



# SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

“Naš Slovenski Dom” established 1995

## januar, februar, marec, 2021 Naše glasilo o domovini in skupnosti v Sloveniji!



## January, February, March, 2021 Our Slovenian Home and Community Newsletter!

Vesele Praznike! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

I hope this message finds you all well! I'm sure I can speak for everyone when I say 2020 has been the absolute most challenging year of our lives! It has been a disruptive year that has impacted many things, including holiday cheer.

The holidays can seem especially difficult and draining this year; even more so because we all miss our usual means of support and comfort of gathering with friends and family. Even our religious services, that are a large part of our traditions, are impacted.

Despite this year's celebrations being difficult for many families, mine included, I encourage everyone to try to find gratitude this season. I am more grateful than ever, after this long and difficult year that the holiday season is here.

The joy and hopefulness of Christmas and the New Year feels particularly important. I personally have much to be thankful for, including the honor of being able to lead our Slovenski Dom and this great organization with all of you, even during these trying times.

On behalf of the SCC Board of Directors, please allow me to extend our sincerest hope that each of you will enjoy a peaceful holiday season.

May everyone take time to pause and reflect on those things that we can still be thankful for and may the good things in life surround you throughout this Christmas and into the New Year! Wishing you and yours a healthy, safe and blessed holiday.

Želim vam blagoslovljen Božič, ter polno ljubezni, sreče, zadovolstva, miru, posebno pa zdravja v Novem Letu 2021!

**SCC office hours and Center are currently Closed due to Covid**

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### REMEMBER:

**WASH YOUR HANDS  
WEAR YOUR MASK  
WATCH YOUR DISTANCE**

**RENEW  
YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY!**



*Virus Covid 19 is still dictating our plans. We are glad that we can have the church open for Sunday Masses since June.*

**Please register** for attending 11:00 AM Sunday **Mass** at SVS by phone (630-257-2068) or email (metodofm@sbcglobal.net) and also let Fr. Metod know if you would like to come to confession before Mass. If you have concerns about your safety, Masses will continue on **You Tube/radovednost and over the phone. (1-844-855-4444 Access Code': 185996#)**

*\* Below are tentative dates and events in the time frame of this Newsletter and there will be additional information sent out through the church bulletin and other means of communication when available.*

**On Ash Wednesday – February 17<sup>th</sup>** - Mass will be held at 11:00 AM (in Slovenian) with a blessing and distributing of ashes.

**Lent** – Every Sunday there will be a devotion of the Stations of the Cross. Imperishable food will be collected in the church for the local Food Pantry.

**\*Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – making of 'butarice'** in the Center (starts at 8:00 AM). Please come and help! All proceeds will go to the missions.

**\*Palm Sunday** – March 28<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM – The blessing of the 'butarice' and other greenery will take place in front of the Center. We will then process to the church. The solemn reading of Jesus' passion according to Mark will be held during the Mass.

**Holy Thursday** – April 1<sup>st</sup> - Jesus's Last Supper - Solemn Mass will be at 7:00 PM, after the mass holy hour with Jesus in the 'jail'.

**Good Friday** – The celebration of the Lord's Passion will be at 7:00 PM.

**\*Holy Saturday-Vigil of Easter** – at 2:00 PM- blessing of Easter food (which entails symbolic food: bread-meat; coloured eggs, horse radish and 'potica'-walnut cake). At 7:00 PM - solemn liturgy of the day in four parts.

**Easter** – April 4<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM solemn Mass of Jesus's resurrection will be held. There will be a Holy Mass in English at 7:00 AM. (as every Sunday).

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2021

With the start of every New Year our membership drive begins. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone that has supported the Center by being a member. Membership is our main source of income and helps maintain our facilities and support our activities. Please support the Center by becoming a member – fill out the form enclosed and return it to us with your payment. We also are looking for individuals to help with activities at the Center once things return to a more normal state. If you're interested in donating some time to the Slovenian Cultural Center please give us a call or come to our monthly meetings, every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Your donation of time is priceless to us!

Vaša pomoč v kulturnem centru je zelo cenjena! Stem da plačate letno članarino in postanete aktiven član centra boste veliko pripomogli naši slovenski skupnosti. V centru se zbiramo ob veselih in žalostnih trenutkih in si stisnemo roke, to je dom združenja, in prijateljstva.

