



Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta

January 17, 1968 - January 18, 2026

Mr. Joseph James Guzzetta Jr., 58, of Tyler, Texas, passed away from an unexpected heart attack on January 18, 2026. Joe's life was defined by a deep devotion to his faith, his family, and his craft.

Joe was born in Utica, NY, on January 17, 1968, the son of Joseph James Sr. and Mary Ann (Carzo) Guzzetta. He was a 1986 graduate of Thomas R. Proctor High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1990. However, Joe's true passion was the culinary arts. He later followed that calling to Paul Smith's College, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2001, earning multiple awards for excellence.

Joe's culinary path led him through New York, Virginia, and Boston, where while working as a Chef at the Meridian, Joe met the love of his life, Carolina. A year later, Joe proposed on New Year's Eve at the very same hotel where they met, feeling it was the perfect place for the next step in their journey. They were married in Cambridge, MA, on January 21, 2005, and later on October 29, celebrated a Catholic ceremony in Carolina's home country of Colombia. In 2006, the couple moved to Tyler, Texas, for Carolina's career as an engineer. In 2007, they worked in London for six months before returning to Tyler to build their life and family together.

In Tyler, Joe became a well-known face in the culinary and faith communities.

He worked at Kiepersol and The Cascades, and served as the Wine Manager at FRESH. He also spent many years inspiring the next generation as a Culinary Arts Instructor for both Tyler ISD and Tyler Junior College (TJC). Joe shared his passion for global cuisine by chaperoning students on life-changing international trips. In 2002, he served as a Faculty Supervisor for a three-month trip to France with students from Paul Smith's College, and later joined a colleague from Tyler ISD to lead students on a two-week experience in Northern Italy. Joe was a natural mentor and stayed in touch with many of his students long after their graduation.

Joe truly "brought the Italian experience to Tyler" sharing cherished recipes he learned from his grandmother Carzo and his mother, Mary Ann. He was happiest when cooking for a crowd, and he and Carolina warmly opened their home every Christmas Eve to friends and families who were far from their own relatives. While his roots were Italian, he mastered Colombian staples like ajiaco, buñuelos, and sancocho, and other dishes like momos to almond mole. Joe took special pride in sharing his talent with his children, packing "fancy" gourmet school lunches for Luca and Daniela, meals so sophisticated they were likely the only ones of their kind in any Texas cafeteria. He was their ultimate "cheerleader", a constant presence on the sidelines for Luca's taekwondo, soccer, baseball, and swimming, and for Daniela's Special Olympics track, bocce, and swimming. It was during his time as a stay-at-home father to Luca, in 2010, that Joe's weekly presence at Tuesday's Adoration and Rosary led him to a special friendship with Betty Chandler. Betty and her husband, Connie, became like family, serving as "Hop and Pop" cherished honorary grandparents to his children.

Since 2020, Joe turned his talents to winemaking. Each batch was a labor of love with a carefully selected label: Temprani-Joe (Tempranillo); Franchesco (Zinfandel), named in honor of his grandfather Carzo; La Finestra (Montepulciano), featuring a photo of Joe's parents on a trip to Rome; 1929

(Carmenere), the year his Uncle Carmen was born; and Le Lavoir (Cabernet Sauvignon), named for the laundry room where the wine barrel is kept. The family looks forward to the final "release" of the Malbec currently in the barrel—the last wine made by Joe.

Joe had a very strong faith and truly knew the "ins and outs" of the Catholic Church. If anyone had a question, Joe had the answer and could explain the "why" behind any Catholic tradition; it was a strength of spirit he was proud to see take root in his son, Luca. A "Sir Knight" and a pillar of the Knights of Columbus for 34 years, Joe served as a District Deputy and Past Grand Knight for Council #14636. Most recently, Joe served his faith community as the Assistant Business Manager at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. He was also a passionate genealogist who loved solving family mysteries and connecting the dots of his heritage.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Carolina (Villamil) Guzzetta; his two children, Luca (16) and Daniela (14); his parents, Joe Sr. and Mary Ann; his sister and brother-in-law, Anna Marie and Michael McCabe; his nephew, Giovanni McCabe; and his niece, Kathleen Smith and her husband Hayden.

The family will receive friends for a Visitation on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Flint, TX. A Rosary will be prayed at 10:30 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM. Joe will be laid to rest in the columbarium at St. Mary Magdalene. Honorary Pallbearers will be The Knights of Columbus.

