



ORDER  
Sons and  
Daughters  
of Italy  
IN AMERICA



## MEETING

December 7, 2025

# *Happy Birthday*

Carol Cisternino 25<sup>th</sup>  
Jay Gragnani 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Anne Malanima 29<sup>th</sup>  
Daniel Martucci 1<sup>st</sup>  
Kathy Massino 31<sup>st</sup>

John Puccinelli 28<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Puccinelli 24<sup>th</sup>  
Cathy Sinclair 13<sup>th</sup>  
Bea Sykes 20<sup>th</sup>  
Richard Tamberlini 23<sup>rd</sup>

# *Happy Anniversary*

Freddi Corritone (Maritza) 5<sup>th</sup>      Matthew Palmisano (Stephanie) 13<sup>th</sup>

## LODGE NEWS

There will be a short business meeting on the 7th followed with our Christmas Luncheon for members and their family.

Cost -\$12 for Members, \$15 for family member not a Verdi member, Children \$5.00 age 12 and under.

We will have raffle baskets for anyone interested in purchasing tickets for a basket that you may enjoy or purchase as a gift. Bring CASH !

We will play Christmas Song Bingo for about an hour after lunch to share in a little bit of joyful time with whoever would like to stay. No Cost.

## Brunswick Stew

I wish to say thanks to everyone who helped with our Brunswick stew and to all who purchased it. The support and help on Friday and Saturday was incredible.

This year we made 228 quarts. This was down 100 quarts from last year, but the fellowship with everyone far outweighed the numbers. We cleared over \$1200.00 which will go to our charities.

Again. *THANK YOU* and may your holiday season be blessed and filled with Christmas spirit.

Arthur Smith

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Mary Louise Smith

So hard to believe we are at the end of another year. Time certainly seems to have traveled at a high rate of speed the past year!

I want to thank all of you who have volunteered this year in some way to make our lodge successful whether in supporting fundraisers or coming to our monthly meetings/luncheons, supporting our fun events, the Murder Mystery Dinner, the Evening in Sorrento dinner, and the Virginia Diner Peanut and the Brunswick Stew fundraiser. Truly, without your support it would be quite difficult for us to give to our charities and maintain our building and grounds. So big KUDOS and MANY MANY THANKS!!

Wishing you and your family a very



**LODGE INFO:**

If you are interested in any position within Verdi Lodge please contact Daniel Martucci [dmartucci@comcast.net](mailto:dmartucci@comcast.net) 804-925-5065 or Virginia Lee Bowe [Bowepec@hotmail.com](mailto:Bowepec@hotmail.com) 434-390-3814, no later than mid-December. They will also be able to share with you duties of any position.

# Origin of Chrismon Ornaments

## Development by Frances Kipps Spencer

Chrismon ornaments were first created in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. Spencer sought to replace traditional Christmas decorations with symbols that reflected Christian faith. She combined the words "Christ" and "monogram" to create the term "Chrismon."

## Symbolism and Design

Chrismons are designed to represent various aspects of Christ's life and ministry. They are typically made in white symbolizing purity and holiness, reflecting the liturgical color for Christmas, and gold, symbolizing the glory and majesty of Jesus, His kingship. The ornaments include ancient Christian symbols such as:

- The Cross: Represents Christ's sacrifice.
- The Fish (Ichthus): An early Christian symbol for Jesus as the Savior,
- The Dove: Symbolizes the Holy Spirit.
- The Chi-Rho: The monogram for Christ.

These symbols serve to tell the story of Jesus, emphasizing themes of faith, hope, and salvation.



## Purpose and Use

The word "Chrismon" draws from the words "Christ" and "monogram," translating to "symbols of Christ." Historically, there have been times when Christians were not free to worship in public or even acknowledge their faith. These symbols were a way for the followers of Christ to recognize their faith in a more covert way. For example, a symbol like a fish might be used in an underground passageway to point toward a place of worship so visitors would know where to go or simply mark that they were among friends.

## Storytelling Through Decoration

The primary purpose of a Chrismon tree is to narrate the story of Christ through its decorations. Each ornament is a visual representation of Christian beliefs, helping congregants, especially children, understand the significance of Christmas.

## Spread Across Denominations

Initially popular among Lutherans, the use of Chrismon trees has expanded to various Christian denominations, including Anglicans, Catholics, and Methodists. Today, Chrismon trees are commonly displayed in churches during Advent and Christmas, serving as a reminder of the Christian faith and the celebration of Jesus's birth.

**CHRISMON TREE at Black Creek Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, Va.**





# Christmas Word Search



S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	R	M	C	V	O	S
S	N	O	W	M	A	N	B	A	H	T	R	O	N
R	L	T	Q	R	P	B	T	T	W	E	E	G	C
Q	E	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	I	S	H
J	W	B	I	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S
T	P	J	M	G	P	Y	T	D	N	P	D	M	U
G	R	D	F	E	H	S	D	H	S	E	E	T	G
C	K	E	X	M	C	Q	T	E	D	A	E	S	A
A	X	T	E	U	M	E	E	N	A	C	R	I	R
N	V	R	O	H	H	H	D	L	E	E	N	R	P
D	R	E	T	X	D	O	X	E	O	S	M	H	L
Y	Z	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	G	P	E	C	U
O	S	T	H	G	I	L	O	Q	M	V	B	R	M
R	K	A	O	Q	O	Y	X	T	B	N	U	W	P



CANDY  
CANE  
CAROLING  
CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS  
MERRY

MISTLETOE  
NORTH  
PEACE  
POLE  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER  
SANTA CLAUS  
SLEIGH

SNOWMAN  
STAR  
STOCKING  
SUGARPLUM  
TREE  
WREATH

