in the Lord and whose happiness centered around family and caring for others.

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**Celestine Arena** - April 24, 2025 at 07:06 PM

JH

“ Dear Zwolak Family, We are sorry for the loss of your Mother. She was a kind and good hearted woman. With our deepest sympathy, Jim & Marilyn Hart.

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**James Hart** - April 23, 2025 at 06:51 PM

RC

“ Sad news. Sympathy to the family and friends. A wonderful person from the great generation. Her husband Chester was in the 4th Brigade NYG with my father. May she rest peacefully. 🕯️ The Czyz family.

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**Robert Czyz** - April 22, 2025 at 04:33 PM

EA

*My Ciocia Wanda was probably the kindest and caring person I have known. She always made me feel special. One of my fondest memories was of her putting us young cousins down for a nap after Sunday dinner at my Grandmother's home. My Aunt would softly tell us Polish fairy tales, sing songs and rub our backs until we all fell asleep all on the same bed.*

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*Dowidzenia Ciocia Wandzia.*

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**Elizabeth Wolszczak Appleby** - April 24, 2025 at 10:06 PM