

La Nostra Voce

Sempre Insieme ~ Always Together

American Italian Cultural Society
1918 Donmaur Drive • Crest Hill, IL 60403

President's Report March / marzo

Hello Club Members

As we move into March, I'm pleased to share an update on our society's activities, progress, and upcoming plans.

Highlights from February

- **Cultural Events:** February gatherings were well-attended. Super Bowl had a great turnout, Spaghetti dinner was another great success, Paint and Sip became a sold out event.
- **Membership Engagement:** Everyone came together to help organize, run and attend these events.
- **Facility Updates:** Routine maintenance and winter preparation were continued on the facility, ensuring a comfortable and safe environment for all upcoming events. Some kitchen upgrades including a new on-demand water heater were installed.

March Events & Activities

- **Walking in Faith:** Sunday, March 1, at 5pm. This presentation will be about Italian saints of the season Lent and Easter.
- **Spaghetti Dinner:** Will take place Thursday March 12, 11am to 7pm. If you have interest in volunteering the day of the dinner, or with sauce making the week of the dinner, please let us know.
- **St. Joseph Table:** Sunday, March 15, 1pm, free admission, members only event. All proceeds will be donated to needy individuals/organizations within our community. We will begin with a Holy Mass followed by a meatless potluck dinner. Donations to St. Joseph are suggested.
- **Queen of Hearts-** Takes place every Monday starting at 5pm. The current pot as of 2/23/26 is at \$10560.00. We wish you luck. Starting March 2, we will be offering food again. Look for the week's menu on Facebook. If you would like to volunteer and help cook with one of our six kitchen mangers please let us know.
- **Festa meeting:** Our first 2026 festa meeting will be Thursday March 19, at 7pm.

Administrative Notes

- **Meetings:** The March board meeting will take place on March 4th. Agenda items include spring event planning, scholarship updates, and facility improvements. General meeting is March 26th.
- **Financial Overview:** The Society remains in strong financial standing and fundraising efforts continue to support our club and its cultural initiatives.

Volunteer Opportunities: As always, we rely on the generosity of our members. Anyone interested in helping with events, positions or chairing an event is encouraged to reach out.

A Personal Message

We will be planning many events this year and with over 400 members I would love to see as many of you as can attend, socialize and volunteer. Remember that together is what makes it "our club." Lastly our 2026 scholarship applications are available online for all high school seniors.

Always Together/Sempre Insieme
Dan Brandolino
President, American Italian Cultural Society



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CLUB HOURS

SUNDAY
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM
MONDAY
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
THURSDAY
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM
SATURDAY
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Phone: 815-725-7450

Fax: 815-725-9074

Email office:

officemanager@americanitalian.org

Email for newsletter:

Andrea.DiVecchio@americanitalian.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



QUEEN OF HEARTS EVERY MONDAY NIGHT 5-9 PM

Cut off time to purchase a ticket for the Queen is 7:30pm, with the drawing at 8:00pm

MAR 1 - SUNDAY	LENT & EASTER SAINTS	5:00pm
MAR 4 - WEDNESDAY	BOARD MEETING	7:00pm
MAR 12 - THURSDAY	SPAGHETTI DINNER	11am-7pm
MAR 15 - SUNDAY	ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE	1:00pm
MAR 19 - THURSDAY	BOOK CLUB	12:00pm
	FESTA MEETING	7:00pm
MAR 26 - THURSDAY	GENERAL MEETING	7:00pm
MAR 27 - FRIDAY	WINE CLUB	7:00pm
MAR 28 - SATURDAY	Crest Hill EASTER EGG HUNT	12-2pm
SAVE THE DATES!		
APR 11 - SATURDAY	ABRUZZO REGIONAL DINNER	6:00pm
MAY 16 - SATURDAY	WINE CONTEST	4:00pm
JUL 12 - SUNDAY	JOLIET SLAMMERS ITALIAN NIGHT	



While our members are the heart of our club, the kitchen is the hub! We now have 6 members that have obtained Illinois Food Manager & Allergen Certification as well as several that have their Food Handlers Certification. This has enabled us to establish "cooking teams" for our Spaghetti Dinners and other club events. We continue to update our kitchen including new heat grates for our stove that were made and donated by Corsetti Structural Steel. Recently we have had two Will County Health Department food establishment inspections in which

we scored 100% in compliance! This is due to the efforts of our amazing volunteers that keep our kitchen safe and in tip top shape.

Speaking of our volunteers, thank you to everyone who continues to help with our Spaghetti dinners. Our February dinner sold over 1300 dinners!



