



SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

“Naš Slovenski Dom” established 1995

To our valued members,

The Annual Meeting of the Slovenian Catholic Center board, as announced in our previous newsletter, was held on Tuesday, June 8th, 2021. At the meeting, we heard reports about things that have been going on at the SCC since January 1st, 2020.

We were fortunate enough to have been able to hold one of our largest annual fundraisers, KOLINE in February of 2020, prior to the pandemic closing us down. We were also still able to hold our annual RAFFLE, virtually, on August 9th, 2020. Having these fundraisers helped greatly with our 2020 fundraising income. Thank you to Karl Zorjan and his outstanding team of volunteers for preparing our annual koline luncheon; we all look forward to having another delicious koline lunch in February of 2022. Thank you to Anna Hozjan and her team for managing our annual raffle mailings and database. We set a record in 2020 by selling over 800 raffle tickets ~ thank you to all our sellers and everyone who supported the Center by purchasing raffle tickets!

Like the rest of the country, and most of the world, the Slovenian Catholic Center was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 15th, 2020. We gladly opened up our doors again, following State and CDC guidelines on March 21st, 2021! During the year that we were closed, we did a great deal of “housekeeping” around the Dom. Thank you to everyone that helped with our cleaning and updating projects and special thanks to John Vidmar and Joe Vidmar for overseeing the work and to Martin and Luba Novak for deep-cleaning the kitchen and bar and doing other miscellaneous work around our Dom.

Thank you, also, to all those volunteers that helped maintain our grounds; snow plowers, lawnmowers, grounds keepers, those that maintain our flowers, plants and landscaping, etc. We are very fortunate to have all these dedicated and caring volunteers!

We hope that everyone was kept up-to-date with SCC news by receiving our email blasts and newsletters. Thank you to Reza Rozman for keeping us all in the loop by sending out regular email blasts and thanks to Wanda Jozwik and Tony Krusic for managing our newsletters.

Fortunately, both our Slomšek Slovenian School and Marela Youth Group members were able to continue meeting via zoom, online classes and in person, outdoors and / or when it was safe to do so with proper social distancing. Thanks to everyone from Sola and YG; students, members and families, for your patience and support during the pandemic. Thank you also goes out to Fr. Metod and his team for providing us with a safe place to worship at our Slovenian Catholic Mission once guidelines allowed for an opening of churches.

Membership was our main source of income in 2020 with a total membership count of 440 at year-end. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to our members! And, thank you to Kristina Cepon and Greg Remec for maintaining our membership database and mailings.

We are pleased to announce that as of Sunday, June 13th, the Slovenian Catholic Center is fully re-opened with no restrictions; as per the State of Illinois guidelines. We welcome everyone to join us for our Sunday fellowship luncheons. We are also very happy to be able to have our ANNUAL PICNIC & RAFFLE on Sunday, August 8th! We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Martina Hozjan Ruda, President

July – Sept 2021

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Renew
your
membership
today!



**SCC office hours – Sundays from 1 – 3 p.m. or by appointment
Center hours on regular Sundays – open until 3:00 p.m.**



We are glad that after more than a year, Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. Welcome to our Slovenian Mass at 11:00 AM every Sunday!

August 8 – Slovenian Catholic Center pilgrimage and picnic – Mass will be held at the Lourdes grotto with devotions to Mary immediately following.

August 25 - Honey Picnic—fundraising pilgrimage and picnic of the Franciscan Monastery. Mass will be held at the grotto with devotions to Mary immediately following. Dinner will be served at the picnic area. Homemade baked goods and honey will be on sale. Bakery and other donations are greatly appreciated!

September 26 - Anton Martin Slomšek Sunday – visitors from Slovenia will join us at 11:00 AM mass.

MEGARON – ALUMNI CHOIR from Škofovi zavodi – Catholic High School in Ljubljana-Šentvid, Slovenia - will held a concert at St. Joseph Church in Joliet at 6:00 PM. on a Saturday, September 25.



