



The Roar of the Lion

March 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is my last official letter as the president of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge. It has been my pleasure to serve its members and represent our organization. That being said, I am not going anywhere! I will still be an active member of our community and do what I can to support us. I plan to remain on The Grand Lodge of New York State Scholarship and the National Scholarship Committees. I want to stay involved in the CSJ and the National's Women's Leadership Committee. And if I can find other venues of interest at the state and national levels, I will seek them out.



Although the weather was less than cooperative for our Winter Picnic, we had a nice turn out. Thank you to everyone who brought appetizers, desserts, and wine to share. Buffet, prepared by Wilshire Catering, was excellent. The owner, Greg, delivered and set up the trays of food. We are grateful for him taking the time to do that. We did have a snafu with the clams. None had been delivered to Wegman's in more than a week, and with only a few hours' notice, I decided to take them up on the offer of mussels instead. I apologize for the last-minute switch, but sometimes things are out of our control and we are at the mercy of others. But the mussels, while small, were plentiful and delicious. Maybe next year we should include them as an option for our Winter picnic. Also thank you to everyone who helped with setup and cleanup. We can only have these events when members are willing to help. I can't tell you enough how appreciative I am to those who donated the beautiful baskets that we raffled off. With all going on in my house, I did not have the time to put more together.

Our next very important event is the installation of the newly-elected council members on Thursday, March 13 at 7 pm. It is not always easy to take on a leadership position, especially for a member organization that also has obligations at state and national levels. **Your new council will need your support and willingness to help when able.** It can be writing an article for the newsletter, or sharing photos from a trip to Italy at a meeting, or helping to plan an event. **When more hands are available, tasks become less cumbersome and take less time to complete. And it is fun.**

Don't forget our Regional Dinner, featuring the Veneto Region. Veneto is the fourth most populous region in Italy. Its largest city, Verona, known as *Little Rome*, is the setting of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The Fundraising Committee is brainstorming ideas on how we can bring in additional revenue and have fun doing it. Contact Sr. Becky, Sr. Melissa, or Sr. Pat B. if you have an idea.

Take care and God Bless,
Fraternally yours,
Marjorie

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EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you, and may God enfold you in His love.



2025 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

March 6 th	6:30 Council Meeting
March 13 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
April 3 rd	6:30 Council Meeting
April 10 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
May 1 st	6:30 Council Meeting
May 8 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
June 5 th	6:30 Council Meeting
June 12 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
July 3 rd	6:30 Council Meeting
July 10 th	7:00 Scholarship Awards Night
August 7 th	6:30 Council Meeting
August 14 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
September 4 th	6:30 Council Meeting
September 11 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
October 2 nd	6:30 Council Meeting
October 9 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
November 6 th	6:30 Council Meeting
November 13 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
December 4 th	6:30 Council Meeting
December 11 th	7:00 Meeting/Holiday Gathering

2025 Lodge Events

March 13th	New Officer Installation 7 PM Soup and Bread Supper
May 4th	Italian Regional Dinner Eyer Building
May 24th	Memorial Day Parade East Rochester
July 10th	Scholarships and Awards Night
August 23rd	Summer Picnic Quinzi Lodge, Eye Park
September	Annual Pie Sale
October 18th	Italian-American Heritage Dinner Webster Country Club
November	Turkey Raffle TBD St. Nicholas Hall
December 11th	Holiday Gathering Eyer Building

**Return to
Daylight Savings Time
Sunday, March 9th**



**Spring Begins
March 20th**

Geneva Lodge

**Fish Fry
Fridays of Lent**



**Bingo every Sunday
2 PM**



*Grant me a sense of humor, Lord, the saving grace to see a joke,
to win some happiness from life, and pass it on to other folk.*

Our Lodge Winter Picnic and Clambake Sunday—February 16, 2025



April 10th Meeting



Pizzelle Making

from start to finish

by Brother Louis DeCarolis

Assistants welcome

Surprise Presentation

on learning Italian

by Brother Ed Groszewski



Join Zoom Meeting

This is the zoom link for General Assembly meetings each month thru April 2025.

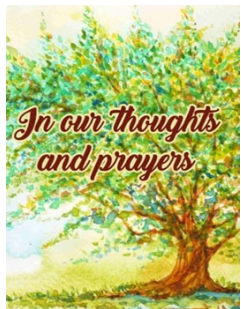
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85831885141?pwd=dU1QaGlmUGw2c0pOYm1IMk1J3bHgrQT09>

*May you have love that never ends, lots of money, and lots of friends.
Health be yours, whatever you do,*





**Do something today to make a difference:
send a note, make a phone call, be present to someone.**



Sandy Meleca
Dawn DiGennaro's wife
Kitty DiNicola
Sam Mammano
Elizabeth Osta's brother,
Patty and Gordie Rask
Ron Santoli
Dave Cook (*Geneva Lodge*)

And all of our members who have suffered recently with illness or loss of a loved one.

