

FUNERAL SERVICE PROGRAM



Joy Ifeoma Egbejimba

St. Stephen the Martyr
Saturday June 3, 2023



Biography

Joy Ifeoma Egbejimba, born in Nigeria, was the eldest of eight siblings and grew up in the city of Port Harcourt. Her life took a beautiful turn when she met her husband on February 6, 1993, and they embarked on a lifelong journey together. They celebrated their love in a unique way, as their wedding day became a triple celebration, shared with the bride's brother and cousin. The joyous occasion was held in a basketball stadium to ensure all their loved ones were fully accommodated.

In the United States, Joy pursued her passion for accounting and earned her bachelor's degree from Central Washington University. Her exceptional skills with numbers propelled her career, as she thrived in various roles in Accounting, Finance, Data and Financial analysis, and Auditing across diverse industries such as Aerospace, Telecommunications, Healthcare, and Energy and Natural Gas. With a desire for continuous growth, Joy pursued a Master's degree from Seattle University's prestigious Leadership and Executive MBA program. She also actively participated in several non-profit organizations, dedicating her time and expertise to make a positive impact.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Joy was a visionary entrepreneur. She established her own premium handbag manufacturing business, Nuciano, which offered luxury-quality leather handbags and crystal clutches at affordable prices. With her keen eye for design, Joy created thousands of concepts, sketches, and technical drawings, sourcing

materials from around the world to bring her visions to life. Managing collaborations across different time zones, she navigated manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and quality control with remarkable skill and attention to detail.

Under the Nuciano brand, Joy designed and produced numerous lines of handbags and accessories that gained recognition both nationally and internationally. Her creations graced the runways of fashion capitals such as Seattle, London, New York, and Boston. Nuciano handbags found their way into prestigious retail channels, including department stores in London, Dubai, and the United States. Joy expanded her business to Africa, proudly showcasing Nuciano in Nigeria and Ghana. Her talent and dedication were acknowledged by the industry, and she received multiple design awards, including the prestigious Fan Favorite award at the 2018 Independent Handbag Designer Awards.

Joy's exceptional journey culminated in the fusion of her professional and creative sides. Her experience at Seattle University's Leadership and Executive MBA program empowered her to build Nuciano from the ground up. The business plan competition recognized Nuciano as a Special Recognition - Runner-Up, praising its leather bags that seamlessly transitioned from a woman's desk-to-dinner companion and the dazzling crystal clutches that exuded a million-dollar look without the hefty price tag.

Joy is survived by her loving husband Jude and their two sons, TJ and Jordan. Her legacy is one of love, passion, creativity, and resilience, inspiring all those who had the privilege of knowing her to live their lives to the fullest.



**ORDER OF
FUNERAL MASS**
FOR JOY EGBEJIMBA

1. Greeting & Sprinkling with Holy Water

2. Entrance - Lead Me, Lord (*Becker*)

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit Longing for their Lord
For God's coming kingdom shall be theirs
Blessed are the sorrowing For they shall be consoled
And the meek shall come to rule the world

Refrain:

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today

2. Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs
And the pure in heart shall see their God
Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill
For I say they shall be satisfied
3. Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace;
all will call them children of the Lord.
Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life,
for in heaven, great is your reward.

3. Opening Prayer

4. First Reading

by TJ Egbejimba from the book of Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them. They seemed in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For in the eyes of men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them, and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love; Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

5. Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 23:

The Lord is my Shepherd (*Owen Alstott*)

1. The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want. In verdant
pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads
me; he refreshes my soul.

Refrain:

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though
I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil;
for you are at my side With your rod and
your staff that give me courage.
3. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

4. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

6. Second Reading

by Jordan Egbejimba from the book of Romans 6: 3-9

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

7. Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia (O'Carroll & Walker)

8. Holy Gospel: John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord

9. Prayer of the Faithful by K.C. Okoro

10. Offertory - Hosea (Come back to me)

1. Come back to me with all your heart.
Don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;
so must we to others' call.

Refrain:

Long have I waited for your coming
home to me and living deeply our
new life.

2. The wilderness will lead you to your heart
where I will speak. Integrity and justice,
With tenderness, you shall know.
3. You shall sleep secure with peace;
faithfulness will be your joy.

