



Mr. Joseph N. "Joe" Gaeta

March 20, 1963 - November 3, 2023

MANLIUS/UTICA – The Lord welcomed Joseph (Joe) N. Gaeta home on Friday, November 3, 2023, at the age of 60.

Born in New Hartford on March 20, 1963, Joe was the son of the late Joseph F. and Evelyn F. (Arrigo) Gaeta. He attended Albany Street and Christopher Columbus Elementary Schools and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1981. He then attended MVCC, continuing to SUNY Polytechnic Institute where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Public Management. Joe's intellectual curiosity and natural mentorship led him to a certificate in leadership from the University of Notre Dame, and executive certificates in marketing strategies for business statistics from the esteemed Cornell Johnson Graduate School of Management.

Joe was committed to using his professional skills to make a difference. Joe started and ended his sales career at Johnson & Johnson. Most recently, he served as a Senior Executive Oncology Sales Specialist at the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. This year, Johnson & Johnson (J&J) recognized Joe for his service and contributions, reaching a milestone of 20 years of service with J&J. Joe was also recognized for his excellent sales performance by winning the coveted President's Circle Award. This was Joe's third time to win this award (2022, 2019, 2018) which elevated Joe to win the Chairman's Club Elite award in 2022. He won numerous sales

and leadership awards throughout his career, not only at J&J but at other pharmaceutical companies and at Kraft Foods. Joe accepted these awards with humility, attributing his success to his hard work, mentors, faith, and the support of his family.

It was love at first sight when Joe met the former Susan M. Salem. Joe and Sue united in marriage on September 23, 2000 and their union was blessed with their son, Joe, who they cherished. Together, with Joe's daughter, Ariana, their family was complete. They built a life of companionship, were strong in their faith and trusted that the Lord directed each step of their life's journey.

Known for his great smile, kindness, and compassion, Joe was a personable and steadfast presence in every facet of life. His passionate nature was evident, as was his genuine and vibrant soul—earning respect and trust from family, friends, and colleagues alike.

Musically inclined, Joe filled his home with beautiful melodies on his piano, where he found peace within the music and constantly challenged himself with new techniques. He lived an active lifestyle, keeping up with his son Joe and enjoying the time they spent together over many baseball games. He also enjoyed watching Ariana advance in the sports of hockey and golf. Traveling with his beloved Sue to select destinations was a source of joy. She will keep close to her heart their numerous adventures. A sports enthusiast, he enjoyed watching hockey and favored the NY Rangers. He also cheered for the NY Yankees and the Buffalo Bills. Joe enjoyed watching golf and his winter hobbies included partaking in downhill skiing and snowmobiling. Italian cuisine was close to his heart from his fond memories of his mother Evelyn's chicken riggies and a good cannoli.

Joe's spirituality was deeply rooted in his belief in the Lord as his Savior. His parents fostered his strong faith. He brought this foundation to his own family

where they shared individual faith in Jesus' sacrifice in order to obey His commandments and to one day take part in the Kingdom of God.

Joe is survived by his devoted wife, Sue; his son, Joseph Salem Gaeta; and his daughter, Ariana K. Gaeta and her spouse, Angela. He also leaves his loving sister who was also his dear friend, Gail A. Diesfeld; nieces and nephew, Erica Diesfeld, Evan Gaeta Diesfeld, and Elise Diesfeld; aunt and uncle, Regina and David Lewis; many cousins; and his in-laws, Judith and Richard Przekop (son Richard), Claudia and Allan Bernardo (sons Brett (Ashley), Adam (Shane) and Brian (Sarah), Nancy and David Creed (daughters Kate (McQuail) Kayne (Alex) and Sarah (McQuail) Hall (Michael) and all of their children. Joe was blessed with a lifetime of wonderful friends and co-workers, whose presence enriched his life. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Joseph and Mary (Arrigo) Gaeta; and his maternal grandparents, Anthony and Anna (Longo) Arrigo.

