

# ST. PAUL'S NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER & DANCE

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Doors open at 6:30 pm



**Come ring in the New Year with your Church Family!!**

**\*\*\* Presenting an 8-Course Meal!!\*\***

- ◆ Antipasto (including Seafood Salad)
  - ◆ Stracciatella Chicken Soup
  - ◆ Lasagna (Homemade Pasta)

**ENTRÉE** Roast Beef, Potatoes, Veggies  
Tossed Green Salad

- ◆ Fruit
- ◆ Ice Cream Filled Crepes topped  
with Fruit Sauce
- ◆ Assorted Pastries
- ◆ Tea & Coffee

\*One bottle each Red & White wine on each table with free glass  
refills

\*Champagne at Midnight

\*Fruit Punch Fountain

\*Door Prizes

**Adults - \$75.00, Children (5 - 12 yrs. old) \$40.00,  
Children under 5 yrs. - free**

For tickets contact Freda Mifsud  
at 416-762-1891

**\*\*Payments & Bookings must be made no later than December 26th\*\***

**\*\*\* We want our New Year's Eve dinner and dance to be a fun and safe event for everyone! We kindly ask you to drink responsibly, and not drink and drive. If you plan to drink alcohol, please arrange a ride home with a sober driver, a taxi, or a ride-sharing service.**

**We will have non-alcoholic beverages available for those who prefer them. \*\*\***





## MALTESE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Maltese Christmas traditions are a sight to behold, filled with diverse and beautiful customs that reflect their faith and culture. One can't help but be captivated by the sensory details that bring these traditions to life.

In the Maltese community, a unique Christmas tradition involves the growing of vetches (Gulbiena) from canary seeds. These delicate white sprouts are lovingly arranged to decorate the manger of Baby Jesus (Ġesù Bambin), often a cherished family heirloom. The sight of these sprouts adds a touch of freshness and purity to the nativity scene.

Another tradition that catches the eye is the building of elaborate nativity scenes (preseppi) adorned with clay figures (pasturi) and featuring local elements like stone walls and prickly pears. The attention to detail in these scenes is remarkable, and some are even mechanized and animated, creating a mesmerizing spectacle that entices visitors during the festive season.

The Maltese Christmas dessert, known as pudding (pudina tal-hobz), is a delightful treat that tantalizes the taste buds. Made from stale bread, dried fruits, nuts, spices, and cocoa, the aroma of this dessert fills the air, creating a warm and comforting atmosphere. It's a delicious way to savor the flavors of the season.

The atmosphere on Christmas Eve is filled with anticipation as many Maltese attend midnight mass (il-Messa ta' fil-Għaxija), held in every church and cathedral. The sounds of hymns and prayers fill the air, creating a sense of reverence and devotion. A special highlight of this mass is the sermon (il-Priedka tat-Tifel), delivered by a young boy or girl, adding a youthful innocence to the proceedings.

Christmas Day brings joy and togetherness for Maltese families. They exchange gifts and gather around a festive table, filled with the aroma of roasted turkey, potatoes, vegetables, and wine. The atmosphere is filled with laughter and merriment, creating a sense of warmth and love. A common

dessert enjoyed on this day is the honey ring (qaghaq tal-ghasel), its sweet fragrance wafting through the air, tempting everyone's taste buds. Filled with a mixture of honey, citrus, spices, and nuts, this pastry is a delectable indulgence.

The Maltese Christmas traditions are a sensory feast, captivating the eyes with their intricate decorations, tantalizing the taste buds with their delicious treats, and filling the air with the sounds of devotion and joy. It's a truly magical time to experience the beauty and richness of Maltese culture.