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now because you don't want to miss our
SCC 25th Anniversary Sunday Sept 26th

More details to follow !





Consular's Corner

Consular News: Travel to Slovenia is restricted still to citizens and those who are doing business in the interest of the state. This is likely to change in the next few weeks.

Consul General Alenka Jerak and Minister for Slovenians Abroad, Helena Jaklitsch, will be visiting KSKJ offices in Joliet as well as the SUA museum during the day of Saturday September 25th. They will be attending a concert of the mixed chorus Megaron at St. Joseph Church at 6:00PM. A reception will follow at the St. Joseph Museum in the school.

On Sunday, September 26th, the two of them will be attending the Slovenian Mass in Lemont to help us celebrate Slomšek Day, the patron of our mission. Afterwards they will join us in the hall where there will be a banquet to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Slovenian Catholic Center. Minister Jaklitsch will present the SCC with a commemoration from the Ministry. Consular hours will be held in between. The chorus Megaron will be performing at the banquet Čuki. Please notify Dcn. Janez P. Vidmar (708-204-4390) if you need to see the general Consul.

Reservations will be required for the anniversary banquet.

Retreat House

All the modifications to the Sanctuary are now complete. It is more open and will function better for liturgy as well as be ADA compliant for exiting the chapel. The roof needs replacement to stop ice and water damage. That work will be done the third week in July. This is the most expensive repair we have done to date and donations are welcome to cover the cost.

We will also be replacing two skylights in the chapel which are badly cracked. The Retreat House is booked every weekend in September, October and November except for Thanksgiving. Hvala Bogu!

I am holding a review of the Sunday readings in Slovenian and English every Saturday on Zoom. Email me at jpvidmar@gmail.com to obtain the link. I send the readings ahead of time. Knowledge of English is necessary.

Deacon John P. Vidmar
Director Baraga St. Mary's Retreat House

Slovenian Catholic Center - SCC

In 2007, the SCC won an appeal (after two rejections) to reverse a real estate tax assessment from Cook County. At that time, we submitted a change to the State of Illinois modifying our articles of incorporation to the "Slovenian Catholic Center". All public references to the SCC (this includes all invitations to attend events at the SCC) should use the words **Slovenian Catholic Center** when it is spelled out.

Thank you for following this policy.

Deacon John P. Vidmar
Director Baraga St. Mary's Retreat House
Website: <https://www.baragasmrh.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/baragaretreat/>



SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL UPDATES



Vesele poletne počitnice!

This has been a year of change. As we close the 2020/2021 school year and welcome summer, one never-ending constant is that students and teachers will always yearn for the sun-kissed, care-free days of summer. This year that break is especially well deserved. Starting this school year with 16 in-person elementary students and 1 adult in-person student, we embraced change by branching out to welcome an international online community of 24 students.

But before going on to say anything else in this article, I want to send a heartfelt message to our in-person elementary families. *Thank you!*

To our students: Thank you for continuing to spend your Saturday mornings with us. Thank you for diligently wearing your masks and following the all the other new rules this year. Thank you for joining us online for a few weeks in the fall and for your video letters to sveti Miklavž.

Parents: thank you for trusting us to keep your children safe over this past year. Their continued attendance and support of Slomšek Slovenian School through all the uncertainties of this pandemic was so very important. The children of our school breathe hope into our area's Slovenian community. And that has never been truer than over this past year.

To our language and dance instructors, Mojca Anaya, Kristina Ondracek, Sheena Litt and Stephanie Williams. Zahvaljujem se vsemučiteljem, saj so ogromno prispevali k temu, da se je prejšnje leto uspešno zaključilo. Thank you for your courage and dedication. You have been creative problem solvers, adapting to whatever circumstances called for. You found inventive ways to celebrate our Slovenian language and heritage during an especially difficult year. Thank you for never losing sight of the needs of our students and community.

