The family of Maria Radicchi (nee Fortini) sadly announce her passing on December 11, 2016, at the age of 76, after a courageous three and a half year battle against cancer.

Born and raised in Vagli Sotto, Lucca, Italy, Maria married Ivo in 1960. After having their first child, they left their homeland and moved to Canada in hopes of creating a better life. Yellowknife became their new home for 29 years, where Maria and Ivo worked tirelessly and raised their family. In 1995, Maria and Ivo retired to Red Deer to be closer to their daughter and her young family.

Maria loved nature and the simple things in life; gardening, baking and making every meal a feast for her family. She was a life-long learner with an inquisitive and outgoing personality. Maria led a faith-filled life and was a strong role model. She enjoyed passing on her knowledge, skills and faith to her family and friends.

Devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, Maria will be remembered for her unconditional love, endless patience, and service to others. She was a kind and gentle spirit, whose positive and outgoing nature endeared her to all. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

She is lovingly remembered by Ivo Radicchi, her faithful husband of 56 years; Peter (Tara) Radicchi, her loving son of Yellowknife; and Emma (Ryan) Abell, her devoted daughter of Red Deer. She was the proud and doting grandmother of six grandchildren: Lisa (Steven) Radicchi Meszes of Yellowknife, Laura Radicchi of Yellowknife, Danielle Abell, Bryce Abell, Brianna Abell, and Ethan Abell of Red Deer; and, two great grandchildren: Aaron and Adam Meszes of Yellowknife.

She is predeceased by her parents Secondo Fortini and Beatrice Bertolini.

There was a viewing and prayer service at Eventide Funeral Chapel, 4820 45st, Red Deer, AB, on Thursday, December 15. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, 6 McMillan Ave, Red Deer, AB, on Friday, December 16, at 11:30 a.m. with Fr. Len Cadieux presiding.

Interment will take place at Alto Reste Cemetery, Garden of Peace, following the funeral mass.

Memorial donations in Maria’s honour may be made directly to the Red Deer Hospice Society, 99 Arnot Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4R 3S6.

Condolences may be forwarded to the family by visiting www.eventidefuneralchaplains.com