

## Joseph C. LaRocca

June 10, 1947 - March 11, 2021

Joseph C. LaRocca, 73, passed away on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at Staten Island University Hospital North.

Joe was born in Brooklyn, on June 10, 1947. He was a graduate of Lafayette High School, Long Island University with a Business major, and Brooklyn College with his Masters degree in psychology.

Joe was a guidance counselor and math teacher at Susan E. Wagner HS, then Tottenville HS and Springfield Gardens HS in Queens.

He and his wife Christine (Chris) opened "LaRocca's Italian Ices and Pizzeria" in 1987, and Joe was a pillar in the community where he was President of the Midland Beach Association for a few years, to help the community.

Before too long, many people of all ages in the Midland Beach community knew they had a friend in Joe LaRocca. He loved using his counseling skills to help anyone he could, and he has written many articles for the Voice of Health magazine. LaRocca's closed directly after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Joe's favorite thing to do was spending time with his family. He shared his June 10th birthday with his Uncle Joe and loving cousins by the same name.

His hobbies included "picking a winner at the race track," playing cards was also a favorite pastime. Anyone who knows Joe would know how he loved his pet Beagles.

Joe attended Our Lady Star of the Sea Church since 1999. In recent years, he formed a church group called, "Sons and Daughters of Mary," which was born out of his desire to unify as many parishioners as would like to participate in sharing and caring, as well as helping anyone in need. He and some of the members would walk together while praying for the needs from local issues to the world's, including abortion, the homeless, Covid victims, and so on.

Joe's big desire in life was to help people and to show love to the lost and unloved. Anyone who knew him knew they had a friend for life. He was known for being the guy who could do the impossible.

He was the beloved husband of 51 years to Christine LaRocca. Loving father to Louis and Michael LaRocca. Fond father-in-law to Rajami and Olivia LaRocca. Devoted grandfather to Joe, Mira, Rafael, Alex, Nick and Isabella and dear brother to Elizabeth Centauro and Dianne Etri. Joseph is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 1-5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 and from 5-9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at the John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station), Staten Island, New York.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church located at 5411 Amboy Road Staten Island, New York 10312. Interment will follow in Resurrection Cemetery, Staten Island, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joe's memory may be made to the North Shore Animal League, Louie's Legacy, [Animalsanctuarysociety.org](http://Animalsanctuarysociety.org) or any animal shelter that can use the help.

Please be mindful due to the current State mandate that a mask must be worn at all times in the funeral home and social distancing requirements must be followed during the services. Due to the current Pandemic a strict 50 person in room policy is in effect, as well as a maximum of 300 people permitted in Church. Please adhere to this policy and allow others to pay their respects as well.

Due to the current pandemic circumstances please note:

We do not accept deliveries from outside vendors for bakery products, fruit baskets, and floral arrangements until further notice. Floral Arrangements can be purchased from our in house floral designers who work under the most stringent sanitary conditions which include temperature checks, mask wearing, distancing and protective clothing. You can call 718-948-2016 and place your order. We must protect the families we serve, our own families and staff who operate the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

361 Sharrot Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10309

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 16. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Visitation

MAR 17. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Service

MAR 18. 11:15 AM (ET)

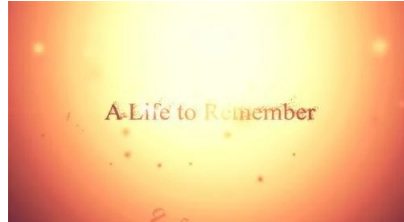
Our Lady Star Of The Sea Church  
5411 Amboy Rd  
Staten Island, NY 10312



# Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph C. LaRocca*



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - March 16, 2021 at 11:41 AM

HA

*My deepest sympathy 📞🙏*

Hannah Appiah - March 18, 2021 at 02:08 PM

RP

*So very sorry to hear this, Chris. Marianne and I will never forget Joe or your kindness or your great food! Joe is with God now.*

Rosemary Palladino - March 28, 2021 at 04:18 PM

AJ

*So sorry to hear today of Joe's passing, We told by Fr. David . We will miss the trips that Joe organized to see Fr. David in the Bronx and Monroe ,NY. RIP Joe.*

*Angela & Tina Johnson  
Daniel Pennachio*

Angela Johnson - October 08, 2021 at 11:53 PM



“ *Joseph C. LaRocca*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM

GP

“ We were kids playing games outdoors. Living on 24th avenue in Brooklyn ,N.Y. Fond memories. R.I.P. Joey

George Parola - January 31, 2022 at 06:46 PM

LC

George, it's Lou Clerico. Very nice of you to acknowledge Joe. I don't know how to contact you, Lucienclerico@gmail.com

Lucien Clerico - August 01, 2024 at 07:44 AM

KB

“ If you had Pizza 🍕 or Italian Ices in Midland Ave in Staten Island, New York you knew LaRoccas Pizza and Ice's and Joe behind the Counter or Sitting at The First Table in the Store. Joe was A Great Guy he will be Missed COVID 19 took Joe away from Us But he's With God 🙏 Now. RIP JOE till we meet again We send our love to you Christine LaRocca

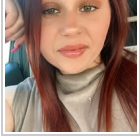
Keith Barnett - March 18, 2021 at 03:22 PM

MR

“ Maryann And Lou Ruocco lit a candle in memory of Joseph C. LaRocca



Maryann and Lou Ruocco - March 18, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ Margaret Kehoe lit a candle in memory of Joseph C. LaRocca



Margaret Kehoe - March 17, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 16, 2021 at 08:38 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 16, 2021 at 08:21 PM



