



Josephine Aurora Ruiz Piccione

November 26, 1928 - March 30, 2020

With regards to the COVID19 mandates, attendance will be limited to 10 persons or less at one time.

Private Graveside Services will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 3:00 PM in St. John Cemetery in Lafayette for Mrs. Josephine Aurora Ruiz Piccione, 91, who died at 10:15 AM on Monday, March 30, 2020 at Cornerstone Village South in Lafayette. A private Rosary will be prayed at Martin & Castille Funeral Home on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 2:00 PM. The family would like to invite any of her friends and family to pray a Rosary in the privacy of your home, due to the Covid-19 mandates.

Interment will be in St. John Cemetery.

The Very Reverend Chester C. Arceneaux, VF, Rector of Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, will conduct the funeral services.

She was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on November 26, 1928. At an early age she and her parents moved to Alexandria, Louisiana where she was raised. Her parents are Augustine Ruiz, Sr. and Josephine E. Ruiz, both natives of Mexico.

Her first language was Spanish. When she entered the 1st grade in grammar school, and then was ready to be promoted to the 2nd grade. Her teachers were concerned because of the language difference. She did go into the 2nd grade, finished grammar school, and graduated from Bolton High School. Josephine then went on to attend S.L.I in Lafayette and graduated from the college of Liberal Arts with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree. She worked as a part-time teacher in Alexandria, LA. Josephine and her mother were very devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe and made many trips by train from Alexandria to Mexico City to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. While there they visited with relatives and friends in Celaya and in the surrounding area of the state of Guanajuato.

Josephine and Joseph S. Piccione were first introduced to each other on March 2, 1964,

and after two weeks, Joseph said he knew she was the one. They courted for two years between Alexandria, Josephine's Home, and Lafayette, Joseph's home. They were married on Saturday, August 13, 1966 at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette, with Monsignor George Bodin officiating at the ceremony. Glen John Provost, now The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop, before he was ordained a priest, played the organ at their wedding. For their honeymoon they went to Mexico City and the first place they visited was the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the old Cathedral. They made additional trips to Mexico City and visited the new Cathedral where they saw the Tilma that St. Juan Diego was wearing when Our Lady left her beautiful image. Needless to say Joseph fell in love with this beautiful shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 2007 Joseph and Josephine spoke to Monsignor Keith Joseph DeRouen, former Pastor of Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, about possibly placing a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Cathedral. Monsignor DeRouen enthusiastically backed their proposal. At the main entrance of the Cathedral on the left side wall is a statue of Our Lady donated in memory of Josephine's father and mother, Augustine Ruiz, Sr. and Josephine E. Ruiz, and was blessed by Monsignor DeRouen on December 12, 2007, Our Lady's Feast Day. Over the years Josephine became very active with many different Catholic Organizations including Court Immaculatta No. 503 CDA, Ladies Altar Society, St. Ann Society, Lay Carmelites Community # 1903, and served as a volunteer at Bethany Retirement Home for many years with her good friend, Rose Joseph.

In July 1987 Josephine was one of six ladies appointed by The Very Reverend Glen John Provost, now The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop, to serve on a committee to count the collections at the Cathedral. She served on this committee for twenty-seven years during the Pastorship of The Very Reverend Glen John Provost, Monsignor Keith DeRouen and now The Very Reverend Chester C. Arceneaux, VF. She retired in 2014 due to her ill health.

When Josephine's husband, Joseph, became involved in the Italian-American Club of Lafayette and the club members started making their annual St. Joseph Altars in 1979, she and Joseph eventually were named as co-chairman of the Annual Altars. Josephine made many Italian cookies for the altar. Starting in January each year she made between 3000 to 4000 cookies for each altar, most of the time working alone. Yes thousands! She and her husband felt very blessed many times by special favors granted from St. Joseph. Later her husband became involved with the American-Italian Federation of the Southeast, an umbrella organization of the Italian American Clubs in Louisiana and Mississippi. She and her husband would go to the biennial conventions and quarterly meetings held in different cities and helped with the conventions in any way possible.

