



## Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito

August 13, 1968 - February 20, 2025

UTICA – Mr. Joseph M. “Joe” Polito, age 56, passed away unexpectedly in the comfort and dignity of his own home on Thursday, February 20, 2025.

Born in Utica on August 13, 1968, Joseph was the son of Ralph J. and Elaine (Cristalli) Polito. Raised in the area, he was a proud graduate of Notre Dame High School/Class of 1987. In his school years, he was a phenomenal athlete, excelling in football and baseball. He was tough and talented, and rose to the occasion as a team leader. In baseball, Joe was a skilled catcher, and his talents on the football field shone brightly. If you saw Joe running toward you, you went the other way! He also had a great run with Adrean Post 625 American Legion Baseball.

Joe held employment with the Utica Water Board for over 25 years, serving as a technician.

Possessing a kind and loving heart, the most important part of Joe’s existence was the beauty of his family and loved ones. He was a devoted and dedicated son who called his mom every morning, just to hear her beautiful voice. The closeness that he built with his parents over the years made him a joy to have as a son. He was a special soul that enjoyed being in the company of good friends and loved ones. He would always greet you with a warm smile and a hug, and then he would probably hand you a “drink chip.” Joe was of the

Catholic faith.

Joe is survived by his parents, Ralph and Elaine; and sister, Mary M. Polito. He leaves to cherish his memory his aunts and uncles, Barbara Cristalli (the late Michael J. Cristalli), Frederic and Carol Polito; and cousins, Michael and Kristyn Cristalli, Frederic Polito and Jim Recknall, and Christopher and Debra Polito. He shared in a long-term relationship with Renita Zayas, as well as her family. He was loved and had many special friends, especially acknowledging his lifelong friend, Nicholas Collucci. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Joseph and Margaret V. (LaBella) Polito; and maternal grandparents, Michael A. and Mary T. (Vedete) Cristalli.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Joseph's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus  
2222 Genesee St.  
Utica, NY 13502  
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

# Tribute Wall

AY

“ *God Bless Joe...Rest in Peace brother*

Al Yaghy - April 17, 2025 at 07:08 PM

CP

“ *Elaine, my sincere sympathy goes out to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May your beautiful memories of Joe comfort you.*

*Carla Percia*

Carla Percia - March 01, 2025 at 10:14 PM

JH

*My sincere sympathy to you both*

Janice Hunzinger - March 12, 2025 at 11:40 AM

DM

“ *Our deepest sympathy with the loss of JOE. Our thoughts and prayers.*

Doris Meyer-Hickey - March 01, 2025 at 03:42 PM

GT

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your son Joe. I wish I had the chance to meet him when I came to Utica. Elaine and Ralph my condolences to you and entire family.*

Gordon Toffler - March 01, 2025 at 12:24 PM

PI

“ Joe you will be greatly missed.. You had the biggest heart!!! Rest in peace

*Paul & Roxanne Irizarry*

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**Paul & Roxanne Irizarry** - February 28, 2025 at 03:43 PM

TZ

“ Joe was a great person with a big heart. He will be missed by many close friends who enjoyed his company. My thoughts and prayers are with his family that he spoke so highly of.

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**Tom Zalocha** - February 27, 2025 at 07:35 PM

SM

“ I am so very sad for the passing of Joe. I had the privilege of coaching a young Mr. Polito for one season of East Utica, Senior League baseball, in the early 1980's. I remember Joe from the many wonderful players on that team because he made a distinct impression. Aside from being a pure hitter with a swing that rivaled Mike Piazza, he developed into a tremendous student of the game, making coaching rewarding. Joe listened and learned. I recall early on, before the season began, instructing Joe on a few catching position fundamentals; basics, such as running up the first base line when a ball was hit in the infield with no runners or one on first base. Joe dutifully complied, though it was clear he was skeptical of this fundamental. However, when he stopped his first ball that had passed the first basemen during a game, the light bulb went off and he embraced and soaked up learning and executing on the position like a sponge. I was never a baseball player of Joe's caliber and was so very proud of his progression as a baseball player and person. I also can also still clearly see that curly hair of his flopping around when he threw off his mask for a play, eyes peeled on the play at hand. Funny, how we remember little things. Joe became a leader on the field and on that team. I only got to know Joe for that one Summer, but I heard he became a stand out baseball player in High School and am so grateful I had the opportunity to know him for that brief moment in time. Sincerest condolences to the family and all who had the privilege of having Joe in their life.

