



# Viva Maria!

*Get-Together*  
November 8, 2025

5:00 PM Member Meeting  
6:00 PM Dinner & Dancing

St. Joseph Church Hall  
11001 N. 40th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Pasta & Turkey Breast  
Veggie & Salad  
Coffee & Desert  
25.00

RSVP  
Lina Davi: 602.418.5679  
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## SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

I am filled with gratitude and joy as I reflect on our beautiful celebration of the Feast of Maria Santissima Lauretana, held on October 19, 2025.

In previous years, we hosted a dinner the night before the feast, but Sunday's attendance for Mass and the procession was often small. This year, we chose to focus our efforts on Sunday only—beginning with Mass at 1:00 p.m., followed by the procession and a touching performance of the Volata by Simon and Marinda Swica. They devoted many hours to learning the Volata in Italian even though they didn't know a word of Italian and their performance was flawless.

I am delighted to share that we had over 120 people attended the Mass, Procession, and Volata—a joyful and faithful turnout that warmed all our hearts. Afterward, we enjoyed a delicious à la carte meal filled with laughter, friendship, and community spirit.

It was truly wonderful to see so many of our members and guests come together in devotion and fellowship. One of the most special moments for me personally was walking with the children as we guided the new Children's Vara. Seeing their excitement and devotion filled me with hope, knowing that our cherished traditions will continue through the younger generation. Pictures of the event will be posted to the website [www.msslaz.com](http://www.msslaz.com)

I want to sincerely thank everyone who helped make this year's celebration such a success; from those who prepared food and decorations to those who sang, carried, prayed, or simply attended in support. Your time, devotion, and love for the Madonna make this feast what it is: a true reflection of our faith and our shared heritage.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Rita Belder

President, Society of Maria SS. Lauretana

A Special  
Thank You  
to  
Marco Masini  
for building  
The Children's Vara



This year's feast included a touching new tradition the introduction of our very own Children's Vara, built by Marco Masini.

The idea was born last year when Gino Davi traveled to Altavilla Milicia for the feast and saw a Children's Vara at the Basilica. When Gino returned home he asked his friend Marco if he could build it. Gino donated the materials and Marco graciously donated his time to bring it to life for our society.

Through Marco's craftsmanship and dedication, our children were able to take part in this year's procession in a truly special way — proudly pushing their own Vara in front of the traditional Vara. It was one of the most heartwarming sights of the entire celebration, reminding us all that our faith and traditions are alive and being carried forward by the next generation.

From all of us at the Society of Maria Santissima Lauretana Thank you, Marco, for your beautiful work, and thank you, Gino, for your inspiration. Together, you've given our children a lasting gift for our future celebrations.

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Joe Chiovari



Our society is truly honored and filled with gratitude for the beautiful gift we've received from Mr. Joe Chiovari one of our longtime members, talented painter, and dear friend whose faith and creativity continue to inspire us all.

Joe donated a beautiful painting of the Basilica and Altavilla Milicia, Sicily, a piece that captures the heart of our heritage and reminds us of the deep roots that connect us to our beloved traditions.

This painting is so much more than art — it's a reflection of our faith, devotion, and love for the Blessed Mother. We are incredibly thankful to Joe for sharing his gift and his spirit with our society.

We will proudly display his painting at our society events, where it will serve as a reminder of the beauty of faith and the generosity of one of our own.

From all of us — thank you, Joe, for your kindness, your talent, and the example you set through your life of faith and love.



# 2026 Dates – Mark Your Calendars

Maria SS Lauretana Calendar of Events 2026

Date	Title	Location
Saturday, January 17, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Saturday, February 14, 2026	Valentines Day Dinner Dance	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Thursday, March 5, 2026	Novena Day 1	Church 5:00 PM
Friday, March 6, 2026	Novena Day 2	Church 5:00 PM
Saturday, March 7, 2026	Novena Day 3	Church 5:00 PM
Sunday, March 8, 2026	Novena Day 4	Church 5:00 PM
Monday, March 9, 2026	Novena Day 5	Church 5:00 PM
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Novena Day 6	Church 5:00 PM
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Novena Day 7	Church 5:00 PM
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Novena Day 8	Church 5:00 PM
Friday, March 13, 2026	Novena Day 9	Church 5:00 PM
Sunday, March 15, 2026	St. Joseph's Table - Devotion	Ascension Hall 12:00 -3:00PM
Sunday, April 19, 2026	Annual Picnic	McCormick - Stillman Railroad Park
Saturday, May 9, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Saturday, June 13, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Saturday, July 11, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Saturday, August 8, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Friday, September 18, 2026	Ottava Day 1	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Saturday, September 19, 2026	Ottava Day 2	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Sunday, September 20, 2026	Ottava Day 3	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Monday, September 21, 2026	Ottava Day 4	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Tuesday, September 22, 2026	Ottava Day 5	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Wednesday, September 23, 2026	Ottava Day 6	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Thursday, September 24, 2026	Ottava Day 7	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Friday, September 25, 2026	Ottava Day 8	St. Joseph Church 5:00 PM
Sunday, September 27, 2026	Festa (Mass, Vara, Party & Food)	St. Joseph Church 1:00 PM
Saturday, October 10, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Saturday, November 14, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM
Saturday, December 12, 2026	General Meeting & Get Together	St. Joseph Hall - 5:00 PM

Please Note: All General Membership Meetings Begin at 5:00 PM Get Together Begins at 6:00 PM