



## Joanna Christine Jara

October 23, 1996 - November 26, 2019

It is with a broken heart that we share Joanna Jara, 23, passed away at sunrise November 26, 2019 in Orlando, Florida, after a five-year battle with Osteosarcoma. Joanna was born in Miami, Florida, October 23, 1996 and attended elementary school at Montessori in Hammond, Indiana, middle school Holy Name of Jesus, Indialantic, Florida, and high school Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Melbourne, Florida. She was diagnosed with osteosarcoma towards the end of her junior year March 2014, and regardless of the need of a major surgery at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, as well as 9 months of inpatient chemotherapy at Arnold Palmer Hospital, Orlando, Florida, she was able to complete her senior year and was accepted to University of Miami, School of Communications August 2015 where she graduated recently with a Bachelor degree. Sadly, the osteosarcoma returned twice, the last time in March 2019 with such a severe pain and suffering, that will not end until she finally rested in peace. She faced every trial bravely and at age twenty-three she had accomplished so much and overcome so many difficulties with grace and strength. She had many plans and we have no doubt she would have continued to excel at life if it had not been for our inability as society to provide her and others with treatments and cure to cancerous disease. She passed surrounded by the love of her family, sisters Kathy and Andrea, and parents, Lili and Cesar, as well as friends, represented physically at her bedside by Joey Rain.

There are no words to properly describe the feelings that accompany this unfair and devastating outcome.

However, our family is comforted by Joanna's everlasting presence and by the message: to not be overcome by sadness and to continue to live life fully. Please, continue to honor her in any way you can and live your life inspired by her bravery and grit.

We hope that you join us in honoring Joanna by attending her Celebration of Life Ceremony, which will be held Saturday November 30th. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM followed by a reception at 10:00 AM in the church Life Center at St. James Cathedral, 215 N Orange Ave, Orlando, FL 32801.

In Memory of Joanna Jara  

Joanna was an integral member of the radio station at University of Miami. She wished that in lieu of flowers you share your condolences by donating to WVUM, the University of Miami radio program.

The following is the link: <https://www.wvum.org/donate>

There you will see a video at the page, where Joanna is featured with her beloved friends.

Click the top blue 'Donate' button to be directed to the page where you will specify the amount you wish to share.

There, it is also very important that you write in the message box the donation is 'In Memory of Joanna Jara.'

## Fight Osteosarcoma

<https://www.arnoldpalmerhospital.com/pediatric-specialties/pediatric-oncology>.

<https://moffitt.org/cancers/sarcoma/bone-cancer-in-teens/>

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/disease/15041-osteosarcoma>

Please share this with friends and family. The radio station staff holds Joanna close to their hearts and will use the donations to keep her memory alive through the program, which Joanna truly loved.

Lastly, we encourage you all to wear a yellow accessory this Saturday (such as a ribbon or tie) even if you are unable to attend her ceremony. That is the color which represents sarcoma cancers. Joanna did not let herself be defined by cancer, despite the unimaginable pain she faced. Her virtues are inspiring, and we hope by wearing yellow you feel as if you can physically show your support and perhaps start a conversation about Joanna...keeping her memory alive.

There are a limited number of parking spots directly next to the Cathedral. Guests are encouraged to use the Jefferson Street Parking Garage (62 W Jefferson St, Orlando, FL 32801). All St. James visitors and guests can park here for free during the weekend.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

NOV **30**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. James Cathedral  
215 North Orange Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joannita, te llevaré siempre en mi corazón ❤️, por ser una persona muy especial y sobre todo te amo con toda mi alma y mi corazón. Dios te recibió en el cielo como un ángel el mas hermoso y guerrero, inigualable.*

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**Juanita Franco** - November 30, 2019 at 08:05 AM



*Estoy vestida de amarillo 😊😘😍*

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**Juanita Franco** - November 30, 2019 at 08:10 AM

RP

“ I never knew exactly what Joanna’s battles were. She never complained about anything to me and just focused on the impossible task of rebuilding, reprogramming and re-doing just about everything with WVUM.. She was incredibly passionate and dedicated and always had a great sense of humor.

