



Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra

June 9, 2000 - August 24, 2025

ROME, NY – Matthew Joseph “Matt” Collandra, age 25, was unexpectedly called home to be with the Lord on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

Born in New Hartford on June 9, 2000, Matt was the beloved son of Melanie A. (Paniccia) Collandra of Deerfield, and James B. Collandra of Albany. He was raised in Deerfield and graduated with the Class of 2018 from Whitesboro High School. Following his graduation, he pursued a career in commercial driving—first earning his Class B CDL and later advancing to his Class A license from Sage Truck Driving School in Rome.

Matt was employed at the Turning Stone Resort Casino, as a warehouse delivery driver, a job he enjoyed and looked forward to seeing his fellow co-workers each day. More recently, he worked as a delivery driver for PepsiCo in Frankfort.

Known for his strong work ethic, dependability, and integrity, Matt was often described as an “old soul”—wise beyond his years and deeply grounded in principle. Matt possessed a generous heart, unwavering loyalty, and respectful nature. He was sincere, dependable, and kind—always someone you could count on. With a quick wit and a great sense of humor, he loved to laugh and bring joy to those around him. He was a shining light and too beautiful of a person for this heartless world.

A proud Eagle Scout, Matt's achievement was a testament to his perseverance and commitment—qualities that shaped every part of his life. He was a passionate sports fan, cheering faithfully for the New York Mets and the Utica Comets. A gifted handyman, a true jack of all trades, he was mechanically inclined and had a knack for fixing things — always wanting to know how things were made and how they worked. His sharp mind and natural curiosity made it clear he was someone special.

Matt is survived by his devoted mother, Melanie A. (Paniccia) Collandra and her partner, Daniel Mahaffy; father, James “Jim” Collandra; and his sister, Rena P. Collandra. He also leaves behind to cherish his memory his aunts and uncles, Michael A. Paniccia and Thien Hong, Mark A. Paniccia and Lori Francis, Michael D. Collandra and his partner Victoria Kremer, and Susan J. Collandra; great-aunts and great-uncles; cousins, neighbors, and many special friends. Matt was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Alfred J. “Red” Jr. and Irene A. “Renee” (Roback) Paniccia; and his paternal grandparents, Joseph J. “Joe” and Margaret “Margie” (Vaillancourt) Collandra.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Matthew's Memorial Mass of Christian Burial, which will commence on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 12:00 PM at St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church, 702 Columbia St., Utica, NY. Inurnment will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Utica at the convenience of the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

SEP 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph St. Patrick Church
702 Columbia St
Utica, NY 13502-3480
(315) 735-4429

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Barbara B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.*

Barbara B. - September 05, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.*



September 05, 2025 at 08:26 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.*



September 05, 2025 at 01:31 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.*



September 04, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.

September 04, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ Lee, Kelly, Mary, and Chrissy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.



Lee, Kelly, Mary, and Chrissy - September 03, 2025 at 07:43 PM



“ Lee, Kelly, Mary, and Chrissy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.

Lee, Kelly, Mary, and Chrissy - September 03, 2025 at 07:43 PM



“ I have had the opportunity to be around Matt since the time he was little at many of the Roback family functions. What I will cherish and always remember most about you is being greeted with a warm friendly smile, an embrace/hug that generated love and a genuine how are you and always a so nice to see you. At a recent family function a friend of mine inquired who is that young man that just hugged you, he seems so kind. The earth certainly has a loss without your presence Matt and what a blessing for heaven to have gained such a precious Angel. You will be missed. Thinking of your family with deepest sympathy and love. ❤️🙏❤️

Dorothy Keyes - September 03, 2025 at 07:28 AM

KA

“ Peace to you Matthew; one of the most kind and sweet souls this world has ever known. Heaven has welcomed one of its angels back home. Love, Kay

Kay - September 02, 2025 at 08:54 AM

MD

“ One memory I have of Matt is when he got his new drone. Earlier in the day Matt and his Mom were out at broad acres flying it around. He really seemed to enjoy it. A while later Matt and my son , Mike were outside again further down Broadacres with the drone. Started to get dark and my son came into the house to get me to look for Matt because the drone had gotten caught in the trees down in the ravine! Matt of course was down in the ravine also. Long story short, the fire department ended coming up and finding Matt! I honestly don't remember if the drone was retrieved from the trees or not. Great memory, and Matt was always so respectful and kind to me. The sweetest young man....love you Matt.

Mary Ann DeCrescenzo - September 01, 2025 at 09:17 PM

PS

“ Pepsi Beverage Company of Schuyler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph "Matt" Collandra.



Pepsi Beverage Company of Schuyler - September 01, 2025 at 04:20 PM