

Ideas for Meetings and Special Events

Meeting Programs

- Live Auction Night – members bring gently used items to auction
- Pasta Sauce Cook Off
- Ballet Folklorico Dancers
- Irish Dancers – St. Patrick's Day
- Swing Dancers and lessons
- Hawaiian dancers – luau
- Heritage Night – Members share stories of their Italian Heritage
- Wedding Photos – guess which couples are in the photo
- Bingo Bash
- Bunco dice game
- White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Christmas Party with kids's crafts
- Italian music – accordion player
- Saint Presentation
- HalloWine – members bring wine, costumes and games for kids
- History of wine and wine making
- Sports Night – trivia questions, show video of sports bloopers, easy sports contest (indoor bocce, bowling, etc.)
- Mother's Appreciation – roses, video concert of Italian singing group Il Volo
- Los Angeles Opera Guest Speaker and multimedia presentation
- Italian Movie Night (English subtitles)
- Member Talent Show
- Local school band or trio
- Church Choir (your parish or other)

- Crowning of Mary with kids procession of flowers, guest speaker on Mary
- Pie Contest in November, pie-eating contest with pie tins/whipped cream
- Teach an Italian Card Game, Scopa, Pedro, Italian Bingo
- Crazy Hat night - best hat gets gift card for "The Hat" restaurant
- Magic Night – contact local magician to perform
- Carnevale or Mardi Gras – jazz music, making masks, youtube video of costumes from Italy
- Cooking Lesson – ICF member or local chef showcases a special recipe
- Birthday Party – recognize everyone's birthday and decorate cupcakes and have a couple party games
- Heritage Night #1: Bring Map of World and members "pin" where their ancestry comes from and then share about their ancestry
- Heritage Night #2: 10 Question quiz about heritage themes, i.e. food, flags, holidays, cultures, etc.
- Heritage Night #3: handout poster boards to each family to create an introduction to their culture to present at meeting, add in international appetizer potluck as the food
- Western Night – barbecue dinner, line dancing lessons, indoor horseshoes

- Members take turns hosting the dinner of monthly meetings – potluck, catered, home-cooked, etc.
- A Night at The Opera – bring in church choir member or local opera singer to share their talent
- Guest Speakers – reach out to local community groups to get ideas, ask members about their travels or areas of expertise, get ideas from members for who they would like to hear from
- Service Project Night – activity to prepare an item(s) for donation
- Workshop to learn a new skill (planting, candle-making, home improvement)
- Include a children's craft at every general meeting
- Easter egg hunt for children, egg decorating, put together Easter baskets for needy children
- Back to School Night – members bring in pictures from their school days, share school memory, and prepare school supply kits for needy children
- Hollywood Nights – trivia, movie clips, members share favorite movies
- Invite clergy or local religious to share about their vocation journey
- Art Appreciation – showcase copies of framed famous art pieces where members match the correct artist

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Social Events

- Ice Cream Social – branch provides ice cream, members provide toppings
- Progressive Dinner (appetizers, dinner, dessert at 3 different member homes)
- Monthly Ladies Luncheons or Dinners
- Monthly Prayer or Bible Study group
- Bocce lessons and then play
- Attend Christmas Program at Church or one in the local community
- Christmas Harbor Lights Cruise
- Communion Breakfast – go to Mass together then breakfast
- Bus trip to Italian Hall and Museum and St. Peter's Church in L.A.
- Old Fashioned Picnic at local park
- Performances at local theatres
- Trip to Italy – work with local travel agent to be part of a group tour
- Monthly Men's breakfast with Speaker
- Movie, Games, and Pizza night for Kids
- Cruise – one day or longer
- Group attendance at community concert or stage production
- Paint Night – local art store brings supplies and art teacher
- Trunk or treat for parish families
- Any bus trip to popular local venues
- Monthly Cinema Club – members meet to go out to the movies
- Bi-monthly exercise class – walking, yoga, jazzercise, stretching, Zumba

Educational Events for Parish

- Italian Genealogy Speaker
- Italian Film Festival – English subtitles
- Italian Language Classes
- Collaborate with Prayer Ministry to feature a religious movie
- Sponsor an Essay Contest at the parish school with a prize for the winners and winners read essay at ICF Meeting

Service Projects

- Collaborate with other church ministry
- Italian Food Booth at Parish Festival
- Salami Toss Booth at Parish Festival – game players throw a tennis ball to hit a hanging salami, prize is a salami
- Operation Christmas Child – handing out and filling shoeboxes, then preparing them for distribution to children in impoverished countries
- Assist St. Vincent De Paul by handing out grocery bags with list of needed items after Mass and collecting following weekend
- Homeless Dinner – cooking and serving needy individuals
- Baby Shower – members bring layette items to donate to pro-life ministry
- Reach out to local college Italian Club or Newman Center to collaborate
- Garden clean-up to help older member
- Pasta dinner for parish youth group

- Collect dimes for deacons, pennies for priests, nickels for nuns and donate to a vocations program
- Sponsor spaghetti/pizza luncheon after the school jogathon
- Knitting Group – create scarves, baby caps, blankets, etc. for hospitals
- Create tray favors for elderly in assisted living
- Homemade cookies for parish staff

Fundraisers

- St. Joseph's Table bake sale and dinner
- Cannoli Sale at Christmas
- Bake Sale after all weekend Masses
- Branch Garage Sale at Members home
- Parish Flea Market or Kids Swap Meet
- Sausage/meatball sandwich sale
- International Food Fest
- Bocce Tournament
- Game booth at community festival
- Pancake or waffle breakfast
- Homemade pasta sauce sale
- Champagne Bingo
- Restaurant Night at local venue
- Casino Bus Trip
- Mother-Daughter Tea Party
- Hot Cocoa with Santa, baked goods and breakfast items for parishioners after Sunday morning Masses
- 50's Dinner Dance, limbo, swing lessons, and dance contest