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## Consular's Corner

All entry into Slovenia prohibitions remain in effect for everyone who is not a citizen. The EU is considering having proof of inoculation for entry into the EU. Passports and visas can only be renewed in Cleveland and Washington DC at this time by appointment. Other processes such as citizenship requests are proceeding.

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

## Retreat House News

We are half way through the renovation of the Chapel. We have removed the old altar and the decorative pillars on the sides of the sanctuary. Next we take out a little more than 3 ft on the sides of the sanctuary to make the sacristy doors wheelchair compatible as escape routes.

We set up a train display in the vestibule as part of the Festival of Lights and at least two will remain as permanent displays. Volunteers are welcome for the ongoing effort to repaint the whole building interior. We are almost complete with the first floor. We guarantee social distancing for this effort!

## Slovenian Catholic Children's Fellowship

On behalf of the Slovenian Catholic Children's Fellowship we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our community for raising over \$800 in monetary and gift donations for our Giving Tree for Kolbe House this year!

Sheena Litt





## *In loving memory of **Professor Edward Gobetz***

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Edi died in his home surrounded by his family on Dec 12, 2020.

He is survived by his beloved and cherished wife of 54 years, Milena Gobetz (Osenar), his daughters Emily Milica Stupica, Maria Mojca Prayner, and Maggie Metka Gobetz, and by his grandchildren: Sarah, Maja, Nicholas "Miklavz", Niko, Luka, Abby, and Nadia, and by many other friends and extended family members.

Edi was born in Celje, Slovenia on July 25, 1926. He attended classical gymnasium until captured into a forced labor camp as a young teen. He became a courageous saboteur of the Nazis by collaborating with the French resistance. After escaping the camp, he enlisted in the British army. He worked as a translator, facilitating immigrations for many Jewish survivors and Slovenian refugees.



Edi studied modern languages in Naples Italy, then came to America on a college scholarship. He worked as a laborer to earn a doctorate from Ohio State University. He was a professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Ohio State, University of Maryland, and Kent State University until his retirement. He published over 20 books and 500 articles. Edi served on editorial boards, lectured internationally, was named Outstanding Educator of America in 1972, was a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, and served as vice president for both the National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups and The International Social Science Honor Society. Edi founded the Slovenian Research Center of America (SRCA) to highlight Slovenian contributions to the world and recently received an award for his service from the Slovenian government.

He was a proud Slovenian, a loving husband, friend, grandfather, and father. He accomplished important things in his life but realized that treating every human being as if they were important held the greater value. He will be greatly missed by many, but his legacy will live on in his writings and in those he influenced. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his name to St. Mary's of the Assumption in Collinwood or the missionary work of Father Pedro Opeka at Catholic Mission Aid. Due to Covid-19, all services will be private and a celebration of his life will take place when it is safe for all to be included. All services are private. Arrangements by THE ZEVIK-COSIC FUNERAL HOME OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS. Online obituary and guestbook at [www.DeJohnCares.com](http://www.DeJohnCares.com)

**Professor Edi Gobetz was very interested in the Slomšek Slovenian Šola in Lemont and provided much material for the teachers to use and kept up on the progress and needs of the school. His support and care for students of all ages will never be forgotten or lost along with his influence that will be felt for generations to come.**

*To his family and friends, we express our deepest condolences.*

***Edi, počivaj v miru!***



**SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER~PO Box 634 ~ Lemont, IL 60439**

# Membership

*Thank you for supporting our Slovenian Catholic Center! We very much appreciate your contributions in prior years, and hope you will renew your membership. Please return the completed form and payment, or apply online at [www.slovenian-center.org](http://www.slovenian-center.org). If you are not a member but would like to keep receiving our newsletter, please return the form confirming your contact information.*

**Membership Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dependent Children:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

☐ Individual Membership - \$50

☐ Senior Membership - \$35

Total donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Family Membership - \$100

**Method of payment:**

☐ Cash

☐ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3-digit verification code: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to receive a membership card*

☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* Membership cards will be distributed at the Member Appreciation Dinner. If you are unable to attend, it will be mailed to you \*\*

*I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter* ☐ Mail ☐ Email

*Thank you for your continued support!*





## SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL UPDATES

Srečno novo leto!



