

Italian American St. Joseph Society



"Pride in Our Heritage"

ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

52ND ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH'S PARADE – MARCH 16, 2024

Although we are 54 years old, our 52nd annual St. Joseph's Parade will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Our St. Joseph's Gala and Maid Presentation will immediately follow the parade that evening. Our General Membership Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 and Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the **Knights of Columbus Hall** located at **6254 Vicksburg, New Orleans, LA**. Merchandise distribution begins at **7:00 p.m.**, and our meetings start at **8:00 p.m. sharp**. These meetings are for members only. No wives and/or girlfriends, please. You can pay by cash, check, or credit card. If you plan to pay by check, then you will need **separate checks** for membership dues, throws, and dance tickets. Please mark these dates on your calendar and make sure to share them with your paisanos!

BEST CELEBRATION SO FAR!

We wish to thank all of our members for participating in our 2023 Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph. The Altar Float was spectacular. Our 2023 Queen **Brooke Russo Javier** and all of the Maids looked beautiful. Our 2023 Caesar **Terry Villani** reigned over our celebration with strength and dignity. We also greatly appreciate our 2023 Grand Marshal **Lena Prima** and our 2023 Parade Marshals, **John M. Viola**, **Chef David Greco**, and **David Piscola**, joining us. Lena, John, Chef David, and David added great music, food, and comradery to our celebration. We look forward to having them join us again!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Our organization is one of the largest ethnic organizations in the southeastern United States. From its inception through today, we have worked to educate Italian Americans in southeastern Louisiana and the Gulf Coast concerning the culture, history, traditions and benefits of Italian heritage. Over the past 54 years, we have stimulated the Italian community to remember and celebrate their shared experiences, traditions, identities, struggles, and aspirations.

This past year, we implemented a scholarship program to reward those high school and college aged students who demonstrate a desire to learn and share the values of Italian culture with other younger people to foster and build a sense of community. We wish to congratulate the following 2023 IASJS scholarship recipients:

Vince "Rocky" Russo Memorial Scholarship: **Logan Walker Coe** of Brother Martin High School
Giuseppe Badalucco Memorial Scholarship: **Jonah Clayton Revere** of St. Paul's Lasallian School
George Cortello Memorial Scholarship: **Meredith Ann Guy** of Mount Carmel Academy
IASJS Scholarship: **Abigail Cameron Evans** of St. Mary's Dominica High School
IASJS Scholarship: **Emily Sykes Brown** of Archbishop Hannan High School

In order to be eligible for consideration of an IASJS scholarship an applicant must meet the following criteria at the time of application submission:

- A high school or college student age 16 to 20;
 - A United States citizen or a permanent resident alien;
 - Enrolled in an accredited high school or college;
 - Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 scale, or a 3.75 out of a 5.0 scale;
 - Complete and submit application and forms by the applicable deadline;
 - Have a parent or grandparent of Italian heritage; and
 - Not have an immediate* family member who is (i) on the IASJS's Scholarship Selection Committee, (ii) an officer of the IASJS, (iii) a director of the IASJS, or (iv) a substantial contributor to the IASJS.
- * "Immediate" is defined as father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, great-uncle, sibling, cousin, or in-law whether by blood, adoption, or marriage.

Each year, the IASJS will present up to five (5) \$1,000.00 scholarships to qualified applicants. The IASJS Scholarship Selection Committee reviews each applicant's transcripts, community service forms, and essay submissions in making its determinations. Applicants may also be interviewed by the IASJS Scholarship Selection Committee.

If you know an eligible student interested in applying for an IASJS scholarship, please visit the IASJS's website at www.iasjs.org to obtain additional information and/or to complete the scholarship application form on-line. All applications must be submitted by **January 15, 2024**. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the IASJS's annual Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph events in March 2024. The decisions of the IASJS Scholarship Selection Committee are final.

