**SAINT ANN NEWSLETTER JAN FEB MAR 2022**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Members, Welcome to 2022. Though we’re not done with pandemic St. Ann is firing on all cylinders.

Congratulations to all new officers and board members for both the women and men’s’ side. I look forward to working with you and keep up the high standards that we set for ourselves.

On a personal note, once again St Ann proves we are a family. With my brothers passing this club stepped up big time. The calls, texts, cards, the showing at wake and funeral. I want to thank you all for that and the food that was sent my parents way. This club is rooted in friendship and respect for each other. With that respect we have developed strong feelings for each other and it showed in Dominick’s passing. Thank you from the Cappuccia family. RIP DJ DOM. Let’s make 2022 a great year. Sincerely, Tony

**FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LADIES AUXILLARY**

This is my last letter as Auxiliary President and I would just like to say it has been an honor to serve as your President for the past 3 years. I am so grateful for this experience and for the many friends I have made along the way.  As we end the year and welcome 2022, I would like to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who have worked so hard this past year. You are the reason this club is so great. I am thankful for all of you and what you do. I wish our new board the best of luck. Happy New Year.  Toni Wallace

# WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

*Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ.*

When fall has given way to winter and snow covers the ground while lights twinkle from house to house, you know Christmas is coming. Decorated Christmas trees are everywhere you look. Presents crowd for space under the tree and families come together for a turkey feast. Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts? Is it the annual economic boost?

The Christmas season, especially in the West, is a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular traditions. What’s interesting is the etymology of the word Christmas. It literally means Christian Mass. It’s a shortened form of Christ’s Mass.

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It’s also a celebration. It’s when Christians celebrate God’s love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN THE BIBLE**

The Christmas story is recorded in Luke 2:4-19.

So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

**TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS: CELEBRATING THE SAVIOR**

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sinful nature from the first human beings God created, Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three Wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled A Visit from St. Nicholas penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

Although people worldwide celebrate Christ’s birth on December 25th, it was likely that he was born on a different month and date. The church in the 4th century chose December 25th as it coordinated with the Solstice on the Roman Calendar.

For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We know that through belief in Christ we are daughters and sons of God. Heaven will one day be our home. Perhaps this will help you look at the Christmas season differently this year. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season.

## **Italian New Year Traditions**

Italians follow the New Year traditions whole heartedly. They believe that the traditions if practiced sincerely would bring them luck, prosperity and wealth in the coming year. With the same belief they practice various superstitious traditions on the New Year with great hope. From eating different foods to wearing different attires, the list goes on with interesting stuff. If you want to give the Italian traditions a try you must first check them out here. We have covered all the traditions that the people of Italy abide by sincerely. Have a read and enjoy.

### **1. Eat Lentils**

The very first tradition that we would like to talk about is food. There are way too popular traditions in Italy that are observed by millions of people across the country on the Eve as well as the day. There was this **New Year’s Tradition in Italy**where eating lentils at midnight is said to bring good luck. Lentils are linked with longevity. The exact reason is because they are long lasting in nature. There is also another belief that say lentils symbolize prosperity because they resemble ancient gold coins. Other than lentils, Italians also consume grapes at the stroke of midnight. Also, you can eat pomegranate on the New Year’s Eve when you are with your partner as it symbolizes fertility and loyalty.

### **2. Red Undergarments**

It is said that wearing red underpants on the New Year’s Eve will ward off negativity and will improve happiness and love. This tradition tracks back to ancient Romans who used to wear red clothes on the New Year’s Eve to avoid bloodshed and war. However, there’s a litigation to this tradition; which is, your underwear has to be brand new and a gift from others. The luck is not going to knock your door if you are wearing your old underpants.

### **3. Throw the Old Things Out**

Throwing the old things out of the window is also an Italian tradition. Mostly people throw out crockery out of their windows on the New Year, which symbolizes that they are throwing out the waste things i.e., getting rid of evil during the year to give fresh place for new things.

### **4. Kiss Under a Mistletoe**

Kissing under the mistletoe is also one among the **New Year’s Eve Italian Traditions**we are going to talk in here about. The mistletoe resembles protection and love and so kissing will drive away the evil spirits and aid them in going on good grounds.

### **5. The First Person You Meet on The Midnight**

If you want to predict how your New Year is going to be for you, you can follow this ancient tradition in Italy. On the New Year’s Day, the first person you meet will decide your luck for the coming year according to Italian’s beliefs. If you meet an old person on the New Year’s Day, your New Year is going to be full of surprises. If you meet a doctor, priest or baby, you might meet with bad luck.

### **6. Carry Your Wallet When You Leave Your House**

On the first day of the year, when you move out of the house make sure to carry your wallet with you. According to the Italian New Year’s tradition, on January 1st if you leave the house with money in your pocket, you will not suffer financially all throughout the year. So, this time make sure to place your wallet in your pocket when you plan to leave your house.

### **7. Catch the Sight of Fireworks**

Another very popular **Italian New Year’s Day Traditions**is watching the fireworks at the midnight. Fireworks is a very beautiful sight to catch and almost everyone loves to watch them. Especially around the time of New Year, people watch fireworks as a part of tradition in most of the places. One such place is Italy where watching fireworks itself is a New Year tradition. As soon as the clock strikes midnight the sky will be filled with colorful fireworks. In Italy, you will get to watch mesmerizing fireworks in Naples and the Amalfi Coast.