Slomšek Slovenian School returned to in-person classes on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Our masked elementary-aged students were greeted at the door with temperature checks, dollops of hand sanitizer, and were seated together with siblings, at separate tables. In an effort to practice extreme caution, the singing portion of our curriculum is currently on hold. Socially distant dancing continues, and focuses on individuals solidifying basic steps. The kids are definitely glad to be back together again, even if it's from a distance.

Due to current restrictions on large gatherings, šola opted to prepare written letters to Sveti Miklavž to let him know he is always in our thoughts and to make him aware that we're all trying our best to make the most of this otherwise challenging year. Special thanks to Martin Puc for creating a video script, and presenting his and Mojca Anaya's Miklavževanje video idea to parents. Mary Ann Vucinic gathered all submitted photos and video clips, editing them into the "Letters to Sv. Miklavž" video. Thanks to Theresa Rozman for converting a few files and distributing the video to the larger S.C.C. community.

Sv. Miklavž surprised us by making an appearance on our video. You can watch this heart-warming presentation at the below link:

<https://app.vidhug.com/ryfjhiKjw/hug>

The kids will be wrapping up the first semester on December 19<sup>th</sup> with an online Christmas craft, where they will be creating čipke (lace) ornaments with instructor Mojca Anaya.





## SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL

While 2020 has presented it's challenges, it has also opened windows of opportunity. Over the summer months, we had a few of inquiries on our Facebook page from people who were interested in taking a beginner's adult Slovenian class online. Up until then, we never really entertained the idea of offering an online class. I reached out to my cousin (an Elementary school teacher just outside of Ljubljana) to ask if she knew of anyone who might be interested in teaching Slovenian online. She put me in touch with a former coworker who had relocated to Canada.

After a few discussions, it became clear this E.S.L. instructor had the perfect background and demeanor to teach our online class. Within 48 hours of posting a three word ad ("Learn Slovenian Virtually") on šola's Facebook page, our email account had received 124 inquiries from people across the globe. We decided to start with 2 online classes for beginner adults, and limited class sizes to a manageable number of 15 students each. And yes, we have a growing waiting list for next year.

Classes started in late November with students from the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Turkey. We'd like to welcome our newest instructor, Emika Asani, as well as all our new students...many of whom are now also members of the S.C.C.

Thank you to all of our volunteer teachers.

### Instructors:

Mojca Anaya

Emika Asani

Sheena Litt

Kristina Ondracek

Andrej Remec

John Vidmar

Stephanie Williams

### Student Aides:

Janez Lockwood

Tinček Lockwood

Sophie Martincic

Hope Ondracek

Adam Petrovic

Sabina Voss

We are so fortunate to have both dedicated instructors and student aides who work towards promoting and sustaining our Slovenian language and culture. The end of this year seems particularly appropriate to recognize all their efforts.

On behalf of all of us at Slomšek Slovenian School, we like to wish you all a very healthy, and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Vucinic

Director - Slomšek Slovenian School







## SMS Marela



**Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marela wishes everyone a happy and prosperous 2021!!**

We are anxious to get back to meeting regularly, fundraising, and traveling. It's been a difficult 10 months but we have managed to meet occasionally, continue to bond, and build our relationships. We took the opportunity to help out at the Slovenian property and even assisted in some jobs at the SCC. We have put all fundraising efforts on hold but are hoping to resume as soon as possible.

Please look for our latest updates in this newsletter, like our Facebook page, Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marela, and follow us on Instagram. We are always looking for new members. If you know of a teenager of Slovenian descent that would like to join us, please contact Nada Petrovic at 630-863-5648.







We hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy! With crossed fingers, we are hoping that everything returns to normal in 2021 and are putting the following dates on our calendar. We need to have some fun!

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Softball, Golf, and Music Festival**

### **June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**

**(We counted this year, even though it was cancelled....)**

**Annual Golf Outing –Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**—Location, cost, and time TBD.Format is a 4-man scramble with winners' names going on the Sports Klub trophy. A scramble format means players of all levels are welcome! Handicaps will be assigned. Cost will include 18 holes of golf with a cart.

