



## Gladys Diaz

April 29, 1951 - September 7, 2023

Gladys Diaz, 72, passed away in Lakeland on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Gladys was born in Puerto Rico on April 29, 1951 to parents Leonardo and Miguelina (Alequin) Gonzalez. In 1954, her family moved to New Jersey where she spent majority of her childhood and upbringing.

In 1976, she married the love of her life, Rafael Diaz. In 1980, Gladys and Rafael moved their family to Massachusetts where they resided for many years, before settling in Lakeland in 2014.

Gladys was a homeschooling liason for 25 years upon retiring in 2011.

She was a faithful member of Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal, and a member of their senior group, Los Clasico. Gladys was very active in her church, as she loved her church family so much. She also loved her family immensely, and enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She remained incredibly close and talked to her mother every single day, who survives her at 103 years old.

Gladys is preceded in death by her father, Leonardo Gonzalez and brother Wilfredo Morales.

In addition to her mother Miguelina Alequin, Gladys is survived by her husband of 47 years, Rafael Diaz; Daughters Valerie Milledge (Michael) and Raquel Riopolle (Lewis); Brother Dilo Morales; Sister Elizabeth Thomplison; Sister-in-law Lucy Diaz; Longtime friend Evelyn Negron; Grandchildren Melvin, Marcus, Malynda, Joshua, and Lyanessa; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023 from 10:00-10:30

AM, followed by a funeral service to begin at 10:30AM, at Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal. Following services at the church, Gladys will be laid to rest at Serenity Gardens in Lakeland.

# Cemetery Details

## Serenity Gardens

3350 Mall Hill Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33809  
(863) 853-5959

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 11. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal Church  
3415 N. Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL

## Funeral Service

SEP 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal Church  
3415 N. Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Gladys Diaz.*



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September 09, 2023 at 10:06 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gladys Diaz.

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September 09, 2023 at 06:05 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gladys Diaz.*



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September 09, 2023 at 06:05 AM