To our in-person adult class teachers, Andrej Remec and John Vidmar. Your enduring dedication to our šola is a beautiful example to all teachers. Thank you both for all the accommodations you made in the interest of continuing classes. We were so happy to see you return, upon being fully vaccinated, to the Center for classes!

Yes, this past school year has been different. And there have been changes. The good thing about change, is that it forces you to find new ways of doing things. The desire to reach out to a beginner adult community led to the introduction of our online adult classes. In the fall, we welcomed instructor Emika Asani as well as 24 students, who spanned across 9 time zones, from not only the U.S., but from Canada and the U.K. as well. Classes met via Zoom throughout the fall and spring semesters, wrapping up in late April. We expanded learning to include an online conversational summer session for those who participated in the fall/spring semesters, and are hoping to continue in October 2021.

While we welcome our new online community, we also say farewell to one of our in-person teachers. Kristina Ondracek, after being involved with šola in one way or another for 15 years, (9 of which as teacher for our Čebelice class) has decided it's time to "retire." Students and families said farewell to Kristina on our last day of classes for the 2020/2021 school year on May 8th, presenting her with a gift from the Slovene Cultural Center. Kristina's gentle, quiet manner, with even the most rambunctious of students, brought calm to her classes of 5 - 8 year-olds. She is a patient and kind person and had a gift for making each student feel special. While we are very sad to see Kristina go, we know we'll still see her and her family at events sponsored by our community's Slovenian Sports Club. Thank you, Kristina, for your years of service to our youngest Slovenians! You will be missed!

We look forward to the changes that the 2021/2022 school year will bring. After being involved with šola for the past 10 years (5 teaching, 5 as principal) I will be handing over the elementary school responsibilities to focus on continuing (and building) our online offerings for adults.

I look forward to continuing to serve not only our local Slovenian community, but the larger Slovenian community abroad as well.

Please follow us on Facebook at **Slomšek Slovenian School** for details on all our upcoming classes.

Until then, I wish you many sun-kissed and carefree days!
Happy Summer!
Mary Ann Vucinic



Slomšek Slovenian School graduates & language teachers.
From left to right: Mojca Anaya, Sofia Magajne, Roman Vucinic, Mary Ann Vucinic, Thomas Wick, Matthew Wick, Kristina Ondracek



Sprejem prvoobhajancev - Celebration of First Communion

V nedeljo, 13. junija 2021 je Slovensko versko središče v Lemontu s ponosom gostilo 6 otrok, ki so letos ali lani prejeli zakrament prvega svetega obhajila. Gabriela Anaya, Dominic Barradas, Emilia Leonardy, Mihec Magajne, Marjan Shidenko in Ivana Vidmar so na začetku maše sami vkorakali v prve klopi ter na oltar prinesli bele nageljne in majhne kruhke. Med mašo so zelo lepo sodelovali, vsak pa je prebral tudi eno prošnjo.

Kruhke je kot vsako leto spekla Nandi Puc, ki jih je pater Metod Ogorevc med mašo blagoslovil. Ministrantki Maja in Sofia Magajne sta jih razdelili prvoobhajancem. Dijakon Janez Vidmar je prvoobhajance nagovoril s pridigo, da jih spomni na njihovo poslanstvo v življenju. Slavica Sovan je za vsakega naredila tudi naprsno rožico.

Zelo lepo je bilo spet praznovati v naši slovenski cerkvi. Čeprav je bilo praznovanje letos malce drugačno kot ponavadi, je bila to prva skoraj običajna maša po več kot letu dni. V cerkvi ni bilo več sedežnega reda in cepljeni ljudje so lahko prisostvovali brez mask. Pevski zbor je lahko zapel v celotni zasedbi pod vodstvom dirigentke Mojce Anaya in ob spremljavi organistke Milice Hozjan. Sprejem prvoobhajancev je številna leta organizirala Nandi Puc, za kar smo ji zelo hvaležni, letos pa ga je prvič pomagala organizirati Urša Magajne.

Po maši se je veliko družin prvoobhajancev in drugih članov slovenke skupnosti zbralo v Slovenskem katoliškem centru, kjer sta nam kosilo pripravila Ljuba in Martin Novak.