March Birthdays

Jeffrey Arigo	3/6
Chris Przepiora	3/8
Ann Battaglia	3/10
Kitty DiNicola	3/14
Don Campese	3/16
Mary Rinere	3/26
Paul Guglielmo	3/31



FROM THE FRANK DIMINO CASA ITALIANA AT NAZARETH UNIVERSITY

The Italian Conversation Table

An informal conversation group led by Daniel Speciale. This allows an opportunity to speak Italian in a casual setting. Held each Thursday evening at 5 pm. It is free and open to the public. For information contact Daniel at dspeciao@naz.edu.



You will not be disappointed when you attend one of Tony Mangione one-time showing of the best of Italian cinema—films in the Italian language with English subtitles that promote Italian culture and heritage. With support from Dr. Joelle Carota, Casa's Director, and Nazareth University, these films are showcased monthly at the Nazareth Arts Center Peace Theater. Future films are scheduled for Saturday, March 29th and Sunday, April 27th. Ticket price is \$15.00 and there is ample free parking near the theater.



*May the dreams you hold dearest be those which come true,
and the kindness you spread keep returning to you.*



Outgoing Council Members

President	Marjorie Focarazzo
Vice President	Jeremy DiFilippo
Orator	Joseph Rube`
Recording Secretary	Pat Bartholomew
Financial Secretary	Marisa Przepiora
Treasurer	Carol DiNicola
Mistress of Ceremony	Melissa Distaffen
Trustees	Becky DiFilippo Catherine (Kitty) DiNicola Tom Meleca Maurice Palucci Ron Santoli



I would like to thank the outgoing council for their hard work, dedication, and determination for the past two, and for many four years, to keep the Vincent Lombardi Lodge solvent and strong. If I did not say "Thank you" enough it was an oversight, because I certainly know where your heart is when it comes to our members and our lodge.

Fraternally yours,
Marjorie

*There are good ships and there are wood ships,
the ships that sail the sea.*

But the best ships are friendships and may they always be.





2025 - 2027 Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 Council

President	Jeremy DiFilippo
Vice President	Catherine (Kitty) DiNicola
Orator	Joe Rubé
Recording Secretary	Stephanie Salvatore
Financial Secretary	Marisa Przepiora
Treasurer	Melissa Distaffen
Mistress of Ceremony	Carol DiNicola
Sentinel	Ron Santoli
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Bartholomew
Trustees	Maurice Palucci
	Becky DiFilippo
	Nancy Rubé
	Lorraine Palucci
	Frank Giancaterin
Commissioners of Arbitration	Tom Meleca
	Chris Przepiora
	Louis DeCarolis
	Jim Caternolo
	Virginia McIntyre

**Installation of Officers
Soups and Bread Supper**

March 13th—7:00 PM

Eyer Building

**Come and show your support
for our new leadership team.**



May all your troubles be little ones and all your little ones be trouble-free.

March Observances and Celebrations

The
Season
of
Lent



Ash Wednesday, **March 5th**, begins the holy season of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. It is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter that involves prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It's a time to remember Jesus's death and resurrection, ask for

forgiveness, and strengthen one's relationship with God. Easter Sunday is on April 20th

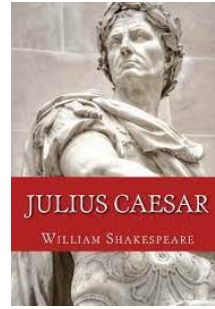
March 8th

In Italy, *La Festa Della Donna* is a time-honored tradition. We gather with our nearest and dearest female friends to celebrate sisterhood, solidarity, and the achievements of women everywhere. It's a day to laugh, to share stories, and to bask in the warmth of each other's company. Italian history is brimming with remarkable women who have paved the way for progress and innovation.



International Women's Day was marked for the first time by the United Nations in 1975.

Let us celebrate the extraordinary women in our lives – the mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, and mentors who inspire us, support us, and fill our lives with love and laughter.



Beware the Ides of March

In the Roman calendar, **March 15th** is associated with misfortune and doom. It became infamous as the day in 44 BC when Julius Caesar was assassinated. In Latin, the word “ides” means to divide. It is also the middle of the month. The Ides of March is immortalized in William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*. In the play, a soothsayer warns Caesar to “beware the Ides of March.”