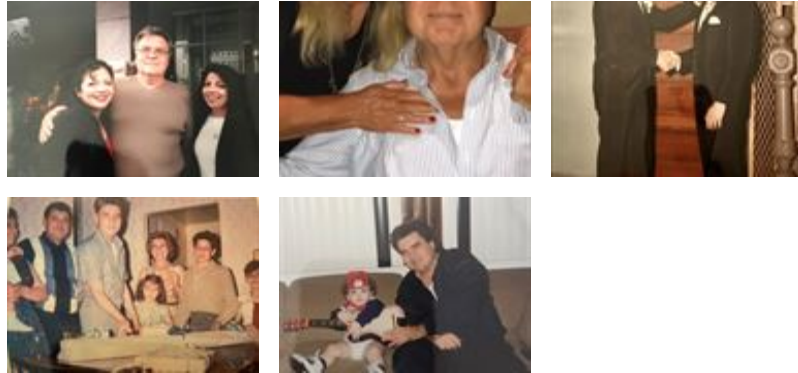
“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 16, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - March 16, 2021 at 02:02 PM



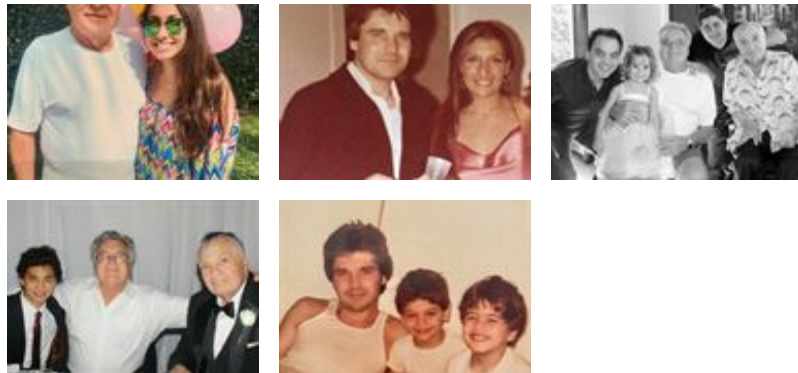
“ *Ricky Annunziata purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.*



**Ricky Annunziata** - March 16, 2021 at 12:59 PM



“ 64 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - March 16, 2021 at 11:39 AM

LV

“ LOVE, VINNY VENDITTI purchased the *Strength & Solace Spray* for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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**LOVE, VINNY VENDITTI** - March 16, 2021 at 09:05 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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March 16, 2021 at 02:25 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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March 15, 2021 at 11:03 PM

RJ

“ What a loss to the community! 😞 Joe helped so many kids, including myself, whether through teaching or providing a job, and you could talk to him about ANYTHING without judgement being passed. A man who knew that his greatest purpose, OUR greatest purpose in life, is helping others. Educating others! Not being afraid to show emotion and physical love to others! Having to stay 6ft apart from people probably hurt him more than the virus itself! A true people person. He will be missed and remembered by many! He was one hell of a man and there is NO DOUBT he is with God now. I know I'll see you on the other side Buddy! 🙏 To Christine and family, if you're reading this, I Love You and I'm sorry I will not be able to attend the services, as I am living in California. -Ricky Jr.

Ricky Carilli, Jr. - March 15, 2021 at 07:21 PM

MA

So beautifully said Ricky. He's now sleeping Peacefully with the 🙏

Maureen Arnone - March 15, 2021 at 10:13 PM

SC

Christine and family, our deepest condolences on your loss. Joe was a true gentleman and role model and will be truly missed. Ricky and Susan Carilli

Susan Carilli - March 16, 2021 at 01:23 PM

SP

“ Staten Island PPS purchased the Gracious Lave nnder Basket for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



Staten Island PPS - March 15, 2021 at 05:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 15, 2021 at 03:48 PM



“ RC Executive Team purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



**RC Executive Team** - March 15, 2021 at 01:16 PM



“ RC Admin Team purchased the With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



**RC Admin Team** - March 15, 2021 at 12:58 PM



“ Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 15, 2021 at 11:53 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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March 15, 2021 at 10:55 AM



“ *Mrs. Fields 90 Nibblers Signature Tin Nut-Free* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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March 15, 2021 at 10:11 AM



“ *Susan, CarolAnn, Linda and Kathy* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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**Susan, CarolAnn, Linda and Kathy** - March 14, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



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March 14, 2021 at 06:44 PM

CM

“ Chris, Jennifer, and Jack Mooney purchased the *With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket* for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



Chris, Jennifer, and Jack Mooney - March 14, 2021 at 06:05 PM

CM

“ Chris, Jennifer, and Jack Mooney purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



Chris, Jennifer, and Jack Mooney - March 14, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 14, 2021 at 03:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 14, 2021 at 01:00 PM

BN

“ Joe was such a great guy and was always there to help the people of Midland Beach. U will be so missed RIP Joe. Love Bonnie and Rich Nielsen

Bonnie Nielsen - March 13, 2021 at 07:12 PM

TS

Was so sorry to hear about Joe! I lived in Midland Beach for many years! Was my favorite place to eat! Joe also supported community whenever he was ask! Great guy! R.I.P. . Condolences to family! God bless!

Terry Swift - March 14, 2021 at 04:12 PM

FL

“ From everyone at J2 Interactive with love. purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



From everyone at J2 Interactive with love. - March 13, 2021 at 05:49 PM

CF

“ Cousin Gus, Lillian and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



Cousin Gus, Lillian and Family - March 13, 2021 at 03:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 13, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ *with sympathy, the Ready Computing family.* purchased the *Rose Garden Heart* for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



**with sympathy, the Ready Computing family.** - March 13, 2021 at 01:54 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



March 12, 2021 at 07:14 PM



“ *National Corvette Museum Board of Directors* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Joseph C. LaRocca.



**National Corvette Museum Board of Directors** - March 12, 2021 at 05:28 PM