Iskrene čestitke vsem prvoobhajancem leta 2020 in 2021! Upamo, da bodo mogočepostali ministranti v naši slovenski cerkvi.

On Sunday, June 13, 2021, the Slovenian Catholic Mission in Lemont proudly hosted 6 children, who received the sacrament of the First Holy Communion this year or last year. At the beginning of the mass, Gabriela Anaya, Dominic Barradas, Emilia Leonardy, Mihec Magajne, Marjan Shidenko and Ivana Vidmar walked into the first pews and brought along white carnations and little loaves of bread to the altar. During the mass, they participated very nicely and each of them read one petition.

Like every year, Nandi Puc baked the little loaves, which Father Metod Ogorevec blessed during the mass. Altar servers Maja and Sofia Magajne passed them out to the First Communicants. Deacon Janez Vidmar talked to the First Communicants about their mission in life during his sermon. Slavica Sovan also made a boutonniere for each of them.

It was very nice to celebrate again in our Slovenian church. Although the celebration was a little different than usual, it was the first almost normal mass after more than a year. There was no assigned seating in the church, and vaccinated people were able to attend without masks. The full choir was able to sing again under the direction of Mojca Anaya and accompanied by the organist, Milica Hozjan.

Nandi Puc coordinated the First Communicants' reception for many years, for which we are very grateful. This year, Urša Magajne helped organize the First Communicants reception for the first time.

After the mass, many families of the First Communicants and other members of the Slovenian community gathered at the Slovenian Catholic Center, where Ljuba and Martin Novak prepared lunch for everyone.

Congratulations to all First Communicants of 2020 and 2021!!! We hope that they will consider becoming altar servers in our Slovenian church.





Friends of St. Mary's

Please join Friends of St. Mary's for our monthly volunteer workdays. The volunteer workdays are held every second Saturday of the month from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The next workday will be Saturday, July 10th.

We help the Franciscan Fathers with general maintenance projects to keep St. Mary's nice and beautiful for everyone to enjoy. We work on projects in the Rosary Valley, Grotto, Cemetery, Picnic Platz, Bell Tower and Lake Bled. We invite volunteers of all ages. If you are interested in helping or learning more, please email us at volunteer@friendsofstmarys.org.

We also continue to collect donations to support current and future needs of the property. If you haven't sent in your donation or are interested in donating, please send it to Friends of St. Mary's at PO Box 634, 14252 Main St, Lemont, IL 60439.

Pictures from previous volunteer workdays.





SMS Marela

Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marela...

Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marela...Summer is here! SMS Marela has been working on new material and is looking forward to this summer, potential performances, and a couple of road trips! With the opening of the State of Illinois on June 11th, we cannot wait to reconnect with various Slovenian communities again to show off our cultural pride.

We have kept up our community support by assisting with Easter decorations for SVS, setting up and prepping the SCC for re-opening, and welcoming our community back. We helped out with fellowship lunches and we made our moms "lectovosrce" for Mother's Day!

We also had our first official outing of 2021! Axe throwing! Our members' Slovenian roots are strong because they all did very well and had a great time.

SMS Marela also volunteered to help host the Father's Day picnic this year in collaboration with the Slovenian Catholic Center. The day turned out to be excellent and well attended. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help, especially our Marela Dads who grilled or bartended for the day! A special thank you to Sheena Litt who handled the raffle to benefit our fund raising efforts. We showed off a few of our new dances and enjoyed celebrating our dads. At the Father's Day picnic we also debuted our new T-Shirts! The new look was very much welcomed!

As always, Marela welcomes new members. If you or someone you know is of Slovenian descent and would like to join our group, please contact Nada Petrovic at (630) 863-5648 or reach out to any Marela member!