I had the pleasure of being the technical consultant at WVUM with an amazing group of students and Joanna was at the head of the pack. When we tore apart the old studios, Joanna was the first to say “ I will help “ whether it was Music formatting, programming, engineering, operations, Joanna was fully committed and involved. . Even though there was a student engineer, she made it her business to learn every technical aspect of the station. She became THE expert on the new computer automation system and freely shared her knowledge with fellow staffers. One day the production studio computer crashed. It was a critical system that I could not restore without Joanna. I remember calling her on a Saturday and asking for help with the music system and other programs that she knew by heart. 4 hours later we had everything back up and running!

I spoke with Joanna almost on a daily basis, she wasn't afraid to ask for help and made sure it was all perfect.

Joanna was such a unique and beautiful person with a beautiful light... I am so grateful to have known her. It's very tough for me to let her go. Joanna I will miss you! Sending you love, light and peace.

My sincere condolences to the family. May love and light surround you.

Roy Pressman

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Roy Pressman - November 30, 2019 at 01:01 AM

JM

“ When I was little, I remember listening to birdsongs that echoed through dim, pink skies as the sun brought in the morning. I could not sing, but I would squawk, hoping that the birds would sing back, and they would. We would go back and forth until the morning was full and it was time for school. The birds made me feel loved and listened to. Their responses were always special songs: never the same, but consistently their own.

*Joanna was the warmth of a bird's song in a cool morning sky. She was the dove that loved her flock and led the way to beautiful meadows. She was unique, unforgettable, and committed to her friends above all else. Joanna was one of the most influential people in my life, and I will forever be grateful for her love and friendship. Joanna defined herself through her reliability, her sense of humor, and her endless, everyday efforts to be a better person. Joanna's friendship will always flow through my spirit. I will honor her forever.*

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**Jose M.** - November 29, 2019 at 11:15 PM

KM

“ Lili, Cesar, Kathy y Andreita,

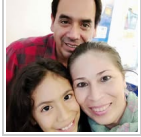
*Estamos con ustedes a pesar de la distancia acompañándolos con todo el cariño de siempre en este momento y les hacemos llegar nuestro mas sentido pésame por la partida de nuestra querida Johanita, con la cual compartimos tantos bellos momentos que quedaran siempre vivos en nuestros corazones!  
Que el consuelo del Señor los acompañe y fortalezca.*

*Los queremos mucho* 

*Ricardo, kari, Yayo, Vale y Maki*

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**karinna Miranda** - November 29, 2019 at 07:01 PM



“ *Nicolas Jara Franco purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joanna Christine Jara.*



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**Nicolas Jara Franco** - November 28, 2019 at 12:25 PM

DF

“ *Sobrina bella un ejemplo de lucha y valentia y jamas darse por vencido ante nada siempre viviras en nuestros corazones trataremos de ser tan valientes como tu para reponernos de tu partida descansa en paz un beso hasta el cielo. Tu tio Daniel*

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**Daniel Jara Franco** - November 28, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Joanna Christine Jara.*



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November 27, 2019 at 11:45 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joanna Christine Jara.*



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November 27, 2019 at 09:01 PM

AB

“ I will never forget when Joanna stood in front of our entire school community to tell us of her initial diagnosis. The strength and determination to fight and keep working towards her goals was exhibited in that moment, and so many in the years ahead. Any suggestion to step back and take an easier course load or not push forward was rebuffed and she would always make her presence and opinion known in any conversation. She was creative- with her artwork-(recently she designed really cool stickers)-and her love of music. She celebrated her sisters' accomplishments and I know they will live their path ahead with Joanna's influence in mind.

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**Alison Bell** - November 27, 2019 at 05:48 PM