



## Santino Lee Martinez

April 23, 2000 - November 3, 2025

Santino Lee Martinez, born April 23, 2000, passed away unexpectedly on November 3, 2025. A 2018 graduate of Chesterton High School, Santino was an energetic and adventurous young man with a love for sports and challenges. He played soccer from ages 5 to 13 and enjoyed baseball, swimming, fencing, and karate. From age 9 to 24, he competed in paintball nationwide, earning numerous victories and recognition for his skill and dedication. Santino was also a talented artist, passionate about drawing, and he loved spending time outdoors fishing or exploring new places with his family. He regularly attended Valpo Nazarene Church, seeking to deepen his relationship with God. Recently, he was studying radiology at a local university and had dreams of serving his community through law enforcement.

Above all, Santino was a devoted father to his son, Gionni Lee Martinez, who was the center of his world. He and Melanie Gawel, Gionni's mother, worked closely together as co-parents, providing love and stability for Gionni. Santino was also a loving son and best friend to his mother, Candice Lee Martinez (Aaron Spain), a protective brother to John Martinez and Mia-Francesca Bonnie Martinez-Spain, a cherished grandson to John Horbovetz and Joe Ortiz, a beloved nephew to Aaron Horbovetz (Kellie), David Horbovetz (Amber), and Julie Pagan, and loved by his cousins, Gage Horbovetz, Aiden Horbovetz, Maddox Horbovetz, Daniel Pagan, and Izzy Pagan. Santino had a natural gift for caring for others- he was loyal, generous, and someone friends and family could always count on. He brought warmth, laughter, and a steady

presence to everyone he loved.

Santino will be remembered for the love he gave, the joy he shared, and the people he held close. We take comfort knowing he is at peace in God's hands with Gran Bonnie, Grandma Lisa, Great Grandmother Margaret Thompson, and Uncle Lee, and that his spirit continues through Gionni, his family, and all who knew him.

A celebration of Santino's life will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, with visitation from 3-7 pm. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10 am. All Services will be held at Burns Funeral Home 701 East 7th Street Hobart, IN, with interment to follow at Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville, IN. Friends and family are invited to gather, share memories, and honor his life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Santino's son, Gionni Martinez, via Candice Martinez's Zelle Account (219-921-4071). If you require other digital forms, please reach out to Candice. Note: ALL funds will be placed in a trust for his son Gionni.

[www.BurnsFuneral.com](http://www.BurnsFuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.  
Merrillville, IN 46410

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Visitation

NOV 18. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart  
701 E. 7th Street  
Hobart, IN 46342  
(219) 942-1117  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Funeral Service

NOV 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart  
701 E. 7th Street  
Hobart, IN 46342  
(219) 942-1117  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LD

“ Lakes Dialysis purchased the *Simply Elegant Sp  
athiphyllum* for the family of Santino Lee  
Martinez.



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**Lakes Dialysis** - November 19, 2025 at 03:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of  
Santino Lee Martinez.



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November 17, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of  
Santino Lee Martinez.



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November 17, 2025 at 10:12 AM

DP

“ Don and Steve Polson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Santino Lee  
Martinez.

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**Don and Steve Polson** - November 17, 2025 at 10:12 AM

LG

“ Love you always, Titi Julie and Grandpa purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Santino Lee Martinez.



Love you always, Titi Julie and Grandpa - November 15, 2025 at 10:59 PM

MO

“ Melonie O. purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Santino Lee Martinez.



Melonie O. - November 15, 2025 at 03:29 PM

AC

“ Aaron Canchola lit a candle in memory of Santino Lee Martinez



Aaron Canchola - November 13, 2025 at 10:07 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Santino Lee Martinez.



November 13, 2025 at 01:54 PM

MS

“ Marshall Snyder planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Santino Lee Martinez.

Marshall Snyder - November 13, 2025 at 01:54 PM

JV

“ Jose E Velez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Santino Lee Martinez.

Jose E Velez - November 13, 2025 at 12:42 PM

JV

“ Jose E Velez purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Santino Lee Martinez.



Jose E Velez - November 13, 2025 at 12:42 PM

PR

“ PAQUIN RODRIGUEZ lit a candle in memory of Santino Lee Martinez



PAQUIN RODRIGUEZ - November 13, 2025 at 12:09 PM

PR

“ *PAQUIN RODRIGUEZ sent a virtual gift in memory of Santino Lee Martinez*



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**PAQUIN RODRIGUEZ** - November 13, 2025 at 12:09 PM

PR

“ *My most sincere & heartfelt condolences to the Santino Martinez family. Praying our Loving & Merciful GOD give you all the COMFORT, STRENGTH, & PEACE you need. Remember & cherish precious memories of your time together forever in your hearts. May our Loving & Merciful GOD grant his beautiful soul eternal peace. !QUE DIOS LO TENGA EN SU SANTA GLORIA! (Matthew 5:4, Psalms 147:3, 2Corinthians 5:8)*



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**PAQUIN RODRIGUEZ** - November 13, 2025 at 12:07 PM

WD

“ Jack,  
Your Grandson sounds like someone everybody, most certainly me,  
would love immediately upon meeting him. You must be so proud of  
him.

*At the same time, I know you must miss him so deeply.*

*Please express my condolences for your loss.*

*He is now with God and will continue to watch over all of the people  
he loved. ❤️ 🙏*

*Sincerely,  
Bill Demmon*

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**William Demmon** - November 12, 2025 at 09:59 PM

SS

“ Sharon Stefanski lit a candle in memory of  
Santino Lee Martinez



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**Sharon Stefanski** - November 12, 2025 at 07:46 PM

WB

“ With great love: Evan, Sarah, & Bridget  
purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the  
family of Santino Lee Martinez.



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**With great love: Evan, Sarah, & Bridget** - November 12, 2025  
at 10:38 AM