Sue wishes to thank the special friends and neighbors who were of great support to her and her family, showing much love and tenderness during Joe's unexpected passing. May you all be blessed for your prayers and support.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2023, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South Street, corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Joseph's honor may be made to Turning Point Ministries online at www.davidjeremiah.org/donate, Children International online at www.children.org/donate, or Samaritan's Purse online at www.samaritanspurse.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Joseph's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Friday, November 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. Entombment will follow in Christ Our Savior

Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Ariana, to you and your family, I am so very sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad.

Ms. LaDuc (Whitesboro teacher and coach)

Linda S. LaDuc - November 21, 2023 at 03:22 PM

JC

“ Gail: I remember you and Joe who lived upstairs from Aunt Anna and Evelyn

Every Sunday Mom Dad and I would visit Grandma Maria Aunt Anna & Evelyn

Those were fun days especially on New Years Eve when Evelyn, cousin Frankie & jimmy were hanging out but that was way before you were around

JoAnn Longo Cousin - November 11, 2023 at 05:18 PM

DH

“ I had the pleasure in working with Joe, my J&J friend and colleague, when I was located in Rochester NY. I moved there from the West coast and I was always grateful how helpful Joe was getting me acclimated to the upstate NY area. Over the years Joe consistently reached out to keep in touch and we would talk about our pension plans and our J&J career. I'm saddened to hear the news of Joe's passing as another kind, thoughtful soul is gone too soon. My prayers and thoughts to the entire family during this difficult time.
Derrick Holmes

Derrick Holmes - November 09, 2023 at 07:21 PM

RT

“ I had the pleasure of working with Joe as a new employee at Johnson & Johnson. Someone with his kind of tenure could have been distant or unwelcoming, however, he was the exact opposite; he was kind, encouraging, humble, and authentic. He left a legacy of those life-giving character traits and it is something I will take with me for the rest of my life and career. To say he will be missed is an understatement and this life will not be the same without him but I do know this truth, Joe is at peace and joy with his Heavenly Father and Savior. May we all be challenged by the life that Joe lived and be pushed to love others as he did.

Rick Tidwell - November 09, 2023 at 09:34 AM

TT

“ I've had the pleasure of working with Joe the last two and a half years and my life has been all the more rich as a result. He had such an easy and pleasant smile that revealed so much of the genuine warmth and compassion that resided within him. May his memory be a blessing.

Tom Tommelleo - November 08, 2023 at 09:13 PM

MD

“ Very sorry and shocked to hear of Joe's passing. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family. Joe's mother Evelyn and my mother Carmella were best friends sharing many good times and laughter in Utica. I remember visiting the Gaeta home when we were kids and how warm, welcoming, and friendly it was. At Proctor I remember how Joe loved to ski and was always a friendly good character guy. What an amazing life of family, faith, and achievement Joe lived. May his family, loved ones, and friends always remember Joe and find peace and inspiration from his great life. Rest in eternal joy and peace of the lord Joe. Matt DeCotis and family.

Matt DeCotis - November 08, 2023 at 06:44 PM

MA

“ *Gail and Family. I am very sorry to hear of Joey passing. I have so many memories of us growing up that will last a lifetime. The hill was a special place. Joey was a part of it. My deepest condolences. Mariangela Pecheone.*

MariangelaPecheone - November 08, 2023 at 05:58 PM

GS

“ *My heart goes out to the family! Gina (Steere) and Michael Szczygiel*

Gina Szczygiel - November 08, 2023 at 03:14 PM

JM

“ *Gail and Family ,
As you would guess we are all heart broken on hearing of Joey's passing. Please know we have and will cherish so many fond memories of us all growing up on the hill. On behalf of my mom , sisters and myself please accept our most sincere condolences and sympathies . Joseph Murine and Family*

Joseph Murine - November 08, 2023 at 10:35 AM

MP

“ *My deepest condolences to Joe's family and relatives. Joe and I were colleagues here at JnJ. He was a true gentleman and his presence will be missed by all. May God hold him in his hand. rest in peace my friend. You will be missed by all.*

Mario Pizzonia - November 08, 2023 at 08:33 AM

MF

“ Gail and Family, we are saddened with Joey's loss. Our prayers go out for everyone as he shared the memories and links to the past of a simpler time with growing up in Utica. He is reunited with his parents above in God's Kingdom.

