



**Sixteenth Annual Festa Il-Vitorja
Sunday, September 7, 2025
Detroit, Michigan**

**Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church
1050 Porter Street, Detroit
11:00 a.m. Mass**

**Maltese American
Benevolent Society, Inc.
1832 Michigan Avenue
Corktown, Detroit | 313.961.8393**

Background on Malta, Today's Celebration & The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

Malta is a developed European country in the European Union. It is an archipelago that includes inhabited islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino, along with several smaller, uninhabited islands. It is situated in the Mediterranean Sea approximately 60 miles south of Sicily, Italy. Malta is approximately 186 miles with an estimated population of over 545,000 people. Its official languages are Maltese and English and have a long legacy of Roman Catholicism, which continues to be the dominant religion in Malta today.

Throughout history Malta's location in the Mediterranean Sea has given it a strategic importance. Consequently, a sequence of powers including the Phoenicians, Romans, Fatimid's, Sicilians, Knights of St. John, France and British have all conquered the islands. Malta gained independence from the UK in 1964 and became a Republic in 1974. In 2004 it became a member of the European Union.

Malta is known for its world heritage sites, most prominently the Megalithic Temples of Ġgantija (which are the oldest free-standing structures in Europe) and the shipwreck of St. Paul.

After World War I, the Maltese immigration to the US increased with Detroit, Michigan (Corktown) drawing a large share of immigrants due to the expansion of the automobile industry.

The Annual Festa il-Vitorja – Our Lady of Victory

Each September 8th the Maltese gather to celebrate Our Lady of Victory, Maria Bambina. September 8th is the Birth of Our Lady, the Mother of God and is tied to two important dates of victory and rebirth in history. The first victory is known as the Great Siege of 1565. This is where the Ottoman Empire was set out to crush Christianity in Europe and established base in Malta. For five months the island defended the shores and on 8 September 1565 the remaining Turkish army left Malta. Then again during the Second World War, after three years of withstanding bombs from the Italian air force, the Maltese people and British forces defended the islands and the siege was truly lifted on 8 September 1943 when Italy ceded.

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. of Corktown, Detroit, Michigan

In 1940 the Independence Maltese Club of Detroit, Michigan was established as a place to serve the local Maltese community. Over the years the organization outgrew its location and in 1964 relocated to the current facility at 1832 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan under the new name of The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. The organization is a non-profit 501(c)(10) established under the parent organization of NAMA (North American Maltese Association). The organization is run by an eight-member Executive Board comprised of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, sergeant at arms and three trustees. Until 2006 the membership was limited to Maltese descendants or their non-Maltese spouses. In 2006 the membership had the foresight to change the Constitution and Bylaws to allow for associate non-Maltese members. While annual membership dues and bar\pastizzi sales are a small portion of the income generated to keep the club's doors open, the sustainability of the organization is largely due to several weekly bingos that generate a large portion of the annual income needed to run the organization.

Liturgical Celebration

Mass:

Welcome & Introduction – Commentator, Tanya Caruana

Opening Procession & Line-up

American Flag & Maltese Flag

Maltese Banner of Mary

Statue of Mary

MABSI Executive Board Representatives

Knights of Malta

Cross Bearer

Candle Bearers

Celebrant

Greeting by Monsignor Kosanke

Blessing of Our Statue of Mary

Procession of the Statue around Church

Penitential Act

ALL: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault, therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Kyrie - Lord, Have Mercy

Gloria

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Read by John Caruana in Maltese

Responsorial Psalm Sung by Greg Garber, Organist

Second Reading Read by Debra Rodriguez in English

Gospel

Homily

Profession of Faith

Prayers of the Faithful

Commentator: Let us pray to the Lord

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

Offertory

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Recessional



We would like to thank everyone who dedicated their time and talents in preparing for today's event. We realize that you have a choice when volunteering and appreciate that you have selected our organization! **THANK YOU!**

2025 Event Donation Sponsors

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**Grech-Cumbo
Family Foundation**

The George Cross Society congratulates the
Maltese American Benevolent Society
and the Maltese Community on the
16th Gathering for the Maltese Festa Il-Vitorija,
celebrating the Birth of Our Lady, the Mother of God, The Great Siege,
The Awarding of the George Cross to the Island of Malta and
the People of Malta in the Victory of World War II.