Instead of flowers, please consider memorial donations to the Children's Miracle Network in Tyler, the East Texas Down Syndrome Group, or the St. Mary Magdalene Building Fund.

Children's Miracle Network - CHRISTUS Health, www.christushealth.org/conn

ect/donate/trinity-mother-frances/cmn

Building Fund - A Home for All God's People - St. Mary Magdalene - Flint, TX,
<https://catholicflint.org/building-fund>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
18221 FM 2493
Flint, TX 75762
(903) 894-7647

Rosary

JAN 27. 10:30 AM (CT)

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
18221 FM 2493
Flint, TX 75762
(903) 894-7647

Catholic Mass

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
18221 FM 2493
Flint, TX 75762
(903) 894-7647

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta



Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 23 at 04:32 PM

MB

I'm so sorry for the family's loss. Joe introduced my son to his wife he has always held a special place in my heart for that. We enjoyed always talking with him at the CTC center.

Michelle Bridges - January 24 at 05:46 PM

VT

I will always remember the kindness extended to me by Joey, Caro and the rest of the family. I pray that the Lord will Bless all of you.

Veronica Telaro - April 30 at 04:18 PM

JC

“ Pam & I will always be grateful to our cousin Joey for helping us connect with our family in Italy. Joey did the digging, created the family tree history and shared it with all of us. It was so much fun sharing moments from each of our visits to Sinopoli. I also have great memories of Joey on Morris St. with Grandpa and Grandma Carzo. They loved him dearly. He was a good man, true to his family, church and his Italian heritage. God bless him and his family. Cousins, Joe & Pam Carzo

Joe & Pam Carzo - February 02 at 05:10 PM

AW

“ Audrey W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.

Audrey W. - February 01 at 04:29 PM

AW

“ My dear Joe,
It was only 6 months ago, you came back to France with Carolina, Luca and Daniela.
We had dinner together with Florian in Paris.
We had such a wonderful evening and it felt like we had spoken just a few days ago even though it had been 10 years since your last visit.
I remember our times in France when you accompanied all these American culinary school students to our region in Burgundy. I remember you being by my side when I was really sad and offering shelter when i felt very lonely. I remember when you met Carolina and the stars in your eyes as i accompanied you in Boston to buy your first plane ticket to be with her in Bogota. I remember visiting you and Carolina in London when you lived there. I remember how happy and proud you were when Luca and then Daniela were born. I remember you coming to visit us in Burgundy with your family. I remember your Joie de vivre. I will keep your memory beating hard, my friend. Mam, Dad, Christo and Florian join me in this message of friendship. Because friendship meant a lot to both of us. With all my love. Know that Carolina, Luca and Daniela will always be welcome at our home in France.
Audrey

Audrey Weissberg - February 01 at 04:24 PM

MB

“ Margarita B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.

Margarita B. - January 25 at 12:27 PM

KG

“ Kerry G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.

Kerry G. - January 24 at 09:20 PM

DB

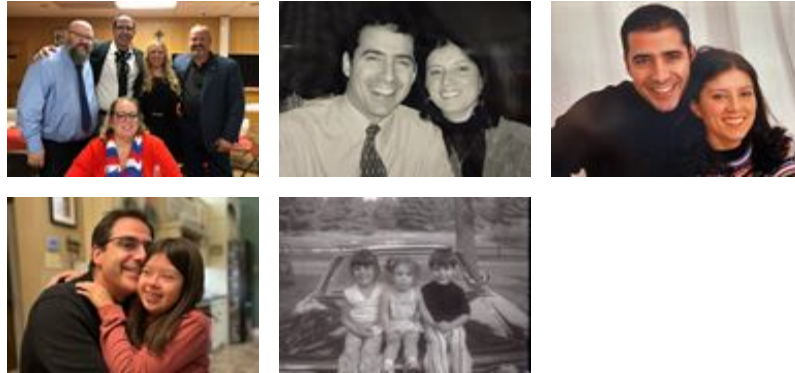
“ Joe was a wonderful man and friend. We will miss him dearly.
Anthony & Dawn



Dawn F Burke - January 23 at 06:44 PM



“ 86 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 23 at 04:08 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.



January 23 at 08:20 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Joe's family and friends. He was a kind and caring person and will be missed. May he rest in peace.