11. Communion - Antiphon

12. Second Communion

On Eagles Wings (*Joncas*)

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life, say to



the Lord: "My refuge, my
rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And he will raise you up on eagle's
wings, bear you on the breath of
dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture
you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings your refuge, his
faithfulness your shield.
3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.
4. For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13. Post Communion

Ave Maria (plainchant)

Ave Maria,
Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus
Dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui, Iesus
Ave Maria

Ave Maria
Maiden mild
I listen to a maidens prayer
For thou canst hear amid the wild

'Tis thou, 'tis thou canst save me
amid despair
We slumber safely 'til the morrow
Though e'en by men outcast reviled
Oh, maiden
See a maiden sorrow
Oh, mother hear a suppliant child
Ave Maria

14. Prayer

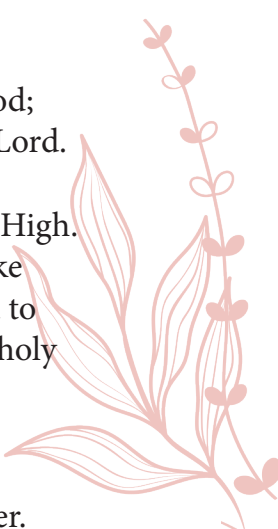
15. Eulogy by Emeka Egbejimba

16. Commendation

Song of Farewell (Sands)

May the choirs of angels come
to greet you.
May they speed you to paradise.
May the Lord enfold you in his mercy.
May you find eternal life

17. Recessional - Song of farewell (OLD HUNDREDTH)

1. Come to her aid, O saints of God;
Come meet her, angels of the Lord.
Receive her soul, O holy ones;
Present her now to God, Most High.
 2. May Christ, who called you, take
you home, And angels lead you to
Abraham. Receive her soul, O holy
ones; Present her now to God,
Most High.
 3. Give her eternal rest, O Lord.
May light unending shine on her.
Receive her soul, O holy ones;
Present her now to God, Most High.
 4. I know that my Redeemer lives;
The last day I shall rise again.
Receive her soul, O holy ones;
Present her now to God, Most High.
- 



Tribute by Jude Egbejimba

Superstar Do-It-All. Beautiful inside and outside.

That was Joy, my Joy. And if you knew Joy, you knew joy.

In the grand tapestry of human existence, there exist extraordinary individuals whose fleeting presence on this Earth leaves an everlasting impact on the lives they touch. Such is the remarkable tale of Joy Ifeoma Egbejimba, an exceptional lady whose life was a true testament to love, kindness, and selflessness. Though her time among us was brief, she left an indelible mark, inspiring us all to live lives of purpose. Joy's presence in our lives was a true gift and she touched the lives of countless souls, leaving behind a legacy that inspires us all.

It was on a fateful day, February 6, 1993, that our paths crossed, and our lives were forever intertwined. Two years later, we sealed our love with a beautiful wedding ceremony in Nigeria, on a day filled with joy, laughter, and the promise of a shared future. Her devotion to our marriage was fierce and unwavering. After attending our first marriage renewal weekend, Joy was deeply moved and became passionate about the marriage ministry. Together with others, she hosted numerous marriage renewal conferences which led to the formation of many love circles. A love circle is a mentoring ring with 4-5 couples who mentor themselves through relationship topics and issues using structured curriculum and learning from each other's

experiences while holding themselves to a shared accountability, with the goal of richly enriching their relationships. Our own love circle became a cherished community of ride-or-die friends.

Above all, Joy loved her boys, TJ and Jordan, with all her heart. She took great pride in nurturing them, molding them into remarkable young men of character. When TJ's college commencement ceremony was canceled due to the pandemic, Joy rallied our neighbors and orchestrated a surprise graduation ceremony outside, ensuring that TJ's achievements were celebrated with joy and pride. That's Joy, her love knew no bounds.

Joy was a compassionate soul with a heart full of love for others, and kindness was a defining trait of her character. She dedicated

her time and efforts to numerous non-profit organizations, always seeking ways to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. After she found her calling in the world of fashion and design, Joy was able to support her vast philanthropic endeavors by designing special one-off handbags for several charity auctions by non-profit organizations and other fund-raising. She also established Nuciano Scholars fund through which she funded the education of girls in Nigeria using a portion of gross sales. Joy's generosity and genuine care for others created a safe haven for those seeking comfort and support. Whether it was offering a listening ear during difficult times or extending a helping hand, Joy's love and empathy knew no bounds.

