



Josephine M. Fanelli

March 19, 1934 - December 31, 2020

UTICA - Josephine M. Fanelli, age 86, went home to the Lord on Thursday, December 31, 2020 when she peacefully passed away at the Abraham House in Rome, with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on March 19, 1934, the feast day of St. Joseph, in whose honor she was named, Josephine was the daughter of the late Salvatore V. and Elvira (Marcantonio) Molé. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1952.

At the age of 19, she started a career as a secretary at the WIBX—WRUN Radio Station working for little-known TV and Radio personality, “Dick Clark”! She then began to prepare for motherhood, and soon she raised her 4 boys, and then her only daughter was to follow. As the kids matured, she accepted a secretarial position at St. Elizabeth Hospital, a career that spanned 28 years. Concurrently, from her home, she was established as a well known Ceramics teacher, a proprietorship to which she was very dedicated. If that wasn’t enough, she was the night Administrative Assistant at CMI (Cooperative Magnetic Imaging), and in time, she was able to retire in 2006 and be a full-time Nonnie to her grandson Christian.

Her hard work ethic was instilled in her children because she wanted them to be strong, independent, and appreciative of what they accomplished in life. As well as being charitable to many organizations, Josephine selflessly gave of herself with all her heart and soul, whether you were family or friend. She was an amazing cook and excellent baker in her own Italian way and shared her

traditional delicacies with all. She was old school in embracing her heritage and hosting homemade meals. She had a green thumb and tended to her plants, nurturing them in her home and in her yard. Raising her children was everything to her, and nothing was more important. She always wanted to be connected to all the generations of her children. In more recent times, she enjoyed boating on Oneida Lake and visiting Sylvan Beach. She socialized with others, especially Fran, and Mary Ellen, traveling together and sharing many good times.

She practiced her Catholic faith as a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. A very spiritual woman, she prayed the Rosary every day, and her good intentions for others were made known to her Lord and Savior.

Josephine is survived by her children and their loves, Michael A. and Donna Fanelli, George and Patti Fanelli, Salvatore A. and Sharon Fanelli, Paul Fanelli with whom she resided, and Joanne and Stephen Babiarz; grandchildren, Reneé (Nick) Demma, Telicia (John) Orloff; Michelle (Jason) Britton, Nicholas (Michelle) Fanelli; Nicole (Joseph) Piston; and Christian G. Babiarz; and several beloved great-grandchildren. She also leaves several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; lifetime friend, Rosemary DeFazio; as well as the special bond she shared with Fran and Don Leo, and Mary Ellen Schrader, all who went above and beyond; Marsha Martin, Julie Moore, and Shari Dutcher. All of these gals were her St. Elizabeth circle of devoted friends. She also leaves a special cousin, Carrie Lindsay; and family friend, Paul Rabbia. She was predeceased by her brothers and sister-in-law, Salvatore V. "Sam" Jr. and Carrie Molé, and Vito S. "Bucky" Molé.

The family is grateful for the genuine compassion of the staff at Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.; and the personnel of the Abraham House in Rome for providing comfort, care, and compassion during the last moments of her life. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Josephine's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Wednesday morning, January 6, 2021 at 11:00 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where her

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered.

Social distancing and registration for contact tracing will be implemented.

Also, a mask covering your nose and mouth will be required. Memorial donations in Josephine's name may be directed to the Abraham House for their mission and compassion rendered to the family, online at <https://www.theabrahamhouse.org>. Envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place privately in Forest Hill Cemetery.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Josephine's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Tribute Wall

DD

“ So sorry to hear of Josephine’s passing. Our condolences to her family. Deb and Al Dacostafaro

Debra Dacostafaro - January 06, 2021 at 07:47 AM

FC

“ Muzzie and I always considered ourselves "cousins", and technically I guess we were since our grandmothers were sisters. I remember going to her wedding and many visits to Euclid Road as a young kid. I was glad that we were able to re-connect in recent years, mostly at church and talk about old times. My sincerest condolences to the entire family. Frank Calaprice

Frank Calaprice - January 05, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine M. Fanelli.



January 05, 2021 at 11:50 AM

KB

“ Keena, Steve, Charles and Christopher Brittingham purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Josephine M. Fanelli.