SCC ANNUAL PICNIC

\$10,000 RAFFLE

Please join us... Sunday, August 8th, 2021

Plus 27
additional
prizes
in amounts of
\$1000
\$500
\$100



**Thank you for your
past and continued
support!**

BBQ Lunch:

Lamb

Pork

Chicken

Čevapčići

Hot Dogs

Bakery Tent

Ice Cream Cart

Beer Tent

Fully Stocked Bar

Dollar Raffle

BIG Raffle

Bocce Ball

Bags & Volleyball

Children's Games

Slovenian School Project Tent

Playground

& more....

Live Music

Open Pavilion Dancing

11:00 A.M. MASS AT GROTTO
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

12:00 P.M. PICNIC "ON THE HILL"

1:00 P.M. SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN
SCHOOL PROJECT

4:00 P.M. \$1 DOLLAR RAFFLE

5:00 P.M. \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE
RAFFLE DRAWING





ANNUAL RAFFLE

The SCC Annual Raffle will be held at our annual picnic on Sunday, August 8th.

The raffle is our main source of income and we encourage everyone to

Purchase a ticket from your seller or by contacting the

Slovenian Catholic Center at 630-243-0670 or by email to: secretary@slovenian-center.org

GRAND PRIZE - \$10,000

PLUS 27 ADDITIONAL PRIZES IN VALUES OF - \$1000 - \$500 - \$100

RAFFLE TICKET DONATION - \$50

ENTRY FORM FOR RAFFLE

AUGUST 8TH, 2021

\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE

PLUS 27 ADDITIONAL PRIZES

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(_____) _____ **TICKET DONATION = \$50.00**

Remit to: **Slovenian Catholic Center, PO Box 634, Lemont , IL. 60439**

Your official ticket will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment and completed form.

Last mail pickup August 7th!



Slovenian Sports Klub

The SSK hopes you are having a fun summer and were able to attend our 32nd Annual Softball Tournament which was to include a golf outing, bocce ball tournament, and softball tournament the weekend of June 26-28th. Thanks to all who attended or volunteered and congrats to the winners! Special appreciation to Wanda Jozwik, Miriam Stariha, Eva Buh, Olga Voss, and Jeanie Stariha for their fantastic work in the kitchen! A great big thank you to all who donated potato salad, corn salsa, and pasta salad.

Annual Golf Outing – After months of planning by Stan Kastelic and a record 14 foursomes on tap, mother nature delivered a monsoon and washed out the event. We hope next year will bring an even larger turnout.

Annual Bocce Ball Tournament – Unfortunately, bocce was another casualty of the weather. Stan Kastelic had an Olympic theme planned with representatives of various nationalities. Next Year!

32nd Annual Softball Tournament Winners – WOW the enthusiasm!!!! Although we experienced quite a few rain delays (which led to some serious slip and slide exhibitions by both little and big kids), some quite powerful and one tornado warning, we succeeded in playing the entire tournament! Thanks to all who came out to socialize, enjoy the playground, play softball, and take in the beauty of the grounds of St. Mary's. Happy birthday to Andrej Remec who celebrated with much of his family throughout the weekend.

According to the play-by-play announcer Franci Puc, the games were extremely close and competitive with too many MVPs to count! In the end, the team captained by Jake Gregorich pulled out the win versus first time captain, Maddy Vuksinic's team. Congrats!

On Saturday night all enjoyed the bonfire and a performance by the *Meandering Cranberries*, Mark Burjek's, Stan and Kerry Burjek's son's, band. Wow, Slovenians are good musicians and dancers! Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's softball weekend and music festival, which will be held the last weekend of June 2022.





Slovenian Catholic Center

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Lemont, Illinois 60439

Phone: (630)243-0670
Email: secretary@slovenian-center.org
Web: www.slovenian-center.org



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE YEAR:

- Sunday July 4, 2021Independence Day—Center Closed
- Sunday August 8th.....SCC Picnic & Raffle
- Sunday, August 29, 2021Honey Picnic
- Sunday Sept 12th.....Family Mass-Luncheon/Monthly Dinner
- Sunday Sept 26th.....Slomsek Sunday-SCC