MAIDS . . . MAIDS . . . MAIDS

The Maids' participation in our organization has become one of the most popular focal points in our St. Joseph Celebration. Our lovely young Maids will be introduced and presented at the Maid Media Presentation on March 10, 2024, the Sunday prior to the parade. On Friday, March 15, 2024, the day prior to our St. Joseph's Parade, our Maids will help us start our weekend celebration of St. Joseph at our St. Joseph's Pasta Party. On parade day, our beautiful Maids adorn the floats during our St. Joseph's Parade through the French Quarter. Later, our Maids are formally presented at our St. Joseph's Gala following the parade. The Maids are escorted by their fathers or grandfathers. This is a very proud moment for the young ladies and their families.

This is your opportunity to show the world how proud you are to be the father, grandfather, or sponsor of such a beautiful young lady. All Maid candidates must be between the ages of 5 and 24, and the father, grandfather, and/or sponsor of the Maid candidate must be a member of our organization in good standing (2023-2024 dues paid) at the time the Maid candidate's application is submitted.

Each Maid candidate must submit her Maid Application, registration fee, and a recent photograph. The Maid Application can be found attached to this newsletter. Please note that all Maids are required to attend the first Maid meeting for instructions and a group picture. We will notify the Maids of the date, time, and location of the first 2024 Maid meeting as soon as it is set. If you have any questions regarding our Maids, please contact our Maid Coordinator, Holly Javier, at (504) 723-3447 or Hjavier1@cox.net.

ANNUAL DUES

All those **15 years of age** and older must have their Membership Dues paid in full in order to participate in our St. Joseph's Parade. So, if you are over 15 years of age, your **2023-2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!** As you all are well aware, we make sure that our dues remain affordable to all who wish to share in our celebration of St. Joseph. Our membership dues schedule is:

\$125.00 if paid on or before December 31, 2023;

\$150.00 if paid from January 1, 2024 through the day before Parade Day; and

\$175.00 if paid on Parade Day.

Our dues still remain one of the lowest of any parade organizations. Please remit your check or money order made payable to "**Italian American St. Joseph Society**" today. If you know **former members**, invite them back. If you know potential **new members**, invite them to join. We have also enclosed an **Application for Membership** for your convenience. Please feel free to make copies of this application.

PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISER TO BRING US TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

The IASJS is a 501(c)(3) organization with a rich history and a wonderful national reputation. From its inception through today, the IASJS has worked to educate the public regarding Italian culture, history, and traditions. We have done this through our celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph. Over the past 54 years, we have grown into the largest Italian-American organization in the southeastern United States. **The IASJS is currently looking for a professional fundraiser to help us obtain the funds necessary to continue to expand our mission.** For more information please contact **Peter Gilberti at (504) 458-2791.**

RENEWAL TIME TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

Each parade season you can advertise **your business** in the **Business Card Directory** of our newsletters for only **\$100.00**. We send our **newsletters** to over **700** members. We also post our Business Card Directory on our **official website**. If you are currently on our Business Card Directory, it's time to renew. If not, it's time to get onboard! For more information concerning our Business Card Directory, please contact Sid Cerami at (228)342-4448 or sidneycerami@yahoo.com.

IASJS WEBSITE AND ON-LINE STORE

Please visit our website at www.IASJS.org. You can access our organization's history, benefits of membership, photographs, recent newsletters, and contact information. There is an Application for Membership which can be completed on-line or printed to make it easy for you, your family, and your paisanos to join our organization. **You can pay Membership Dues and Maid Registration Fees on-line.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Friday, March 15, 2024

Saturday, March 16, 2024

2024 First General IASJS Membership Meeting


2024 IASJS Maid Media Presentation

2024 Second General IASJS Membership Meeting

2024 IASJS St. Joseph's Pasta Party

2024 IASJS St. Joseph's Parade and Gala

IASJS BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



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Italian American St. Joseph Society



"Pride in Our Heritage"

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I hereby declare that I am of Italian heritage and wish to tender my application for membership in the ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY. If accepted, I agree to fully abide by its By-Laws. I understand that the ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY may deny my application at its discretion. I also understand that the ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY may terminate my membership at any time at its discretion.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I would prefer to receive correspondence via my e-mail address rather than through the U.S. mail.