Please contact Stan Kastelic to sign up as a team or as an individual, or for more information.[773-505-5448](tel:773-505-5448)

**Annual Bocce Ball Tournaments – Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**- Two-person bocce ball tournament begins at noon. Registration begins at 11:30 am. Contact Stan Kastelic for more information.

**32nd Annual Softball Tournament – June 26<sup>th</sup>&27<sup>th</sup>**— Co-ed Softball Tournament & Music Festival – We're always looking for more players! Even if you don't play, come out to socialize, play bocce ball, enjoy the playground, play volleyball, and take in the beauty of the grounds of St. Mary's. Once again, donations of potato salad, pasta salad, green salad, or finger desserts are appreciated! Simply bring them to the hut anytime Saturday or before noon on Sunday. Thank you in advance! For information on playing, contact Chris Buh or Jake Gregorich ([christopherbuh@gmail.com](mailto:christopherbuh@gmail.com) ; [jakobgregorich@gmail.com](mailto:jakobgregorich@gmail.com)).

**Bonfire and live music – Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** - Join us Saturday night around 8pm for a bonfire and live music.

**Sunday Lunch “On the hill” at noon**—Immediately following the 11am mass at the outdoor grotto. Softball semi-finals and championship games to follow immediately after lunch.

If you would like more information about these events or would like to be added to our email list, please send an email to [sloveniansportsklub@gmail.com](mailto:sloveniansportsklub@gmail.com) or access our Facebook page. Search under Chicago Slovenian Sports Klub.



## Slovenian Catholic Center

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Web: [www.slovenian-center.org](http://www.slovenian-center.org)



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday January 9, 2021.....Baraga Dinner  
Sunday, February 2, 2021 .....St Blase's Day Blessings,  
Slovenian Culture Day / Prešeren Program  
Sunday, February 9, 2021 .....Family Mass, Koline & Wine Contest  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021....Ash Wednesday  
Sunday, March 8, 2021 .....Family Mass, Monthly Dinner  
Friday, March 26, 2021 ..... Making of the 'butarice', 8am  
Sunday, March 28, 2021 .....Palm Sunday Procession  
Thursday, April 1, 2021 .....Holy Thursday / Last Supper  
Friday, April 2, 2021 .....Good Friday  
Saturday, April 3, 2021 .....Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil  
Sunday, April 4, 2021.....Easter Sunday  
Sunday, April 26, 2021.....Annual Meeting & Membership  
Appreciation Dinner  
Sunday, May 10, 2021 .....Family Mass, Mother's Day  
Thursday, May 21, 2021.....Ascension Day  
Sunday, May 23, 2021 .....Pentecost  
Monday, May 31, 2021 .....Memorial Day  
Sunday, June 14, 2021 .....Family Mass, Monthly Dinner Benefits  
the Franciscans & Grounds / 1st Communion Sunday  
Sunday, June 20, 2021 .....Prekmurje Social Club  
.....Father's Day Picnic  
June 26—June 27, 2021.....Sports Club Weekend  
Saturday July 4, 2021 ..... Independence Day  
Sunday, July 12, 2021 ..... Family Mass

Sunday, August 11, 2021 ..... Family Mass, SCC Annual Picnic  
Sunday, August 15, 2021 ..... Assumption of Mary  
Sunday, August 23, 2021 ..... Honey Picnic  
Monday, September 6, 2021..... Labor Day  
Sunday, September 13, 2021 ..... Family Mass, Monthly Dinner  
Sunday, October 11, 2021 ..... Family Mass, Monthly Dinner  
Monday November 1, 2021 ..... All Saints' Day  
Sunday, November 8, 2021 ..... SCC 26th Anniversary  
Thursday, November 25, 2021.....Thanksgiving  
Wednesday December 8, 2021..... Immaculate Conception  
Sunday, December 13, 2021 ..... Family Mass, Sv. Miklavž  
Friday December 24, 2021 ..... Christmas Eve Vigil Mass  
Saturday, December 25, 2021... Christmas Day  
Friday December 31, 2021...New Year's Eve at the SCC