Josephine enjoyed working with different clubs and making new friends.

On January 27, 2002, Monsignor Keith J. DeRouen presented Josephine and Joseph with the Bishop's Medal of Honor from Bishop Edward O'Donnell, and a blessing from Pope John Paul II for their continued dedication and service to the Cathedral. They were deeply honored and thankful for this special occasion.

She was also one of the group of ladies who started the monthly Senior luncheons at St. John Cathedral and continued working for a number of years with the group, until she had to retire because of illness.

Josephine and Joe enjoyed traveling and many times would be in the car every weekend going to different places, festivals, New Orleans Parades, visiting relatives and friends, and on different vacations driving to St. Louis, Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York City, Albuquerque, San Antonio,, Dallas, Oklahoma City, and Monterrey, Mexico, just to name a few.

Josephine is survived by her loving husband, Joseph Salvador Piccione, Jr.; three nephews, Robert Juan Ruiz, Peter Charles Piccione, Jr. (C.J.), and Michael Piccione; four great-nephews; one sister-in-law, Roberta Hebert Ruiz; and numerous cousins and Godchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Augustine (Gus) Ruiz, Jr.; one sister and brother-in-law, Amparo "Cookie" and Peter Charles Piccione, Sr.; one nephew; her in-laws, Joseph and Sarafina Schiro Piccione, Sr.

Upholding the honor of pallbearers will be Dennis Sullivan, Peter Charles Piccione, Jr., Don Sellers, Larry Aillet, Shane LaHood and Perry Scotola.

Honorary pallbearers will be Phillip Scotola and LaHood LaHood.

Josephine always will be the shining light of Joseph's life.

A very special thank you is extended to The Very Reverend Chester C. Arceneaux, VF, Rector of Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, and to Reverend Millard G. Boyer, Chaplain of LGMC, for their many acts of kindness to both Josephine and Joseph. The family would also like to thank the nurses, doctor and staff of Cornestone Village South, and also to Dr. Anhar Lodha, Dr. Brad Broussard, Dr. Francine Manual and all of their staff for their assistance provided to Josephine during her time of need.

View the obituary and guestbook online at www.mourning.com

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

Cemetery

St. John Cemetery

914 St. John St.
Lafayette, LA, 70501

Events

APR 2 **Graveside Service** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

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St. John Cemetery
914 St. John St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

Comments



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Piccione Family on the passing away of Ms. Josephine. She was a very sweet and kind lady. We will keep your family in our prayers.

Suzanne and Paul Eason



Suzanne & Paul Eason - April 04 at 05:03 PM



“ Joe, Mel and I are deeply saddened to learn of Josephine's death. Please be assured of prayers for the repose of her soul and for peace and comfort for you. With love, Mel and Beth Wood

Beth Wood - April 02 at 05:55 PM



“ She will be greatly missed especially the way she lot up a room.... Prayers cousin Joe.....

Jennifer woodward - April 01 at 07:14 PM



“ Josephine was one of the most gracious and giving ladies ever created. we were honored and grateful to have known her.
Phil and Jean Piccione

Phil & Jean Piccione - April 01 at 04:39 PM



“ Debbie and I send our love and hugs to you Joe. We are so sad to hear this news. Josephine was the essence of kindness and love. We will miss her so much. She was one in a million, a person of humility and compassion. NITA and Debbie Piccione

Nita Piccione - April 01 at 10:26 AM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Josephine Aurora Ruiz Piccione.



April 01 at 09:12 AM



“ Mr. Piccione please know of our love and prayers for you at this most difficult time. We are here to help you in any way needed.
-Cathedral Clergy and Staff

Danielle Huval - March 31 at 07:57 PM



“ Mr. Joe, our deepest sympathies to you and your family. I will always remember Josephine as a kind and loving person, always with a smile. And yes, a wonderful cookie baker! We were so happy to be invited over for a little coke and watch her bake a batch of cookies, and eat them! Even though we were young, we always enjoyed visiting with her and enjoyed hearing stories of your travels, etc. Mom enjoyed her friendship greatly.
We were so blessed to grow up across the street from both of you. Keeping you and Josephine uppermost in our hearts and prayers. God Bless.
Karin Barra Broussard

Karin Broussard - March 31 at 07:53 PM



“ Mr Joe please know you have our deepest sympathies. Prayers continue
Edward Fremin

J. Edward Fremin - March 31 at 07:07 PM



“ Mr. Joe, Sorry for the loss of your lovely Josephine. May she forever Rest In Peace.