ADDRESS: _____

(Street Number)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ WORK TELEPHONE: _____

EMPLOYED BY: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ CITY/PARISH: _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: _____

I am a new member who is being sponsored by the following ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY member in good standing: _____

I am a returning member. My previous years of membership include: _____

I have a daughter and/or granddaughter age _____ that would like to be a Maid in the ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY. Her name and phone number are _____.

Dues are **\$125.00** per year if paid on or before December 31st. After December 31st, dues are **\$150.00** through the day before the parade. On parade day, dues are **\$175.00**. I understand that if I fail to pay my membership dues for more than one (1) year, I must complete and file a new Application for Membership.

Please make your check or money order payable to "ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY" and mail to:

ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY

c/o Sidney M. Cerami

100 Ulman Avenue

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

If you have any questions, please call Sidney M. Cerami at (228)342-4448, or you can e-mail Sidney at sidneycerami@yahoo.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER!!!

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

www.IASJS.org

Italian American St. Joseph Society



"Pride in Our Heritage"

ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY MAID COMMITTEE

September 2022

Dear Italian American Joseph Society Maid Candidate:

The 52nd Annual Italian American St. Joseph Society's Parade and Gala will be held on **Saturday, March 16, 2024**. Our organization would greatly appreciate your support of the Italian community in the Greater New Orleans Area. Enclosed please find a Maid Application for your review and completion.

We promise that you will have a fantastic time during our 2024 St. Joseph's Parade and our 2024 Maid Presentation at the St. Joseph's Gala following the parade. As a Maid, you will also be included in various events such as the Maid Media Presentation and Party and the St. Joseph's Pasta Party on Friday, March 15, 2024.

At this time, we are assessing each Maid candidate a **nominal registration fee of \$75.00** in order to defray our costs. This fee **must** accompany the Maid Application. We also require that each **Maid candidate** submit a **recent photograph of herself**. Since participation is limited and recent circumstances have forced us to determine the exact number of Maids by January 15, 2024, we **must** receive the following **no later than January 1, 2024**:

1. **Completed Maid Application**
2. **\$75.00 Maid Registration Fee; and**
3. **A Recent Photograph of the Maid Candidate.**

Consequently, we urge you to now assemble and forward these documents to our **Membership Chairman**:

Sid Cerami
100 Ulman Avenue
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Finally, if you have a friend between the ages of 5 and 24 who would like to participate in our organization as a Maid and whose father and/or grandfather is a current member or wishes to become a member of the Italian American St. Joseph Society, please contact either 1) **Holly Javier** at Hjavier1@cox.net or (504) 723-3447 or 2) **Sid Cerami** at sidneycerami@yahoo.com or (228) 342-4448.

With kindest regards,

Mark Sigur
Board Member and Maid Chairman

Holly Javier
Maid Coordinator

THE APPLICATION, \$75.00 REGISTRATION FEE, AND PHOTOGRAPH MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BY JANUARY 1, 2024. PLEASE MAIL US YOUR INFORMATION TODAY!

Italian American St. Joseph Society



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ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY MAID APPLICATION

1. Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)
2. Address: _____
3. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
3. E-mail: _____
4. Telephone: _____ 5. Age: _____ 6. Birth Date: _____
7. School or Employment: _____
8. Father's Name: _____ Grandfather's Name: _____
9. Is Father or Grandfather and active member? _____ Yes _____ No
10. Mother's Maiden Name: _____
11. Have you previously participated as a Maid of the Italian American St. Joseph Society?
_____ Yes _____ No If so, what years? _____
12. Why do you want to be a Maid in the Italian American St. Joseph Society?

13. Will your father/grandfather be able to escort you at the dance? (*Must be a member of the I.A.S.J.S.*)
Father () Grandfather () Other () - Relationship: _____
14. Full Name of Escort: _____
15. If you have a friend or relative that will also be a Maid and you wish to ride with them, please list their names:

* **Note: We will try to accommodate your float request to the best of our ability. Please understand that the Maid's age will also be a factor in the final float assignment.**

Please mail this completed form, \$75.00 registration fee, and recent photograph of the Maid candidate to:

ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY
c/o Sidney M. Cerami
100 Ulman Avenue
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520