Restless in her pursuit of creativity, Joy was an artist at heart. Her imaginative spirit soared in the realm of fashion design, constantly impressing me with her out-of-the-box thinking and unique ideas. Her innate sense of style and ability to effortlessly put together stunning outfits made her a fashion icon in her own right. Joy's passion for fashion extended beyond herself, as she readily shared her expertise and fashion tips with friends, helping them discover their own sense of style.

Joy's journey in life was guided by the power of love, which flowed effortlessly from her genuine heart. Her empathy and warmth created a haven for those in need, offering solace in times of adversity and a steady shoulder to lean on. Countless souls were uplifted by her unwavering affection and profound understanding, for Joy had a beautiful soul. Joy treated every friend as family, affectionately referring to them as "Sis," "Sister," or the cherished few as "Sissy."

Her willingness to uplift others was evident in every interaction, fostering a sense of community and connection.

Joy, you have left an indelible mark on our lives, and we are forever grateful for the time we shared with you. Your legacy will forever live on in our hearts, inspiring us to embrace life's challenges with grace and to spread love and kindness to all those we encounter. May your spirit continue to guide and protect us as we cherish your memory.

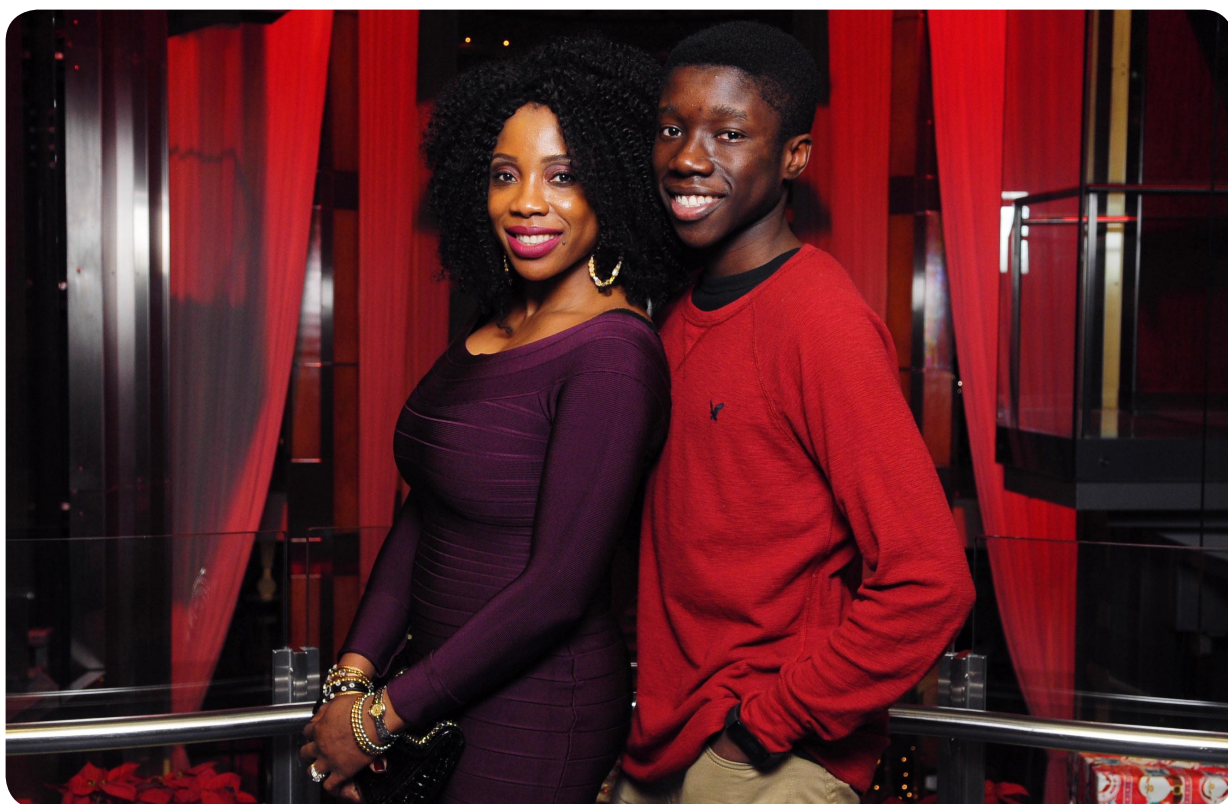
I will always remember my Joy as a Superstar Do-It-All. A shining light, a creative genius, and a woman of strength and resilience. Rest in eternal peace, my dear Joy.