Glynn Hebert (Courtesy)



Glynn Hebert - March 31 at 06:04 PM



“ Florence Barra lit a candle in memory of Josephine Aurora Ruiz Piccione



Florence Barra - March 31 at 05:43 PM



“ My condolences to Mr Joe and family.

Florence Barra - March 31 at 05:44 PM



“ To Mr. Joe and Family,

Cecile and I offer our prayers on the passing of Mrs. Josephine. My she Rest In Peace!

Marc Mouton - March 31 at 12:57 PM



“ We, the Lay Carmelites have been praying for Josephine. Throughout her illness. She was such a lovely woman and we grieve with you in your loss. We usually say a rosary at the funeral home, but because we are isolated at home, we'll have to be praying from our homes. Please know of our deepest sympathy.

Sister Laura Melancon O. Carm.
Spiritual Assistant to Lay Carmelites

Sister Laura Melancon - March 30 at 05:31 PM



“ Josie, what a beautiful lady. She was always so well dressed, quiet but when she spoke , it was very interesting. I enjoyed counting money with her on Monday mornings and how she loved \$2 bills. I was honored to bring her communion over the last few months and her love for the Eucharist and saying the Our Father was a lesson in faith. She will be missed. Rest In Peace my dear friend.

Judy Placer

Judy Placer - March 30 at 06:54 PM



“ You were blessed by your ministry to Josephine. I know you have an intercessor in Heaven .

Sister Laura Melancon - March 31 at 09:04 AM



“ Mr. Joe, it is hard to know what to say...I know your loss is so great. She was always your bride & those of us who knew y'all could see that. I think St Joseph was with her at the time of her death...y'all were so devoted to him as well as Jesus, Our Lady and our Catholic faith.

Prayers for you both.

Mary Odille Broussard

Mary Broussard - March 31 at 01:37 PM



“ Joseph, I feel your pain and I am here any time you need. Josephine and you made such a beautiful couple. She was always a "lady" and gracious as a true southern lady should be. She was interesting, had a great sense of humor and she will be missed greatly, I am proud that we were family. Her faith was visible and I feel certain St Joseph was with her when her time came. She is at peace.

Your niece,

Shirley Gilbert Briggs

Shirley Gilbert Briggs - March 31 at 03:59 PM



“ Chuck and I send our deepest condolences. Josie was so loved by so many people. She and I had such fun together when we were attending all of the Italian events with you and Chuck as officers. I got to visit with her every day at Cornerstone for 8 weeks when Chuck was there for rehab. She always had a smile on her beautiful face and would hug me and pat Chuck on his hand. She will be greatly missed. We love you Joe and are here for you if you need.

Cyndie Anselmo - March 31 at 08:25 PM



“ Dear Mr Joe,
Thank you and Ms Josephine for showing all of us how beautiful true and unconditional love is shown. Whenever you saw her you were greeted by her sweet smile. Thoughtfulness and kindness are the words that come to mind whenever we think of both of you. We know the suffering she did here on earth, God will turn into "Heavenly Gold" . Please know we are here for you during this time of grief and sorrow.

All our love,

Tina Scotola Viator

Tina Viator - April 01 at 09:03 AM



“ Such a lovely lady! Miss Josephine had a gorgeous smile.
She will be missed greatly by all of us.
Prayers and hugs,
We Love You, Mr. Joe!

Charlotte and John Fox

Charlotte Fox - April 02 at 06:38 PM



“ Dear Joe,
I was, and am, so fortunate to have Aurora(Josephine) as my cousin and Godmother.
Thanks for always so faithfully being there for her. You are both in my prayers.

Elena Jamison Zitzmann - April 04 at 04:50 PM