CALENDAR

March

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Lent & Easter Saints 5:00pm	2  QOH	3	4  Board Meeting 7:00pm	5	6	7
8  Daylight Saving Time	9  QOH  National Meatball Day	10	11	12  Spaghetti Dinner 11am-7pm	13	14
15  St. Joseph's Table 1:00pm	16  QOH	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19  Book Clubs 12:00pm  Festa Meeting 7:00pm	20 SPRING	21
22	23  QOH	24	25	26  General Meeting 7:00pm	27  Wine Club 7:00pm	28  Crest Hill Easter Egg Hunt 12-2pm
29	30  QOH	31				



Scholarship Program

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 www.americanitalian.org

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EVENT INFORMATION ~ Don't miss out!

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY QUEEN OF HEARTS

PLAY WEEKLY FOR
A CHANCE TO WIN



DRAWING EVERY MONDAY

TICKETS \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00



CLUB HOURS
SUNDAY 6:30 PM-11:00 PM
MONDAY 5:00 PM-9:00 PM
THURSDAY 6:30 PM-11:00 PM



1918 DAUNMAUR DRIVE CRIST HILL IL 60403



WALKING IN FAITH

Italian Saints of the Season
Lent and Easter
presented by
Rachel Frustini

SUNDAY
MARCH 1, 2026
500PM



American Italian Cultural Society
1918 Donmaur Drive
Crest Hill, IL 60403
For more information please contact Rachel 815-474-4726

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
1918 DONMAUR DR. CREST HILL, IL
815-725-7450

Spaghetti Dinner



THURSDAY
MARCH 12, 2026

11AM - 7PM

OR UNTIL WE RUN OUT!

\$13.00

CARRY-OUT OR DINE-IN

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE

MEATBALLS

SAUCE

\$3.00 FOR 2

\$8.00/QUART

HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS & SALAD DRESSING

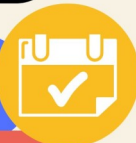
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REMINDER

General



Meeting

Thursday
March 26, 2026
7:00pm



**Delicious Snacks will be
served after the meeting!**

Wine Club

27
Mar. 2026

7:00pm

Tasting Fee
\$ 5.00 AICS Members
\$10.00 Non-Members

Tasting & Discussion Topic

Abruzzo Wines

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share



Crest Hill EASTER EGG HUNT!

The Easter Bunny is Coming!
Get Ready to Hunt!



Saturday,
March 28th,
2026

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
20600 City Center Blvd.

**Ages 12 and
under**

Pictures with the Easter Bunny || More Details to Come!

For more information, contact Alderwoman Claudia Gazal at 630-915-7449

EVENT INFORMATION ~ Don't miss out!

VIVA LA TAVOLA DI SAN GIUSEPPE!

Annual St. Joseph Table



MARCH 15, 2026 at 1:00pm

Please join us as we gather together again to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph.

We will begin with Holy Mass and then partake of a delicious meatless Pot Luck Meal

Free Admission

AICS Members Only

MEMBERS

Please bring a meatless dish or a dessert to pass for our pot luck meal. It must be enough to feed 10 people and brought in a disposable dish. Contact Robin Margliano 815-531-9116 to coordinate your dish.

Thank you!

*AICS will be providing Penne/Marinara, Spaghetti Aglio e Olio with Tuna, Fried Smelts and Sicilian Bread

- † Mass at 1:00pm
- † Blessing of the food
- † Partaking of the meal
- † Auction

Donations to St. Joseph are suggested.

All proceeds will be donated to needy individuals/organizations.

Free tickets are available at the bar or online by scanning this QR Code.



DEADLINE FOR TICKETS/RESERVATIONS
MARCH 8, 2026

American Italian Cultural Society
918 Donmaur Drive
Crest Hill, IL 60403

For more information please call Andrea DiVecchio 815-529-0036

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY REGIONAL FIVE-COURSE DINNER EXPERIENCE

ABRUZZO

APRIL 11TH 6:00 PM

\$35 per person (Members) \$45 per person (Non-Members)
\$15 for children ages 5-12 Children under 5 are free

Menu

Antipasto

Prosciutto e melone fresco

(Fresh prosciutto and melon)

Olive Miste

(Mixed Italian olives)

Pizza Fritta Tradizionale Abruzzese

(Traditional Abruzzese fried dough)

Arrosticini Tradizionali Abruzzese

(Traditional Abruzzese lamb skewers)

Primo

Piangozze Fatte a Mano al Sugo

(Handmade Abruzzese pasta with tomato sauce)

Contorno

Patate Arrosto al Rosmarino

(Roasted rosemary potatoes)

Fagiolini con olio d'oliva e aceto

(Green beans with olive oil and vinegar)

Secondo

Cotoletta di Pollo al Limone

(Breaded lemon chicken cutlet)

Insalata Tradizionale Abruzzese

(Traditional Abruzzese salad)

Dolce

Pizzelle

(Traditional Italian waffle cookies)

Biscotti Misti

(Assorted Italian cookies)

Caffè Espresso

(Espresso coffee)

Vino

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo

Una bottiglia a tavola

(One bottle per table)

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION
PLEASE SCAN ME OR CALL AICS AT 815-725-7450



Join Us for Dinner!

