



In This Issue...

- Page 2**
 - **Origins of St. Joseph Table**
- Page 3**
 - **Details for Upcoming St. Joseph Table**
- Page 4**
 - **Other Upcoming Events**
 - **Next Meeting**
 - **Meeting Reminder**
 - **Officer Contact Information**

Origins of the St. Joseph 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 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. This celebration became an annual tradition. Each year, wealthy families prepared huge buffets. The less fortunate people of the community, especially the homeless and sick, were invited, and all the remaining food and proceeds were given to the poor. 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 US, here in our own country

Le origini della Tavola di San Giuseppe

La festa di San Giuseppe, che cade sempre nel mezzo della Quaresima, è particolarmente ricordata e celebrata in Italia in generale, e in Sicilia in particolare, dove San Giuseppe è stato a lungo considerato il santo patrono dell'isola. È lì, tra i siciliani, che nasce la tradizione della "Tavola di San Giuseppe" ha le sue origini. Il 19 marzo è, in Italia, anche la festa del papà, il che non sorprende, dato che San Giuseppe era, ovviamente, il padre adottivo di Gesù. Questa celebrazione è un simbolico "grazie" e un rinnovamento della devozione del popolo siciliano verso San Giuseppe. È una festa condivisa con l'intera comunità dove le ricchezze alimentari vengono donate in elemosina ai poveri: il galateo tradizionale vuole che nessuno si possa allontanare da questa tavola. Leggende del Medioevo attribuivano la fine di una devastante siccità ad una preghiera-devozione che il popolo siciliano rivolse a San Giuseppe. Durante un periodo di siccità e carestia, sulla Sicilia medievale non cadde alcuna pioggia. I raccolti alimentari sia per le persone che per il bestiame appassirono e morirono. La gente pregava San Giuseppe per chiedere aiuto. Quando le nuvole si aprirono, cadde la pioggia disperatamente necessaria e ci fu molta gioia! Dopo la raccolta, per dimostrare la loro gratitudine, preparavano una tavola con cibi speciali per onorare San Giuseppe e da condividere con i poveri. Dopo aver ringraziato e onorato il santo, distribuivano il cibo ai meno fortunati. Questa celebrazione è diventata una tradizione annuale. Ogni anno le famiglie benestanti preparavano enormi buffet. Venivano invitate le persone meno fortunate della comunità, soprattutto i senzatetto e i malati, e tutto il cibo rimanente e il ricavato venivano donati ai poveri. Nel corso degli anni, la tradizione è rimasta in tutta Italia, ed è prevalente anche in Polonia, Malta, Spagna, Filippine e, con l'afflusso di immigrati siciliani negli Stati Uniti, qui nel nostro paese.



The Society of
Maria SS Lauretana
Presents
the
ANNUAL

ST. JOSEPH NOVENA

WITH TRADITIONAL
ST. JOSEPH TABLE

MARCH 6TH – MARCH 16TH 2025

The Novena starts on March 6th and will continue each evening at 7:00 PM for 9 days in Adoration Chapel. The last Novena will be on Friday, March 14th.

On March 15th we will prepare the altar and "Table" of St. Joseph; where we will set up a three-tier altar which will be decorated with flowers and various decorative breads.

On Sunday, March 16th 2025 we will have the "St. Joseph Table" which is offered to all in the community of St. Joseph Church and is open between 12pm and 4pm. A variety of foods and desserts will be offered.

Recommended donation is \$15.00. This year's proceeds will be donated as follows: 75% to be given the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and 25% to St. Joseph Catholic Church.



Please be advised that due to the Novena being held in Adoration Chapel, electronic flameless candles will be offered instead of traditional candles.

**

Si prega di notare che, poiché la Novena sarà nella Cappella dell'Adorazione, verranno offerte candele elettroniche senza fiamma al posto delle candele tradizionali.

Next Get-Together and Next Meeting

The Next Get-Together

will be in MAY

Because.....

MARCH:

St. Joseph Table

APRIL:

Annual Picnic

NEXT MEETING

March 19th 2025

7:00 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Joseph Hall

11001 N. 40th Street

Phoenix, AZ. 85028

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any board member. Contact information is just below. Also, if you wish to email our general email, you may send it to mariasslauretanaaz@gmail.com

MEETING REMINDER: This is friendly reminder that our monthly meetings are always packed with an extensive agenda and as such, we ask that you hold your questions or comments until the end of the meeting or until you are called upon by the President. Our Officers need the time to address the agenda items first before open forum. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Contact Information for Board of Directors



President - Apollonia Scianna

Phone – 623-695-5254

Email – ascianna@live.com



Treasurer – Rosaria Ippolito

Phone – 602-410-0397

Email – ippolitonr@gmail.com



Trustee – Frankie Janisch

Phone – 602-980-7301

Email – phoenixfrankiej@gmail.com



Vice President – Lina Davi

Phone – 602-418-5679

Email: linadavid47@gmail.com



General Secretary – Sam Scimeca

Phone – 602-622-5171

Email – sam.scimeca@optioncare.com



Trustee – Sara Accardi

Phone – 602-677-3968

Email – lauretana@cox.net