Tribute by TJ Egbejimba

A World Without Joy

*I*n my eyes, my mom was the brightest star, illuminating everything she touched and lighting up every space she walked into. People gravitated toward her like planets orbiting a sun. Wherever I went, strangers would ask if I was Joy's son. As a child, I couldn't comprehend it. "Why are all these people obsessed with my mom?" It wasn't until later, as I grew older, that I realized she wasn't just a sun; she was something more. She had the remarkable ability to bring out the light in others, allowing them to shine in ways they never thought possible. Every time someone spoke of her, their faces would light up with joy.

Growing up, she made everything seem easy and effortless. She would often share



a story about when she was in college, pregnant with my brother Jordan and had to take her finals while I, a noisy two-year-old, was put in the room next door because she didn't have childcare and Dad was out of town. She would pause her test to attend to my needs, including changing me and then dive back in, undeterred. She aced that exam because that's who she was. When she committed to something, she gave it her all, showcasing her exceptional abilities.

Now, without that guiding star, I feel adrift, lost in the cold, dark vastness of space. There are countless things I still want to say to her, so many questions left unanswered. I don't know if time will ever fully heal this wound. She was not just amazing; I consider myself incredibly lucky to have known her and been raised by her. Her memory, however, does not fade away with her. As Joy's son, I am also a sun born from her radiance. Every time I let my light shine, a part of her brilliance shines through me. Her influence

lives on, touching everything and everyone in the magnificent life she led.

I remember how she used to remind us, when we were ungrateful kids, that we only had "one mom." Now, more than ever, I realize the profound truth in those words. This world had the privilege of experiencing just one Joy, and it is a loss we all deeply feel.

Tribute by Jordan Egbejimba

*M*y Super Hero is gone

I find myself grappling with an overwhelming reality, struggling to find the right words to express the depths of my emotions. It's an immense weight to bear.

For those fortunate enough to have known my mom, they understand the profound

impact she had on the lives she touched and the unwavering power of her love.

Mom, in the past month, a flood of memories and shared experiences has consumed my thoughts. I will forever cherish each and every one of them, from the significant to the seemingly insignificant. I'll miss the tight hugs you gave me when I returned home from school, the special meals you prepared just for me during my picky-eater phase, me waking up early on Saturdays to assist you at the Nuciano store and accompany you to your trade shows. I witnessed you effortlessly conquer your Master's degree program while juggling your day job and starting your own company. I'll miss those moments when you sought my fashion advice, even though you always had an impeccable sense of style. The wild stories you shared from your days at boarding school, our indecisive attempts to choose a restaurant, always settling



for the Red House even though the food was overpriced and just okay. I'll forever remember your concern for my well-being, even as you struggled to have a proper meal yourself. You'd come into my room and lie down on my bed because you jokingly said my mattress was more comfortable than yours and Dad's. I cherished hearing your thoughts on every new music I created, and when I called you to vent about college, you would assure me that everything would be okay. You taught me to value and learn from my failures and celebrate my successes. The list goes on endlessly. Mom, you were truly the life of every party, radiating beauty from the depths of your soul.

In every sense of the word, you were my superhero. Your ability to effortlessly save the day and uplift me during my lowest moments will forever stay with me. Words fail to adequately express my gratitude for teaching and encouraging me to live my life for myself in a world that often demands otherwise. You always believed in me, even when I doubted myself. I can only hope to make a fraction of the impact you had on others. I want to utilize my experiences, talents, and resources to uplift and inspire those around me, just as you always went out of your way to do. You helped me realize the importance of this, and it pains me deeply that you won't be here to witness it. I'm grateful that you had the chance to witness TJ and I growing up, and even more grateful that you saw we would be okay. Through the challenges we faced as a family, you held us together, though our time together feels far too short. I trust that you'll continue to watch over us, cheering us on as you always have from the very beginning. Mom, I love you. Always and forever.







We thank God for granting Joy Ifeoma Egbejimba a fulfilled life. We also thank our families, Joy's sistas, and all our friends for their love, prayers and support. Thank you all for joining us to celebrate Joy's
HOMEGOING

Jude, TJ and Jordan



Forever in our hearts