

*Twelfth Annual
Festa Il-Vitorja
Sunday, 12 September 2021
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 500,000 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 New 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 Kathleen McBride 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

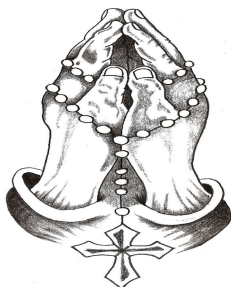


We would like to thank everyone who dedicated their time and talents in preparing for today's event. We realize that you have a choice when volunteering and appreciate that you have selected our organization! **THANK YOU!**

Event Donation Sponsors

Gerry Abela
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Tanya Caruana
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Robert Sammut
Fortun & Mary Zammit



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE ...

***Wilfred Azzopardi
Lewis Buhagiar
Joseph & Agatha Cardona
Patty Johnson
Guzi & Manuel Pantalleresco
Maria Said
Louis Said
Anthony Sammut, Sr.
Anthony Sammut***

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK ALL THOSE
WHO
CONTRIBUTED
TO THE
DONATION
OF OUR NEW
FESTA STATUE
OF MARY
BEING BLESSED
FOR
THE FIRST TIME
TODAY

Larry Busuttil
John & Grace Caruana
Tony Caruana (+)
Paul & Lucy Cefai
Robert Felice Philip
Sam & Lily Flask
Raymond Formosa
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Paul Scicluna
George Sultana
Victor & Grace Sultana
Ramiz Zeya
Fortun & Mary Zammit
Sam & Rose Zammit



The Land that is so Small

By Anonymous

There is an Island on the map, that is so hard to see
It won the hearts of all the world for her bravery.
It is an island of young and old,
that bravery won the war.
So listen while I tell you, what land it must be.

It's the island of Malta, the land so firm and strong
They gave their lives for liberty,
the land that is so small.

They prayed and starved and gave it all
They had no more to give
But kept on fighting to the end
The land that is so small.

On this Island in the sun, might be hard to see
But it played a big part in all our lives,
for it's bravery.
They were awarded the George Cross
The highest of all awards
They gave it all for liberty
The land that is so small.

We love you heaps Malta
I am so very proud
To hold this flag with dignity
And to thank the Lord above
He guarded our Mother land
So dear, whose name we bear
On this land in the sun thou has made so fair.

We love you Malta.



THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING
THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY, INC. OF
CORKTOWN, DETROIT

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AGAIN AT A FUTURE EVENT

New Members Welcome
Maltese - \$25\Annual Dues
Associate (non-Maltese) - \$15\Annual Dues

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

VISIT OUR MALTESE VENDOR BOOTHS

Rachel Cini-Darin (Petite Patriots) – Maltese Member

Featuring Maltese Apparel with Embroidery and
Screen Printing Options

Paul & Maria Galea – Maltese Members

Featuring Homemade Maltese Cheese & Galletti (biscuits)

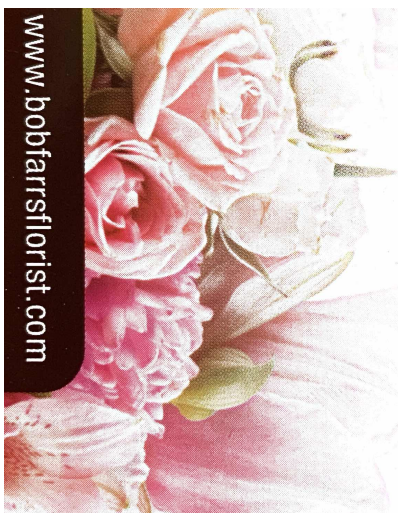
Mary Anne Hart – Maltese Member

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CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, INC. FOR
CELEBRATING
81 YEARS IN CORKTOWN IN 2021



In Memory of
LEWIS BUHAGIAR
TONY CARUANA
MSGR RUSSELL E. KOHLER



By Bernarda Buhagiar
John & Grace Caruana
Tanya Caruana



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Se Hable Español

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Thank You to
Joe & Maria Sultana
For Connecting us with our New Statue Artist Contact from
Ghajnsielem, Gozo
Rudolph Cauchi

Nghinu lill-komunità taghna, dar wara l-ohra

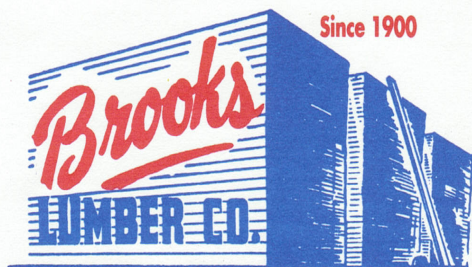
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*In Remembrance of the Life of
Emmanuel and Rosaria Lucy Abela*

Jimmy Bonello

David Parczik

By Gerry Abela

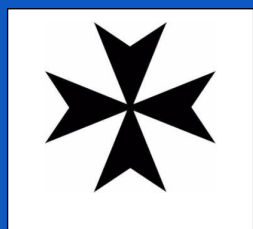


*In Memory of
Amante & Pauline Sammut*



Anthony Sammut

By Eleno Sammut



Remembering the Repose of the Souls of

John & Mary Zammit

Sylvia Zammit Attard

By Fortun & Mary Zammit

and Charlie & Annette Zammit



CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
INC.

FOR CELEBRATING
81 YEARS IN CORKTOWN IN 2021



In Memory of
JOSEPH MICALLEF
CENSA MICALLEF
MIKE MICALLEF
DORIS MICALLEF



By Carmen Micallef & Family and
Mario & Lily Micallef & Family



In Memory of
JOSEPH & CATHERINA SEGUNA

By Carmen Micallef and
Mario & Lily Micallef

**The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.
Executive Board**



**Carmen Nino – President
Eleno Sammut – Vice President
Tanya Caruana - Secretary
Sandra Chavarria – Treasurer
Open – Sergeant at Arms
Lily Micallef - Trustee
Paul Scicluna – Trustee
Cecilia Said Codd – Trustee**

Celebrant

Pastor – Monsignor Charles Kosanke

*Please join us at the
Maltese Club after Mass
for Traditional Maltese Dishes -
Rabbit Stew & Baked Macaroni -
as well as Hamburgers & Dessert*

*Food will be available starting at
1:30 p.m.*

**We Hope To See You Again Next Year!
Mark Your Calendars Now
Sunday, 11 September 2022**