



# ITALIAN AMERICAN ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY **2025 PARADE NEWSLETTER**

## **PARADE DAY**

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

## **PARADE MEETINGS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

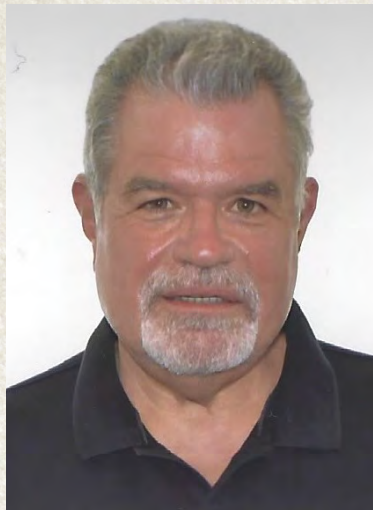
**A**lthough we are 55 years old, our 53rd annual St. Joseph's Parade (will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Our St. Joseph's Gala and Maid Presentation will immediately follow the parade that evening at the Hilton Hotel Riverside.

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**O**ur General Membership Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 and Wednesday, March 19, 2025 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!



## 2025 NATIONAL GRAND MARSHAL



**MICHAEL  
BADALUCCO**

2025 NATIONAL Grand Marshal

**M**ichael Badalucco is the son of Sicilian immigrants. At a very young age, Michael accompanied his father, a movie set carpenter, to the set of *Fail Safe*. A photo of a young boy was needed. Eight-year-old Michael posed for the picture, and his acting career began. Michael has appeared in *Law & Order*, *Boston Public*, *Alley McBeal*, *Joan of Arcadia*, and HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. Michelle Pfeiffer worked with Michael on the film *One Fine Day*. She recommended him to producer David Kelley for the television series *The Practice*. Michael obtained the part of attorney Jimmy Berluti, and he received the 1999 Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. Michael's film career includes *Raging Bull*, *Miller's Crossing*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *The Professional*, *One Fine Day*, *Summer of Sam*, *You've Got Mail*, and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Michael has also starred on the New York stage. Michael sincerely understands and appreciates our organization. He has reigned as our Grand Marshal in 2006, 2011, 2012, and 2020. He has also served as our Parade Marshal several years. We are honored and privileged to have him join us as our 2025 National Grand Marshal.

## 2025 NEW ORLEANS GRAND MARSHAL



**DEVIN  
BARTOLOTTA**

2025 NEW ORLEANS Grand Marshal

**D**evin Bartolotta is a four-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, producer, and evening news anchor at WWL Louisiana. She's the sole creator of *The Breakdown*, a nightly segment that simplifies complex—or often underreported—news stories affecting everyday lives. Devin shoots, writes, and edits most of her own stories and is a content-creating machine on social media. Devin has guided Southeast Louisiana through countless hours of live coverage—from major political events to hurricanes, tornadoes, and life-changing tragedies. Devin grew up in Southwest Pennsylvania, where the Southern Italian values of family, love, and a strong work ethic shaped every part of her life. She was raised on traditions like annual winemaking in a traditional press, gathering for big Sunday dinners, and filling the house with music—with her brother on the accordion and her grandfather on the electric organ. When she's not on air—or working on the book she's writing—Devin cherishes time with the two most important people in her life: her husband, Matt, and their baby girl, Florence. Matt and Devin share a deep love for New Orleans. We are honored and privileged to have her join us as our 2025 New Orleans Grand Marshal.







**SOPHIA ELIZABETH  
MARALDO**

2025 IASJS QUEEN

## 2025 QUEEN

**S**ophia Elizabeth Maraldo will reign as Queen of our 53rd St. Joseph's Parade. Sophia was born in New Orleans, LA on July 12, 2004. Sophia's grandfather, Claude A. Maraldo, was a co-founder of the IASJS. Sophia has participated as a Maid in our organization since she was four years old, making this her 16th year with us. Sophia graduated Magna Cum Laude from Mount Carmel Academy ("MCA") in May 2022. She played soccer for MCA for 5 years, winning a Division 5 Soccer State Championship in 2021. Sophia also played competitive soccer with Louisiana Fire Soccer Club since the age of 4, winning 8 State Championships from ages 10 to 18. Sophia was recently accepted into the Cardiovascular Sonography Program at the School of Allied Health Professions at Louisiana State University Health - New Orleans. Sophia is honored to be representing her family, her Italian heritage, and our organization as Queen of our 53rd IASJS Saint Joseph's parade.