### **8. Have a Huge Dinner**

Having a huge dinner on the New Year is another food related tradition followed by Italians. This tradition is a popular one among the traditions present here and Italians make certain to have huge dinners for the New Year’s. This is a popular **New Year’s Eve Food Traditions in Italy** that Italians follow with heart. All the family members in the house sit for a dinner together and different tasty dishes are served.

### **9. Throw Some Treats**

In order to have a sweet year, exchange jars of dates and figs in honey along with a bay branch. By doing this, you are inviting good fortune into your lives. even today this tradition is in use and people especially of Naples exchange figs with Laurel leaves. This is actually a very simple tradition to observe on the New Year.

These **Italian New Year Traditions**are practiced by Italians very sincerely as they believe that the practices would bestow luck and prosperity upon them. If you like these traditions and as well wish to follow them for this New Year, do give them a try. Also share with us your experiences on practicing the traditions.

**NEW MEMBERS**

 Doug DiPisa sworn in August at men's meeting sponsored by Shawn Murphy.

Nick DeMaio sworn in August at men's meeting.

Gary Antonello sworn in August at men's meeting sponsored by Anthony Arena

 Jon Starr sworn in September men's meeting sponsored by Al Latte

 Hugh Gartland sworn in October men's meeting sponsored by Ralph Allegretta

Jay Reed sworn in October men's meeting sponsored by Ralph Allegretta

 Joseph Giordano sworn in November men's meeting sponsored by Richard Tavella

Pasquale Maggiora sworn in November men's meeting sponsored by Tony Cappuccia

 Jeremy Rubino sworn in December men's meeting sponsored by Ralph Castelli

John Slanzi sworn in December men's meeting sponsored by Richard Tavella

 Rev. John Cordamone first reading December men's meeting sponsored by Nick Cappuccia

 **ADDRESS CHANGES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES** In an effort to bring the club more into the electronic age, we are asking that anyone with an e-mail address, who hasn’t done so already, to please send it to Louis G. Imperato. His e-mail address is bigalou@aol.com. We will use these addresses to update events and schedules as well as save postage and be able to keep members informed on a timely basis. For the Auxiliary, if you change your physical or email address and/or telephone number(s), please contact Marian Barbieri at (203) 895-2911 or email her at **mrbarbieri76@gmail.com**in order to keep the records of the Auxiliary up to date.

**PLEASE READ**

Anyone wishing to contribute to this newsletter is encouraged to do so. Please contact Eric Fleisch at 847-7669 or by e-mail at bige101@ optonline.net. The next edition will be sent on or about April 1, 2022

If you know any member that is sick or hospitalized, please bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors or Eric Fleisch at 847-7669 or by e-mail at bige101@ optonline.net. For the ladies contact Barbara Antonelli at (203) 866-3953. A gift basket and card will be sent. If anyone knows of an Auxiliary member, who has been permanently placed in a nursing home, please contact Betty Brink with the information at (203) 847-8133. We would like to keep in touch with them by sending a card.

**PAINT AND SIP WITH MEGAN JANUARY 25TH 7:00**

Sign up at January meeting first 35 paid will be able to attend.

Cost will be $40.00 and we ask everyone to bring a snack/appetizer to share.

**OFFICERS**

President Tony Cappuccia

Vice President Vinny Scichitano

Financial Secretary Ken Romano

Assistant Financial Sect’ Ralph Allegretta

Treasurer Mike Tolla

Assistant Treasurer Steve Sabol

Recording Secretary Joe Tamburro

Bar Manager James O’Brien

Assistant Bar Manager Chris Iannacone

Public Relations Eric Fleisch

Sergeant at Arms Peter Havens

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

 Andrew Troetti Chairman

 Walter Cerretani Vice Chairman

Tony Cappuccia

 Mike Veno

 Mike Tolla

 Ken Romano

 Vincent Scicchitano

 Keith Stadler

 James O’Brien

 Charlie Robinson

 Steve Sabol

 Nick Kantzas

 Ralph Allegretta

 Joe Tamburro

 Joe Valiante

**MARINA COMMITTEE**

Marina committee members:

Chairman: Mike Devlin

Dock Master: Mark Pohl

Assistant Dock: Master Shawn Murphy

Treasurer: Frank Felicissimo

**AUXILLARY OFFICERS**

 President   Joanne Guaglione

 Vice President     Camille Andreozzi

 Financial Secretary     Marian Barbieri

 Treasurer                          Maria Chuhta

 Recording Secretary          Ellen Signore

 Corresponding Secretary Barbara Antonelli

 Sergeant at Arms                Gina Arena

  Public Relations                  Christine Chisholm

**Board of Directors**

MaryAnn Cappuccia

Marie Mappa

Patty Murphy

Mary Sue Skrensky

Maria Vozzo

**COMING EVENTS**

JANUARY5 Joint Meeting

 10 Blood Drive

 20 Ladies Dinner

 25 Paint and Sip (see text)

 26 Men’s Dinner

FEBRUARY 2 Men’s Meeting

 3 Ladies Meeting

 13 Pancreatic Cancer Murder Mystery

 Mike Veno 203 984 4005

 17 Ladies Dinner

 19 Private Party

 23 Men’s Dinner

 26 Mardi Gras Dance

 Hors d’oeuvres & Dessert

 Diane Ezzo 203 223 9635

March 2 Men’s Meeting

 3 Ladies Meeting

 4 Malta House Dinner

 events@maltahouse.org

<https://www.maltahouse.org/event/2022-malta-house-annual-gala>

 Ashton Keller 203 556 9695

 17 Ladies Dinner

 30 Men’s Dinner