The George Cross is the highest award bestowed by
the British government,
a civilian and military decoration instituted in 1940
by King George VI for

“acts of the greatest heroism or of the most
conspicuous courageous acts in
circumstances of extreme danger”.

The George Cross Society and the Maltese community celebrate
the 80th anniversary of awarding this year.
The initial award was given to the island and
people of Malta April 15th in 1942.



*In loving memory of
Edgar and Evelyn Grech-Cumbo*

CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, INC.
ON CELEBRATING
85 YEARS IN CORKTOWN



In Memory of

Lewis Buhagiar

*The Deceased Members of the
Eugenio & Lorenza Caruana Family
(Peter (Rose), Joe (Kitka), Alfred, Tony)*

Msgr. Russell E. Kohler

By Bernarda Buhagiar

John & Grace Caruana

Tanya Caruana

CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
INC.
FOR CELEBRATING
85 YEARS IN CORKTOWN



In Memory of

JOSEPH MICALLEF
CENSA MICALLEF
MIKE MICALLEF
DORIS MICALLEF
JORDAN REYES
JOSEPH
&
CATHERINA
SEGUNA



By Carmen Micallef,
Mario & Lily Micallef,
Fortun & Mary Zammit
and all their Families



Congratulations to our 2025 Adelitas & Amigo Awardees:

- ◆ Cindy Gamboa, MANA VP & Executive Director of Mi Poder
- ◆ Linette Garza, Assistant School Leader, CCA High School
- ◆ Sandra Valle-Holdwick, Program Coordinator, LA SED Senior Ctr
- ◆ Jesse Jesus Gonzales, Sr., Volunteer

MABSI Congratulations on Celebrating 85 Years in Corktown!

**We would also like to salute our 23 scholarships recipients!
All outstanding young women each receiving \$2,000 in 2025
towards their college education.**

General Scholarships:

Alejandra Padilla-Miguel
Andrea Ângulo Villaseñor
Carolina Ângulo
Deysi Joven Gonzalez
Jannay Abimeley Gavia
Keila Subliaga-Orellana
Leslie Almanza-Martinez
Melany Sanchez-Martinez
Ximena Gonzalez

Carmen Munoz Entrepreneurship Scholarship:

Andrea Cuevas-Garcia
Chelsi Pizarro-Gonzalez

Dr. Ellen Ochoa STEM Scholarship:

Esmeralda Hernandez
Marisol Angel Gamboa

**Eva Garza Dewaelsche
Community
Service Scholarship:**
Arely Aguirre-Pacheco

**Monica L Martinez
Leadership Scholarship:**
Elizabeth Garcia
Melanie Calvillo

**Gloria Rosas Teacher
Education Scholarship:**
Felicitas Gonzalez Membrillo
Yoana Arreaga Bartolon

DHDC Honored Scholars:
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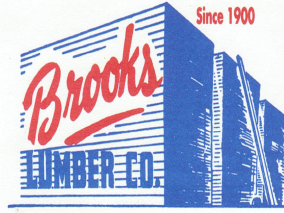
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In Memory of
Amante & Pauline Sammut
Anthony, Joseph & Marie Sammut
Sam Flask
By Eleno Sammut



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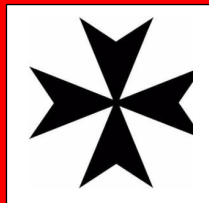
Associate (non-Maltese) - \$25

Find us on Facebook | www.detroitmaltese.com
maltese_american_benevolent_soc@yahoo.com

*In Remembrance of the Life of
Emmanuel and Rosaria Lucy Abela*



*David Parczik
By Gerry Abela*



In Loving Memory of
John & Mary Zammit and Sylvia Zammit Attard

In Celebration of
Our Lady of Victory,
Maria Bambina

By
Charlie & Annette Zammit
Fortun & Mary Zammit



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The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. 2024-2025 Executive Board

**Carmen Nino – President
Eleno Sammut – Vice President
Tanya Caruana - Secretary
Sandra Chavarria – Treasurer
Harry Johnston – Sergeant at Arms
Lily Micallef - Trustee
Mary Zammit – Trustee
Joe Said – Trustee**

Mass Celebrant

Pastor – Monsignor Charles Kosanke

**We Hope To See You Again Next Year!
Mark Your Calendars Now
Sunday, September 6,
2026**