**DR. DARRELL  
SANFILIPPO BOURG**

2025 IASJS CAESAR

## 2025 CAESAR

**D**r. Darrell Sanfilippo Bourg will make his second reign as our Caesar this year, having initially reigned as our Caesar in 2024. Dr. Bourg is a native of the West Bank of New Orleans, and he currently resides in Kenner, LA. Dr. Bourg has practiced dentistry in the Greater New Orleans Area for the past 25 years. He was first introduced to our organization by a family friend, Michael Badalamenti, when he was 12 years old. Dr. Bourg's daughters, Hadley (17) and Hayden (8), have been Maids for the past several years and will join us again as Maids this year. Dr. Bourg's sons, Larry(36), Connor (14), and George (11), are also returning members and will accompany him on the Caesar float. Dr. Bourg is very proud of his Italian heritage and plans to make a return trip to Italy with his family this summer. We are honored to have Dr. Bourg reign as our 2025 Caesar. Hail Caesar!

## SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025 MAID MEDIA PRESENTATION

**T**he annual Maid Media Presentation will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm at the Piazza d'Italia in New Orleans. This is your first opportunity to see our beautiful Queens and Maids prior to the parade. This is a very special event for the Queen, the Maids, and their families. Please make sure to join us!





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**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025**

## **PASTA PARTY**

On Friday, March 21, 2025, we will hold our annual St. Joseph's Pasta Party at 12:00 noon at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. We will present our 2025 IASJS Scholarship Awards at the start of our event. During the event, our Grand Marshal, our Parade Marshals, our Queen, and our Caesar will be presented to the public. Parade Marshal David Greco, owner of Mikes Deli and Arthur Avenue Caterers, located in the real little Italy in the Bronx; Known to the Food Network as the Italian Food Expert, will treat us to the world's largest bowl of pasta con le sarde. There will be plenty of music and wine. Join us for this special free event. Please note that no ice chests and/or outside food or beverages are allowed at this event. It's a great way to start our weekend celebration!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025**

## **PRE-PARADE PARTY AND LINE-UP**

Our 2025 Pre-Parade Party will once again be held across from the Hilton Hotel Riverside on Lafayette St. between Fulton St. Bowling and the Grand Isle Restaurant. The entrance and registration desk for this year's Pre-Parade Party will be on Fulton St., not Convention Center Blvd. Our Pre-Parade Party will be open to members and their ladies at 3:00 p.m. This year's party will feature fantastic food and beverages from our favorite area restaurants, stores, and suppliers - Rouse's Food Stores, Italian meatballs, pasta salad, pizza, Cavit Wines, Verdi Sparkling Wines, beer, and Coca-Cola soft drinks. All ladies must have a ticket. Tickets can be obtained at the parade meetings. Members are encouraged to come early in order to pick up their secret badges and flower canes. Extra throws and beads can also be purchased at the party.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025**

## **POST-PARADE GALA**

Our St. Joseph's Gala and Maid Presentation will be held at Hilton Hotel Riverside. The Maid Presentation will take place from 9:00 pm to 9:30 pm. The band will then take the stage from 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Bring your dancing shoes!

For years, our organization has defrayed the rising cost of our St. Joseph's Gala and Maid Presentation, and we will continue to do so. This year's ticket price is \$75 per ticket (i.e., \$750 for a table of 10). Please see Joey Cannizzaro, Jr. at our upcoming parade meetings to review available tables and to purchase tickets. You can also contact Joey at [j.cannizzaro@gmail.com](mailto:j.cannizzaro@gmail.com) for information regarding our St. Joseph's Gala and Maid Presentation. Tickets to our 2025 St. Joseph's Gala and Maid Presentation may also be purchased at the door of the event on March 22, 2025 for \$85 per ticket.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY REGARDING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY MINORS AT OUR ST. JOSEPH'S GALA AND MAID PRESENTATION. ANY MINORS WHO CONSUME ALCOHOL AT OUR ST. JOSEPH'S GALA AND MAID PRESENTATION WILL BE ESCORTED FROM THE PREMISES BY SECURITY.**

## **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 2024-2025 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:

**\$175.00 if paid from January 1, 2025 through the day before Parade Day; and  
\$200.00 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.