AT OUR

QUEEN of HEARTS

Serving Food
Select Monday Nights

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For Menu & Details

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COLIN M. CAPLAN
AUTHOR • FILMMAKER
PIZZA HISTORIAN

Vanessa Pascente
vpascente71@gmail.com

Mary
Mary@hardcoreitalians.com

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

The Feast of St. Joseph, which always falls in the middle of Lent, is especially commemorated and celebrated in Italy in general, and Sicily in particular, where St. Joseph has been long-regarded as the island's Patron saint. It is there, among Sicilians, that the tradition of the "Tavola di San Giuseppe" or "St. Joseph's Table" has its origins. March 19th is, in Italy, also Father's Day, which isn't at all surprising, as St. Joseph was, of course, the foster father of Jesus. This celebration is a symbolic "thank you" and a renewal of the Sicilian people's devotion to Saint Joseph. It is a *shared* celebration with the entire community where the riches of food are given as alms to the poor: traditional etiquette is that *no one* can be turned away from this table.

Legends from the Middle Ages attributed the end of a devastating drought to a prayer-devotion that the Sicilian people made to St. Joseph. During a time of drought and famine, no rain fell on Medieval Sicily. Food crops for both people and livestock withered and died. The people prayed to St. Joseph for help. When the clouds opened, the desperately-needed rain poured down, and there was much rejoicing! After the harvest, to show their gratitude, they prepared a table with special foods to honor St. Joseph and to share with the poor. After thanking and honoring the saint, they distributed the food to the less fortunate. Through the years, the tradition has remained throughout Italy, and is also prevalent in Poland, Malta, Spain, the Philippines, and, with the influx of Sicilian immigrants to the USA, here in our own country.



The heart of this tradition can be found in these three aspects:

Veneration—special recognition of St. Joseph during Mass and at the "table" where the foods are blessed.

The Table—both a kind of "altar of reverence", and a communal celebration. The "Table" consist of three tiers to represent the Holy Trinity and St. Joseph is placed on the top tier.

The Poor—The intention of all the gifts is to help those in need.



The foods of St. Joseph's Table have symbolic meaning as well. There are two constants for the "table": there is no meat (since it's Lent) and the presence of sesame-coated breads in symbolic shapes. The breads themselves are made from the same dough that forms traditional Italian bread and are often made into interesting and symbolic shapes for St. Joseph's Day. Other foods that are often present at more elaborate St. Joseph's Table "feasts" include:

St. Joseph's Day Pasta, also called Sawdust Pasta or Carpenter's Pasta, made with bread crumb to resemble wood sawdust. Cheese isn't used, symbolic of the food shortage experienced in the origin legend of the tradition. Olives, figs, and other side dishes. Blessed fava beans are often given out at St. Joseph's Tables. Once considered cattle feed, fava beans were the one food which survived the Sicilian drought, sustained the people, and saved them from starvation.

As no feast is complete without dessert, no Saint Joseph's altar would be finished without the flourish of sweet items. There is typically a plethora of cakes, biscotti and cookies, many of which are embellished with almonds. Two particularly traditional desserts found at St. Joseph's tables

are sfingi—fried pieces of bread dough rolled in sugar—and zeppoli—a pastry shaped like a donut, fried or baked, and filled with a sweet pastry crème, then garnished with a dusting of powdered sugar and a maraschino cherry.

We hope you will join us at our Annual St. Joseph Table on Sunday, March 15, 2026. Tickets are available for this blessed and cultural event. All proceeds collected from our St. Joseph Table are donated to needy families within our community.

Viva San Giuseppe

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

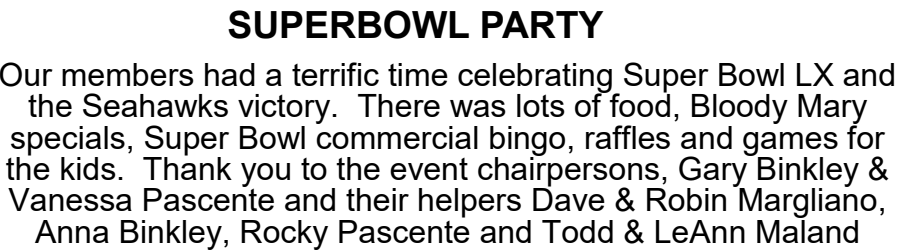
“GALENTINES” PAINT & SIP

AICS gals celebrated “Galentines Day” with a Paint & Sip party on February 6th. Everyone had an opportunity to try out their artistic abilities creating a canvas while sipping cocktails and indulging in some delicious Valentines themed food. A big thank you to event organizers Christina Hayden and Ali Brandolino, Dan Brandolino who was the “gals” bartender and to Dottie’s Art Studio of Plainfield!



