



Sonia Joyce Castellana

FEB 21, 1943 - JAN 1, 2026



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Sonia Joyce Castellana

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Castellana, Sonia J., 82, of Tampa, FL, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 1, 2026. She was born in Ybor City and attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Academy. Faith, family, and friends were constant and guiding forces throughout her life. Sonia devoted 36 years to a fulfilling career as a high school educator, touching the lives of countless students. She found happiness in spending time with her grandchildren, tending to her yard, shopping and traveling, always eager for a new destination. All who knew her were truly blessed to have shared life with such a beautiful, caring, spirited, and loving woman.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joe Castellana, with whom she shared 59 wonderful years of marriage; her parents, Raul and Rafaela Perez; and her brother, Nestor Perez. Sonia is survived by her sons, Joseph Castellana, Jr. and John Castellana (Melissa), and her cherished grandchildren, Christina and August.

Family and friends are welcome to attend visitation from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Catholic faith on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Saint Lawrence Catholic Church. A Celebration of Life will follow at Higgins Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorial donations to the Alzheimer's Association.



Events


Sonia Joyce Castellana

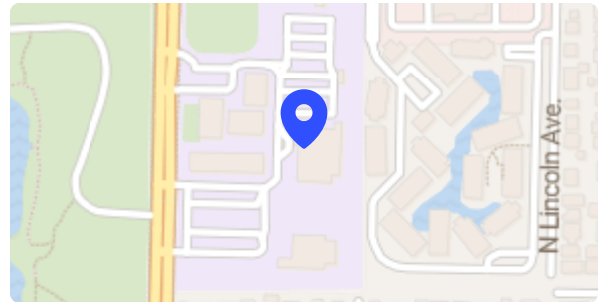
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Memorial Visitation

 **Thursday**, January 22, 2026

 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM ET


 **St Lawrence Catholic Church**
5225 N Himes Avenue, Tampa FL 33614

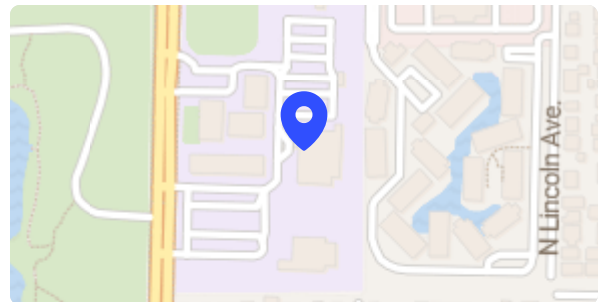


Funeral Mass

 **Thursday**, January 22, 2026

 11:00 AM ET


 **St Lawrence Catholic Church**
5225 N Himes Avenue, Tampa FL 33614

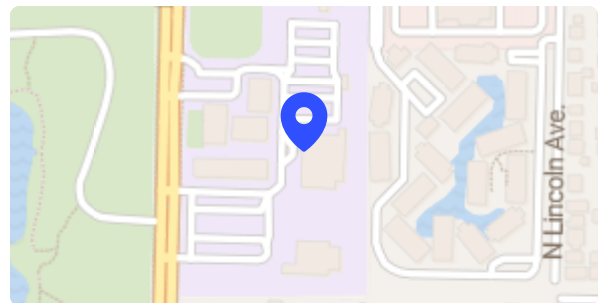


Celebration of Life Reception

 **Thursday**, January 22, 2026

 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

 **St. Lawrence Church's Higgins Hall**
5225 N Himes Ave., Tampa FL 33614





Tribute Wall

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José Manuel Valdez posted:

Sonia was always so elegant to me. She was my older cousin once removed. She and my mother were first cousins, 15 years apart. She and my mother were granddaughters of Herminia Canalejo Fraga and José Eufemio Fraga. Because my grandmother, Rosa, was the elder sister of Sonia's mother, Fela, we always visited Sonia's house whenever I accompanied my grandmother to Tampa. A summer or Christmas visit to Tampa from Key West was as regular as clockwork. Sonia was 6 years older than me and she, along with cousins Rene (Rego), and Sandra and Ray (Beiro) were on the on the hipper and wiser end of my generation of cousins. i was always excited to see Sonia on those visits. In later years Sonia always reached out to me if she was visiting NYC, either with Joe or bringing her grandchildren. It remained a treat to see and spend time with Sonia. I will miss her. My deep and sincere condolence to Joe and to John, and to the family.Cousin Manuel

January 18 at 5:16 PM



Shirley Iavarone posted:

I do not remember a time in my life when I did not know Sonia. We had the same cousins so we thought we were "cousins".From family celebrations, vacations, parties in the backyard, sleep overs, riding our bikes from Robles Park to Cuscaden Park, or just hanging out on the front porchit was always a good time as long as we were together.Her energetic nature and fun loving personality will always be remembered. Her smile and the sound of her laughter will be forever in my heart.She will be missed by all her knew her.Shirley Iavarone

January 16 at 6:12 PM



Shirley I. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Sonia.



January 16 at 4:48 PM



Al & Elsa sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Castellana family.



January 16 at 10:30 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Castellana family.

January 14 at 7:28 PM



Mary Jo planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Sonia.

January 14 at 7:28 PM



Cbob, Allison, Joey, Hudson, Pax, Reese sent a Divine Light to the Castellana family.

January 14 at 10:24 AM



Cbob, Allison, Joey, Hudson, Pax, Reese planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Sonia.

January 14 at 10:24 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sonia by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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