**St. Patrick's Day Parade
Rochester NY
Saturday, March 15th
at 12:30 PM**

The parade route officially begins at East Avenue and Alexander Street, and ends at Fitzhugh St.

*Always remember to forget the things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember the things that made you glad.*



March 17th Celebrations

Although St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, many of the major cities tend to don their green and join in the celebrations.

Irlanda in Festa lasts for 3 days around March 17th, when you can find plenty of Italians enjoying a pint in any one of the Irish pubs: Finnegan's in Florence and Rome, Joy's Irish Pub in Bari, and Temple Bar in Bolzano, named the most authentic Irish pub outside of Ireland. There are also Irish pubs in Verona, Rimini and Birreira known for their St. Patrick's Day celebrations which feature plenty of Guinness and Irish music for the festivities.



March 17 is the feast day of St. Patrick, known to Italians as San Patrizio. Although Patrizio's celebration is overshadowed - in Italy at least - by that of San Giuseppe (St. Joseph) on March 19, Patrizio has his own ties to Italy. His parents were Romans. Who knew? The patron saint of Ireland, whose feast day has long been represented by shamrocks and green beer, is a *paesano*!!.

The Anniversary of the Unification of Italy

Most people traditionally commemorate March 17 as a celebration of all things Irish as part of the festivities surrounding St. Patrick's Day. However, the date has great significance in Italy. It commemorates the date of the unification of Italy, when Italy became a modern nation state and the Kingdom of Italy was born.

So, March 17th is one of the most important anniversaries for every Italian citizen. Although it isn't a public holiday, keep an eye out for the many displays of patriotism that mark the occasion, from Italian flags on display to celebratory events. *Viva Italia!*



The St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin is one of the world's most iconic and vibrant celebrations of Irish culture, held annually on March 17th to honor Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick. Originally a religious occasion, the festival has evolved over time into an international event that draws visitors from around the globe, eager to experience Ireland's festive atmosphere and deep cultural heritage.



*May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks,
May your heart be as light as a song,
May each day bring you bright, happy hours,
That stay with you all the year long.*

Festa di San Giuseppe March 19th



Father's Day is a holiday honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood. People celebrate this special day all around the world, but not always on the same date. The US celebrates this day in June every year. However, Italians celebrate Father's Day on March 19th, which is also a day dedicated to **San Giuseppe (Saint Joseph)**.

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture: a compassionate, caring man, a good husband and father, which is why Father's Day in Italy coincides with the **Festa di San Giuseppe**.

March 19 remains very sacred to Italians. Revered by many as the patron saint of Sicily, *San Giuseppe*, or Saint Joseph, is celebrated throughout Italy with elaborate feasts.

The tradition of the "**St. Joseph Table**" of food ("*la tavola di San Giuseppe*") has its origins in Sicily. A St. Joseph's Day "Table" or "Altar" is a makeshift shrine-cum-dinner-festival held in one's home, or more recently a church hall or club hall. The host family or group creates what amounts to a kinetic work of art. This table is rife with symbolism, particularly the decorative breads: the Cross, St. Joseph's Staff, the Heart, the Crown of Thorns, and St Joseph's Beard. (*This is actually just the Sheaf of Wheat turned upside down, but young children delight when their fathers and grandfathers hold their beard up to their face. It is another reminder of Joseph's wisdom and old age.*)



The **St. Joseph's Day Altar**, in addition to the breads above, contains a plethora of non-meat dishes due to the fact that St. Joseph's Day always falls during the penitential season of Lent when eating meat is forbidden on the Fridays between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Beautiful as the St. Joseph's Day Table is to behold, it is a *practical* work of art: it is meant to feed not only friends and relatives but, traditionally, to welcome hungry strangers. Stunning to behold and delicious to partake in, a St. Joseph's Day Table is a tradition which is carried on to this day.

*Happiness being a dessert so sweet,
May life give you more than you can ever eat.*

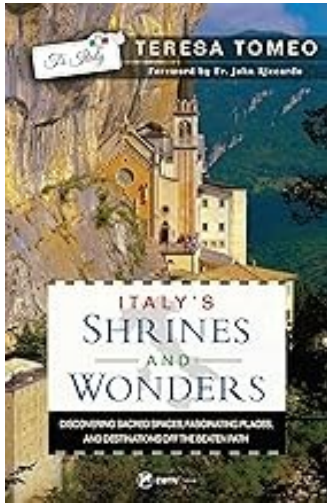


The Bookshelf

Reading books adds endless benefits to our daily lives, including stress-relief and entertainment. Reading books or even hearing them on tape can take you anywhere, anytime—even deep within yourself.