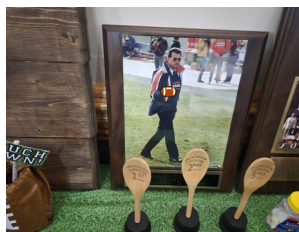
SUPERBOWL PARTY

Our members had a terrific time celebrating Super Bowl LX and the Seahawks victory. There was lots of food, Bloody Mary specials, Super Bowl commercial bingo, raffles and games for the kids. Thank you to the event chairpersons, Gary Binkley & Vanessa Pascente and their helpers Dave & Robin Margliano, Anna Binkley, Rocky Pascente and Todd & LeAnn Maland



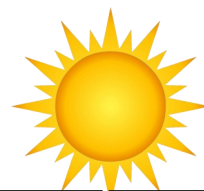
CHILI COOK-OFF

The AICS Chili Cook-Off was a huge success with ten chili entries! Congratulations to the winners 1st place Christina Hayden, 2nd place Gary Binkley, 3rd place Andrea DiVecchio, “Too Hot to Handle Award” Eleanor Picard and “Flatulence Fuel Award” Fran Morgan. Grazie to the cook off coordinators Robin Margliano & Andrea DiVecchio.





Sunshine Report



Jeffrey Boetto - 3rd
Dante Frustini - 3rd
Tom Mara - 3rd
Beverly Murer - 5th
Ted Brandolino - 6th
Brian Okon - 6th
Marisa Serafini - 7th
Jim Malinowski - 8th



Fran Morgan - 8th
John Pascarella - 8th
Fiore Alberico - 10th
Ted Bellos - 11th
Michelle Corsetti - 11th
Rita Galli-Miller - 11th
Dane Carlyle - 12th
Maureen Chytrcek - 14th



Joseph Aimaro - 17th
Rosa Conte - 23rd
Jim Bolin - 24th
Christie Pantoja - 26th
Ken Stalzer - 28th
Alfred Weihofen - 29th
Paula Skiotes - 31st



Fiore Alberico
Arlene Packley



Tina D'Amico
Sherry Talarico Sullivan



Bryan & Taylor Wellner



Sympathy to Donna & Dennis Derosa on the passing of Donna's brother Anthony Lipara.

Our heartfelt condolences to Claudia Munoz and family on the passing of Claudia's husband Ruben.

If you are having, or know someone who is having a milestone birthday or anniversary, or know of an illness, condolence or a special congratulations for our members or if you want to be excluded from the Sunshine Report please contact
Anna Binkley (815) 342-6524 / Email: anna9108@att.net or
Robin Margliano (815) 531-9116 / Email: rmargliano@aol.com



American Italian Cultural Society

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WORD Search



March Word Search

E U A O M O L S K I J V P S V R O B I N S U A N
 W W A B S L Y N C K O S T O H O Q B P E J B B R
 G Z F G D G V D A U E D D C A S M N S C A J H Z
 P G I G R M A O R R X W F U L E V N X S H Q N W
 T O J H I A O Y T M S A X W L U O C K H W M Q E
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 Y C U Z B R M H V X L K Z K H R P V G S U W N G
 Y W O H D H L K Y D O X C F Z P E Y C C R X Z O

EASTER	ROBINS	FLOWERS	TRACK
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	BASKETBALL	MADNESS	TIME CHANGE
COLLEGE	LUCK	GREEN	PANCAKES
LAMS	ASH WEDNESDAY	SHAMROCK	ST PATRICKS DAY
PARADE	WINDY	SNOWERS	BIRDS
MARCH	RAINSOW	MARDI GRAS	SPRING

AICS DIRECTORY

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For more info please visit us on the web:
www.americanitalian.org
or



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Our spaghetti dinner is held the 2nd Thursday of the month from September until May every year. We are looking for more student volunteers to work in the dining room. If you can help or know any high school student who would like to work a few hours, please contact: **Robin Margliano**

815-531-9116

Did you know you can access member information from our AICS website? You can see pics from the club, download a new membership application and see copies of our newsletters. There's a member portal where you can sign up with your email.

Member access code is AICS2024
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