Denise Warzala - January 22 at 06:55 PM



“ East Texas Down Syndrome Group purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.



East Texas Down Syndrome Group - January 22 at 04:18 PM

LP

“ Love to you from Aunt Joann & Uncle Paul purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.



Love to you from Aunt Joann & Uncle Paul - January 22 at 11:08 AM

LP

“ Love to you from Aunt Joann & Uncle Paul planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.

Love to you from Aunt Joann & Uncle Paul - January 22 at 11:08 AM

SP

“ Deepest condolences to Carolina and Chef's entire family. I had the pleasure of working with Chef at the CTC, shared lots of laughs with him and still tell about his \$100 charge for Ranch Dressing! One year, we had monitoring duty during testing together for two days. He shared with me the story of his meeting Carolina, "the most beautiful woman I had ever seen in my life" he said and his love for her and their family and their story was so obvious. He also made us a lunch for the second day that was amazing and the best "school lunch" I have ever had! He was loved for so many reasons but some of my favorites were his wonderful sarcastic humor, his culinary talents and most of all his love for his wife, kids and family! How fortunate you are to have loved and be loved by him! He was truly one of a kind and a person I will never forget! May your memories stay sharp and fresh of all the great times together!

Shannon (Budd) Patton

Shannon Patton - January 21 at 05:09 PM

DM

“ To my friend from birth: from the many years of growing up together on Morris Street, our high school memories of summer, visiting you at college, family reunions, long distant phone calls, rock concerts, you, Anthony T and I hanging out and making memories to you showing up randomly to my daughter's h.s. graduation party. These are days I will never forget. You chased dreams, had some rough times, and always had time to keep connected with your roots. You met a wonderful woman and built a beautiful life and family. Hearing the news of your passing is a tough pill to swallow. I will hold those memories close my brother. Rest in peace and God bless!
My sincere condolences to your wife, children and The Guzzetta family.

With love

Mike DeSantis jr.

DeSantis Michael - January 21 at 02:58 PM

KA

“ Kathleen purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.



Kathleen - January 21 at 02:43 PM

KH

“ Kathleen H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.

Kathleen H. - January 21 at 02:30 PM

TB

“ My condolences to Joseph’s family and friends. I worked with Chef when Fresh first started he was one of the original chefs to run the chef prepared. He always had a smile, very friendly and he had a lot of patience. I always enjoyed his families summer pictures, the trips they took. He will be missed.

Tami Bates - January 21 at 01:25 PM

BS

“ I remember Joe’s love for his family. He truly modeled his namesake. I assure the family that Joe and all of you will be remembered in my Masses.

Bishop Strickland

Bishop Joseph Strickland - January 21 at 12:51 PM

BT

“ Bishop Kelly and the Diocese of Tyler purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Joseph "Joe" Guzzetta.



Bishop Kelly and the Diocese of Tyler - January 21 at 12:50 PM

LN

“ What a stand up guy, many don’t do the name Joseph justice like Joe did. He truly embodied St. Joseph in his acts of selfless service to his fellow laymen and knights; and most of all he was an incredible father and husband to his wife and children. God Speed Joseph, we pray for the repose of your soul!!!

Landon Nicolardi - January 21 at 10:06 AM

JM

“ Chef, I'm glad I got to know you while at CTC. We had some good laughs on SkillsUSA trips. Condolences to the family.

James McCraw - January 21 at 09:53 AM

CA

“ Chef was such a wonderful mentor to me in school. I'll never forget the positive impact he had on me and my career. Praying for his family during this difficult time.

Clarissa Aguilar - January 20 at 08:35 PM

MM

“ I can't describe the feeling of you not being here. I will always remember how you helped me get my driver's license here. I will cherish the memories of your delicious food, the wine, and your wonderful company.
I will always be here for Caro, Daniela, and Luca. You were a great husband, an amazing father, and a good friend.
Rest in peace, Joe.

Marcela Mejia - January 20 at 05:05 PM

SH

“ I thank God for his help at TJC Culinary School. We will always remember his smile. We will continue to pray for his family. Psalm 23.

Solia Hernandez - January 20 at 04:50 PM

MV

“ *We will never know why Joseph's life was taken so suddenly, but we will always remember him with love and will hold your family close to our hearts.*



Mary Vahovius - January 20 at 11:03 AM