Margaret Montanaro & Family - November 08, 2023 at 08:24 AM

KM

“ I had Joe as a manager while I worked for him at Endo Pharmaceuticals. What a great man and manager that truly loved his family. Rest in peace Joe !!
Kimberly Mallen, Poughkeepsie, NY

kimberly mallen - November 07, 2023 at 07:13 PM

MP

“ Mariangela P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Joseph N. "Joe" Gaeta.

Mariangela P. - November 07, 2023 at 06:14 PM

ST

“ I first met Joe around 1987. He worked for Kraft and I worked for Keebler. We went to Breckenridge Colorado I think in 1988. That ski trip was one I will never forget. We lost touch when he moved to the Syracuse area. We would talk from time to time and catch up on our lives. About 12 years ago we meet at Gore for one last ski trip. He surprised me with a call I think last year or early this year. The first thing we talked about was skiing. Joe always had a smile on his face and he treated everyone with respect. I'll miss him. Santo Tomaino

Santo Tomaino - November 07, 2023 at 03:39 PM

CP

“ Gail and family, I have so many fond memories of you, Joe, and Mariangela growing up together. He used to love hanging around with the "older guys" and I can remember him and Mare shagging baseballs for us. I am very saddened by his passing. My deepest condolences. Carmen Pecheone

carmen c pecheone - November 07, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph N. "Joe" Gaeta.



November 06, 2023 at 09:16 PM

CM

“ Cousins – Kathy and Ron, Nick and Mary planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Joseph N. "Joe" Gaeta.

Cousins – Kathy and Ron, Nick and Mary - November 06, 2023 at 09:16 PM



“ You will be missed very much Joe , you've always been a man with a warm heart and strong character.... Rest in peace my friend. My thoughts and prayers with all your family and friends .
Love
Paul Diesfeld

Paul Diesfeld - November 06, 2023 at 05:47 PM

BW

“ I know that Joe was ready to enter the Kingdom of God, and that he's walking with Jesus at his side right now. But I was not ready to say goodbye to my friend, and this hurts, as I know it hurts all of us. In time, we can focus less on the pain, and more on why the pain is so deep. Joe was a good man, a good family man, and a good friend to all who knew him. He was always quick to offer comfort and support to those around him, and did so completely selflessly. I will miss his companionship and our conversations on life after work, faith and family, cars, sports, the natural beauty of God's creation, our children, and the mundane day to day, like the weather and our jobs. While not lifelong friends, we met as young adult men; I knew Joe before he met Sue and he knew me before I met my wife. I think we both grew up together as husbands and fathers; I know that his wisdom, friendship and counsel made me a better man, I can only hope that I returned that in kind to him. This is from a text he sent just a couple of weeks ago: "We needn't pace the floor at night or run around in a frenzy. We shouldn't faint, fear, or fret. There is a God in heaven. Daniel 2:28" Until we meet again, my friend, I hope to see you on the other side and look forward to shaking your hand and giving you a hug.

bob wells - November 06, 2023 at 04:42 PM

JS

“ Dear Gail and family, I'm so sorry for the loss of Joe. May the thoughts and prayers of family and friends help you through this most difficult time. RIP Joe and rejoice in the Kingdom of God.

Julieann Visingardi Sylvester - November 06, 2023 at 01:41 PM

BG

“ *GOD Bless all of the Gaeta Family!*
Joe was a wonderful human! He will be missed by all!

Bill Gahara

Bill Gahara - November 06, 2023 at 12:36 PM