This Month's Selection: *Italy's Shrine and Wonders* by Teresa Tomeo Discovering Sacred Spaces, Fascinating Places, and Destinations off the Beaten Path



Italy is a storied land of saints and the travel destination of dreams. There is nothing quite like a Tomeo-inspired journey to Italy. Teresa believes that no Italian excursion can be complete without embracing *la dolce vita*, the uniquely Italian way of life that prioritizes gastronomic pleasure and slowing down to enjoy God's majestic creation and natural wonders, which open one's mind and imagination to life's possibilities. Her descriptions of the trattorias and delectable meals, as well as the home-cooked recipes she recommends, are sure to make you hungry for the fullness of the Italian cultural experience.

Tomeo includes practical, time-tested travel tips and faith and culture gems to help you navigate this lively land and catch the many unique regional feast days and celebrations it has to offer.

Whether you are traveling from the Vatican to Venice, Assisi to Amalfi, Turin to Tuscany, Pisa to Positano, or from Sorrento to Sicily, Tomeo shares the best of the best, from magnificent churches, to stunning hilltop chapels filled with brilliant Renaissance masterpieces, to the best places for cappuccino and limoncello, to the best shopping and exploring options. She guides you to the tombs and relics of the most beloved saints and introduces you to the lesser-known heroes whose miraculous and inspiring stories will lift your mind and heart to Heaven.

Tomeo believes that Italy, more than any other place on earth, captures the meaning and essence of Psalm 19:1: "*The heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament the work of His hands.*" Join her on a one-of-a-kind exploration of this sacred and enthralling land.

Teresa Tomeo is a bestselling author, Italy aficionado, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and speaker with more than 30 years of experience in print and broadcast media. Her weekday morning radio program, *Catholic Connection*, produced by the EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network is heard on over 500 Catholic radio stations worldwide and on the Sirius Satellite Network. Teresa is passionate about sharing her faith and educating others on media awareness.



*To live above with the Saints we love, Ah, that is the purest glory.
 To live below with the Saints we know, Ah, that is another story.*



Genealogy—Part 2

Keeping Your DNA Safe

You have options in determining how testing companies use (or don't use) your DNA results. The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) protects and regulates use of DNA. According to the GINA website, "Health insurers may not use genetic information to determine if someone is eligible for insurance or to make coverage, underwriting or premium-setting decisions."

Opt-out of DNA matching. If you are taking a test only to learn about your health or ethnicity, you can opt out of the DNA matching database. This means that you will not show up on anyone's DNA match page; this essentially means that no one in the database will know you took a DNA test.

Don't download your raw data. Your raw data is the file generated by your testing company that lists all of your DNA values. Testing companies are protecting your data in their database with some high-powered encryption methods. If you don't have those same protections on your computer, your data just won't be as safe there.



Children's Eyes

By Thomas Krause

What kind of world is it my friend
that little children see?
I wonder if they see God first
because they just believe?

Do they see strength in caring eyes
who watch them as they play-
or maybe love through gentle hands
that guide them on their way?

Do you think they dream of future times
when they would be king-
or just enjoy their present life
while with their friends they sing?

Do they see the acts of kindness
done for people who are poor?
Is the very best in everyone
what they are looking for?

And when the day is over,
as they close their eyes to sleep,
do they look forward to tomorrow
with its promises to keep?

If this is what the children see,
then it should be no surprise,
the world would be a better place
if we all had children's eyes.

*May brooks and trees and singing hills join in the chorus, too.
And every gentle wind that blows send happiness to you.*



OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
1248 Calkins Rd
Rochester NY 14623

President

Marjorie Focarazzo

Vice-President

Jeremy DiFilippo

Recording Secretary

Patricia Bartholomew

Financial Secretary

Marisa Przepiora

Treasurer

Carol DiNicola

Orator

Joe Rubé

Mistress of Ceremony

Melissa DiStaffen

Sentinel

Vacant

Trustees

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Catherine DiNicola
Ron Santoli
Maurice Palucci
Becky DiFilippo

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Sandra Meleca

Chaplain

Patricia Galante

Chaplain Emeritus

Sister Carole Proia

District VIII State Trustee

Vincent Giannantonio

State Deputy to Lombardi Lodge

Peter Gilotte

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge

Jeremy DiFilippo

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Joseph Vazzana *
John March*
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Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo*
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*
Vincent Giannantonio
Sandra Meleca

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