Keena, Steve, Charles and Christopher Brittingham - January 04, 2021 at 05:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Josephine M. Fanelli.*



January 04, 2021 at 04:13 PM



“ *Paul, We are so very sorry to read of your mother's passing. She was very lucky to have had such a wonderful son! Sincerely, John and Kathy pugh on Victoria Dr*

Kathleen Pugh - January 04, 2021 at 04:10 PM



“ *My brother, Frank, and I were classmates of Jo at Brandegee school. She was always very pleasant. My deepest sympathy to all of her family. May she Rest In Peace. Rose (LaBella)Freedan.*

Rose Freedan - January 04, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ *Josephine has been a part of my life and my families life for over 30 years. My memories are embedded deep in my heart. ❤️ She was like a mother, and a very special friend. She loved and cared about me and my son and her generosity was genuine and from her heart. I thank God for being able to have Josephine in my life. Im grateful I recently had the joy of speaking with her on the phone and before she hung up she said, " I love you Chris". Josephine rest in peace as you are now our special angel in Heaven. I'll never forget you. 💔*

Christine Cortese - January 04, 2021 at 10:30 AM

AD

“ Dear Joanne and family-My deepest condolences go out to u at this difficult time!!
May she RIP!
Ann DeNigro

Ann DeNigro - January 04, 2021 at 08:12 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Josephine M. Fanelli.



January 03, 2021 at 07:59 PM

LV

“ Sal and Sharon & Nicole and Joe...We are very sorry to hear about the passing of your Mom and Nonnie...It is never easy..Cherish all of your beautiful memories ..I am sure she is walking on streets of Gold with Jesus ..Sending healing prayers until you all meet again...
Bob and Linda Verdgeline

Linda Verdgeline - January 03, 2021 at 04:07 PM

LD

“ What a wonderful lady and grandma. Her sense of humor and laugh is what I remember about Josephine. She would bring Christian to preschool and we would always have a laugh together. She will be missed. Love to all. Miss Lynne

Lynne Dembrow - January 03, 2021 at 02:36 PM

MV

“ *Joanne and family. Wishing you strength and comfort through this difficult time. Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort. I hope you know I'm here for you during this time of sorrow.p Please accept our warmest condolences.*

Tom and Michele Vanno

Michele Vanno - January 03, 2021 at 02:06 PM

MK

“ *I worked with Jo for many years at St. E's—she was such a special lady. Her smile was infectious! My condolences to her family—I know she will be missed.*

Marian Kivatchitch (Mrs. K) - January 03, 2021 at 12:43 PM

DB

“ *Dave Barocsi lit a candle in memory of Josephine M. Fanelli*



Dave Barocsi - January 03, 2021 at 12:27 PM

GB

“ *Our condolences and prayers for your family at this hard time, the Borek family*

glen borek - January 03, 2021 at 11:49 AM

SB

“ Paul-

*We were very sorry to read of your mother's passing. We know how concerned you have been -especially of her health- and hope this hasn't affected your health. Your love for her showed every time you mentioned her. We hope you have wonderful memories.
Sheila and Henry Bamberger*

Sheila Bamberger - January 03, 2021 at 11:43 AM

SP

“ Joanne and family, I am sorry to hear about Josephine's passing. She was loved by all. I enjoyed talking to her at the salon when she was there. My prayers are with you and your family. May she RIP



Sally Pugliese - January 03, 2021 at 11:34 AM

NT

“ I worked with Jo for many years at St Es, such a nice lady and so devoted! Condolences to all her family.

Nancy Traxel - January 03, 2021 at 08:37 AM

JB

“ So sorry to the entire family for your loss
God Bless Her Rest in Peace
Joseph N Betrus Jr

Joe Betrus - January 03, 2021 at 07:46 AM

LW

“ Joanne and Christian,
I'm so sorry for the loss of your mother and grandmother. Knowing what a big part of your life she was makes it harder to bear. I'm sure that she appreciated the love, care and attention you gave her. I remember her caring for Christian since he was a toddler. I believe that love never dies and you will sense her presence at various times which is a deep comfort.

Louise White - January 03, 2021 at 06:17 AM

JG

“ Joanne and family,
We are so sorry for your loss , thinking of you at this difficult time . There are so many memories for me to think about ...I am truly saddened by her loss ...the last time I saw her was years ago in the supermarket, we hugged and she asked all about my family . We talked like old times and it was really good to see her. She had a great smile and of course her hair looked perfect. She installed in you a good work ethic , a good business sense and to take care of your home and salon. She was funny at times but then again if she gave you “ that look “ you knew you were going to hear it ...I can still hear her say your nameMay you Rest In Peace God Bless you and all of your family ...our thoughts and prayers are with you..

Janice and Fred Greer - January 02, 2021 at 08:42 PM

SD

“ Jo was such a big part of my life for the last 40+yrs.. never a hair out of place (which I kidded with her all the time about.) I loved her and am thankful for our friendship and also grateful that I was able to spend time with her just before Christmas. Love you Jo!!

Shari Dutcher - January 02, 2021 at 06:29 PM