## **GODFATHER LEGION**

All members interested in riding in the parade in a convertible as a “Godfather”, please contact Peter Gilberti, at (504) 458-2791. You can also see Peter at the upcoming parade meetings. You must provide your own driver and convertible. You must also present your insurance policy on said vehicle with minimum coverage of \$100,000.00. The cost to enter the convertible in the parade is \$400.00. Each convertible can hold up to three “Godfathers” plus the driver. No convertible will be allowed in the parade without a special Italian American St. Joseph Society sticker on the windshield. Any convertible in the parade without the sticker will be removed and detained until after the parade.

## **FIRE TRUCK LEGION**

All members participating in the Fire Truck Legion must have their IASJS dues paid by the last General Membership Meeting – March 19, 2025. No members will be allowed to apply for the Fire Truck Legion on the day of the parade.

## **IASJS PARADE THROWS, BEADS, AND FLOWER CANES**

The only beads allowed in our parade are our IASJS tri-color and special beads. No other beads are allowed. Our income is based on the nominal membership dues and the income derived from the sale of our official throws and flower canes. Thus, our organization survives on our members purchasing official IASJS throws. Without our member’s generous cooperation in purchasing official throws (and lots of them), we will not be able to remain in existence. We urge all of our members to purchase only authorized throws and flower canes from our club.

## **PARADE ATTIRE**

The dress for our parade is a black tuxedo with black socks and black shoes. If you need to rent a tuxedo, visit our friends at New Orleans Tuxedos, Inc. or J & L Formal Wear.

**New Orleans Tuxedos, Inc.**  
4959 West Napoleon Avenue, Metairie, LA  
(504) 486-5309 [www.neworleanstuxedos.com](http://www.neworleanstuxedos.com)

**J & L Formal Wear**  
931 Westwood Dr., Marrero, LA  
(504) 340-4544

## **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 [scerami@bellsouth.net](mailto:scerami@bellsouth.net).

## **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 55 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.





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# IASJS WEBSITE

Please visit our website at [www.italianamericansociety.org](http://www.italianamericansociety.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.



SCAN HERE

## LET'S HAVE A SAFE CELEBRATION!!!

We want you to focus on celebrating St. Joseph's Day with your paisanos and your family on March 22, 2025. We are taking every action possible to ensure your safety and the safety of the parade spectators. The New Orleans Police Department has advised us that the French Quarter will be as safe (or safer) than it has ever been for this year's St. Joseph's Parade. As usual, our organization will meet with the New Orleans Police Department prior to the parade to ensure that the necessary officers are present in our parade and along our parade route. The IASJS will strictly enforce all safety precautions in order to ensure that all of our Maids, members, parade participants, and spectators enjoy a fun and safe parade. Everyone's safety and welfare is of the utmost importance to our organization.

All members must start and finish the parade with their respective legions and chariots. Members are to remain with their designated parade group. Members are never to march with the floats and/or Maids. Members are never to march behind the last IASJS unit at the end of the parade. Any and all members who become intoxicated or cause any type of disturbance during the parade will be removed from the parade. All of our members are asked to keep an eye out for their fellow marchers. If you need any assistance, the organization's officers and/or the police are prepared to help.

Finally, all of the drivers in our parade are prohibited from consuming any type of alcoholic beverage prior to and during the parade. Any driver found drinking prior to or during the parade will be immediately removed from his/her vehicle - no exceptions.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Friday, March 21, 2025

Saturday, March 22, 2025

2025 IASJS First General Membership Meeting

2025 IASJS Maid Media Presentation

2025 IASJS Second General Membership Meeting

2025 IASJS St. Joseph's Pasta Party

2025 IASJS St. Joseph's Parade and Gala