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**Salvatore J. Monopoli** - February 27, 2025 at 11:39 AM

TZ

“ Terry Zangrilli lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito



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**Terry Zangrilli** - February 27, 2025 at 07:21 AM

JA

“ *My deepest condolences.*

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**Joseph Arcuri** - February 27, 2025 at 06:45 AM

SW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss! My thoughts and prayers are with all of you throughout this difficult time.*

*Sharon Wittern*

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**Sharon Wittern** - February 26, 2025 at 11:48 PM

RM

“ *Ralph, Elaine and family*

*So sorry for your loss. 🙏*

*Ron and Martha Mancuso*

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**Ronald Mancuso** - February 26, 2025 at 07:01 PM

WR

“ *Love and prayers to the Polito family during this difficult time. Rest in peace Joey.*

*Wayne & Lisa Rabideau*



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**Wayne & Lisa Rabideau** - February 26, 2025 at 06:52 PM

RA

“ *Ralph, Elaine and Mary*  
*We are sorry for the loss of your beautiful son and brother. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love The Ameduri Family*



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**Renee Ameduri** - February 26, 2025 at 04:45 PM

FB

“ *Our Dear friend "Joe",*  
*A humble, kind, warm hearted, good friend for many years of knowing and being a part of our families!! We will miss you and your gleaming, sparkling eyes and smile!! Our deepest love goes out to the family! May you have peace during this time with cherished memories. He will always be by your sides!!*  
*With all our Love!*  
*Joseph and Francesca Bellino and family*

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**Francesca Bellino** - February 26, 2025 at 09:26 AM

SB

“ *Joe may you rest in peace my man i will miss the times at paul's pub .*

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**Sal Barbero** - February 26, 2025 at 05:11 AM

JT

“ *Joe Tartaglia lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito*



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**Joe Tartaglia** - February 25, 2025 at 06:57 PM

AA

“ *Ralph and Elaine My heartfelt condolences to both of you on the passing of your son. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*

Art Asselta - February 25, 2025 at 05:34 PM

MB

“ *Michael Brigano lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito*



Michael Brigano - February 25, 2025 at 02:05 PM

FM

“ *Very sorry to hear this news. Thoughts and prayers to the entire Polito Family. God Bless you along with my condolences. Frank - Wetmore 1978 PHS 1983*

*Frank Martello, DeBary, FL*

Frank Martello - February 25, 2025 at 01:29 PM

MB

“ *Marc And Ang Bonacci lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito*



marc and ang bonacci - February 25, 2025 at 12:42 PM

PB

“ I'm sending this with a heavy heart, Joe was loved by many friends and all the family. He will be sorely missed by all.

pattie Barnaba - February 25, 2025 at 11:08 AM

LF

“ Ralph and Elaine, sending heartfelt sympathies to both of you. Please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of your son. Our prayers for you,  
Leo and Linda Fadel

LEO FADEL - February 25, 2025 at 09:18 AM

MM

“ Mandie McNamara lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito



Mandie McNamara - February 25, 2025 at 08:12 AM

MM

My thoughts and prayers are with the Polito family at this difficult time. Joe was a great guy and I have many wonderful memories of him.

Mandie McNamara - February 25, 2025 at 08:15 AM

SP

My prayers to you and your family Elaine. May Joe rest in peace. I loved your Son!

santo paniccia - February 25, 2025 at 03:31 PM

FF

*Ralph, Elaine and family, so very sorry for your loss and know that he will be right there in your heart always....  
God's Blessings be with you all,*

**Frank Ferraro** - March 09, 2025 at 02:40 PM

DL

“ *Rest in peace Joe. So many great memories of our younger days hanging out with our crew. Sending prayers to your family.*



**Diane Lacy** - February 25, 2025 at 08:04 AM

FP

“ *Frank Puleo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito*



**Frank Puleo** - February 25, 2025 at 12:05 AM

LF

“ *Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph M. "Joe" Polito*



**Lynette Franco** - February 24, 2025 at 09:14 PM

DG

“ I will always remember Joey as one of the kindest, caring and respectful people that came into my life while bartending at Lasek's. He was always looking out for me and I appreciated his presence daily! My thoughts and prayers extend to Joey's family. I will miss his smile and bear hugs!

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**Donna George** - February 24, 2025 at 08:05 PM

MB

“ Ralph, Elaine and Mary,  
Sending my heartfelt sympathies to all of you.

*In time, I pray that the beautiful memories that you hold so dear in your hearts, provide some comfort to each of you. Know that I will keep you all in my prayers. Love, Marlene*

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**Marlene Talarico Biernat** - February 24, 2025 at 07:31 PM

VB

“ Elaine Ralph and Mary thinking of you and family at this sad time I will be out of town for services prayers will be with you Virginia Boehlert

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**Virginia Boehlert** - February 24, 2025 at 05:53 PM

DB

“ *Mr and Mrs Polito and Mary,*

*My heartfelt condolences to you and your family on the loss of your son and brother!*

*Joe, was a great guy. He will definitely be missed by so many.*

*Rest in Peace my friend!*

*Debbie Barbero*

*Bob Crouse*

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**Debbie Barbero** - February 24, 2025 at 04:56 PM

LS

“ *My prayers and thoughts for your loss. Remember the wonderful times and special moments for a life well lived. God bless*

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**Louis Steppello** - February 24, 2025 at 04:02 PM