



# Elsa Cira Riera

AUG 3, 1929 - NOV 24, 2023



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## **Elsa Cira Riera**

AUG 3, 1929 - NOV 24, 2023

**E**lsa Cira Penabades Riera was born on August 3rd, 1929, in her beloved Matanzas Cuba to Pablo Luis Penabades and Maria Josefa Arenas Penabades. She attended the University of Havana and earned a bachelor's degree in education. After graduating she taught in rural areas of Cuba. She and her brother Rolando opened a school for basic literacy skills and college preparatory classes. Teaching was her lifelong passion. Her favorite saying was " you may lose your home, your country, your family, but no one can take your knowledge or your dignity". She passed this on to her children and grandchildren. She immigrated to the United States on May 24th 1961 arriving in Miami with her 2 daughters Maria and Leticia, where she joined her husband, Gaston. They were sponsored in Clearwater Florida by The Episcopal Church of the Ascension. She maintained a deep love and gratitude to the Ascension and to the United States for providing refuge and a harbor of support during what had to have been a time of great change. She worked as a Laboratory Technician in Microbiology at Morton Plant Hospital for 35 years. This too became like a second home. Her life was illustrious. One in which she loved with all of her heart. Forgave. Experienced love, loss, joy and sorrow. She traveled the world and made many lifelong friends. She and Gaston became safe harbors for many who traveled the same road that they had. She led by example and was an imperfectly perfect human being. She loved her children and grandchildren with all of her heart. She was joyous and giving, a force to be reckoned with. She will be missed by so many as she touched many, many lives. She is survived by Her daughters Maria Mason and Leticia Lewis. Her son in laws James Mason, Howard Lewis and Jim Overton. Her grandchildren; Jessica M Jenkins, Evan A Thibodeau, Heather Benton, Joshua Overton, Marleina Lyonswolfe,



## Obituary

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Alexandra Lewis, Jordan Lewis. Great Grandchildren; Aidan J. Jenkins ,Kira Overton and Kai Overton, and great great grandson Luca Overton.




# Events


**Elsa Cira Riera**

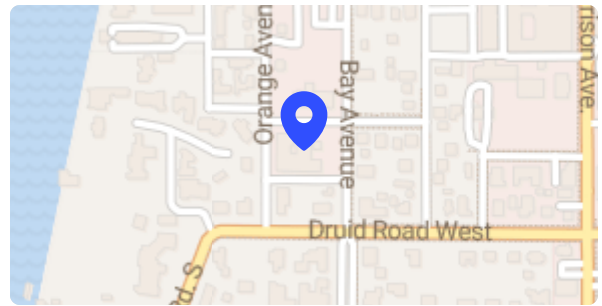
AUG 3, 1929 - NOV 24, 2023

## Funeral Mass


 **Monday**, December 4, 2023

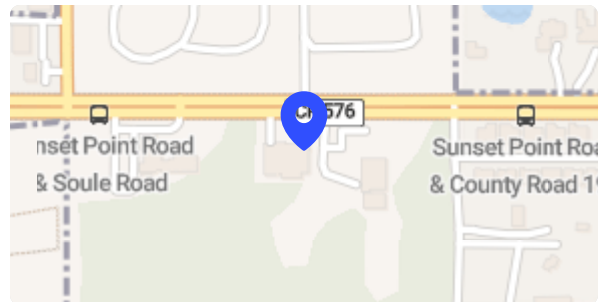
 1:00 PM ET

 **Episcopal Church of the Ascension**  
701 Orange Avenue, Clearwater FL 33756



## Cemetery Details

 **Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park**  
2853 Sunset Point Rd., Clearwater 33759 FL  
33759





## Tribute Wall

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JN

**Juan Nava** posted:

Elsita y Gaston eran una pareja sin igual llena de alegría , generosidad y bondad, Elsita con su gran corazon te hacia sentir tan querido desde el momento en que te recibian. Mi mas sentido pesame a Mary y LeticiaJuan Nava

November 29 at 5:02 PM

JJ

**Jessica Jenkins** posted:

My Beautiful Mama Elsa , lived an exceptional life full of Grace, dignity and love. I will miss her with a fierceness and can't wait for the day I can be wrapped again in one of her giant hugs. Yo te quiero mucho , mucho , mucho.

November 29 at 6:09 AM

BJ

**Barbara Jenkins** posted:

Elsa was such a beautiful soul whose smile could light up an entire room. I will forever remember her loving and happy spirit. May she rest in peace with her beloved Gaston.

November 28 at 2:17 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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