



SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

"NAŠ SLOVENSKI DOM" ESTABLISHED 1995



GLASILO SLOVENSKEGA DOMA IN SKUPNOSTI V LEMONTU!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SCC Family,

It has been a busy and exciting quarter for our Slovenian community! To be sure you don't miss a thing, please check our calendar on the new website: <https://slovenian-center.org/calendar>. Our amazing volunteers put together an incredible lineup of events, including:

- SCC Annual Picnic & \$10,000 Raffle – We raised over \$37,000 for the Dom expenses. Thank you to everyone who supported our largest fundraiser (especially our 100+ volunteers) and all who donated!
- St. Mary's Honey Picnic hosted by the Franciscan Fathers
- 4th Annual Slovenian Grape Harvest Festival in Joliet
- Sports Klub Cubs Game – "The Dom" at the Cubs bleachers!

Thank you to all our volunteers and partner organizations for bringing these events to life!



Looking Ahead

On Sunday, October 19, we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Slovenian Catholic Center and the 100th Anniversary of Ameriške Brezje at the Dom.

Bishop Anton Jamnik of Ljubljana will be the main celebrant for the **10:00 AM Mass** (moved from 11:00 AM). Following Mass, we will have dinner and a program featuring: - **"A Tribute to our Builders"** - Celebration of our 2026 Gospod & Gospodična - Performances by Šola & Marela and Mešani pevski zbor Primorje from Ajdovščina, Slovenia.



This is a very special year as the Dom will honor our Builders' Honor Roll with the Martin Hozian Award of Distinction. In addition to the honorees listed below, we will invite the 60+ volunteers who worked on the building to join us for this celebration.

Builders' Honor Roll Honorees

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Anton Bajuk | Valentin Zupančič |
| • Kazimir Krampač | Kalman Kelenc |
| • Victor Lavriša | Joseph Hozian |
| • Christopher Lavoie | Anton Kaluza |
| • Slavko Vukšinič | August Petek |
| • Louis Zupančič | Martin Hozjan |

Please see the reservation forms in the Newsletter as we expect a full house at the Dom for this wonderful celebration!

Let us celebrate our proud history and look forward to a bright future together.

Key Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, Oct 5** – Slomšek Slovenian School 2025–26 Begins
- **Sunday, Oct 12** – Mission Sunday Mass & Lunch
- **Sunday, Oct 19** – 30th Anniversary & 100th Anniversary of Ameriške Brezje (Mass is at 10:00 AM, not 11:00)
- **Sunday, Oct 26** – Šola Trunk & Treat
- **Friday, Oct 31** – Praznik Pošasti (Festival of Monsters) Halloween Party
- **Friday, Nov 28** – 2026 Center Vision / Planning Session (Young Adult)
- **Friday, Nov 28** – Sports Klub Pub Crawl – Downtown Lemont
- **Sunday, Dec 7** – Sveti Miklavž
- **Sat & Sun, Dec 20–21** – 2025 Festival of Lights

Volunteer With Us!

Have a skill or a few hours to spare? We need you!

- Architecture and design professionals for the Dom Refresh
- Quarterly Newsletter editing
- Dom Philanthropy Officer
- Promotions / Publicity Chair
- FOSM (Friends of St. Mary's) volunteers
- And many other roles

Visit <https://www.slovenian-center.org> and click the Volunteer or just email me at my email below to sign up!

Thank you again for your continued support—and to all the volunteers who make the Dom possible. If you are not yet involved, this is your invitation to join us!

Warm regards,
Anthony (Tony) Vukšinič
President, Slovenian Catholic Center
president@slovenian-center.org





SLOVENSKO VERSKO SREDIŠČE SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION

***** THE MASS WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM, NOT 11:00 AM ON OCTOBER 19, 2025. *****
*** MAŠA BO OB 10:00 ZJUTRAJ NA 19 OKTOBRA ZA STO OBLETNICO AMERIŠKE BREZJE.**



Holy Rosary in October – October is devoted to Mary and to the prayer of the Holy Rosary. The prayer is taking place at St. Mary's every Sunday at 10:30 AM, before the start of Sunday Mass. You are expressly invited to meditation prayer of the rosary in the church and in your home in the month of October.



Mission Sunday, October 12th – Join the celebrations! The proceeds of the dinner at the Center will be for the needs of the Slovenian missionaries. Everybody is kindly invited to bring a plate for a bakery sale.



30 years and 100 years Celebration, October 19th – Bishop Anton Jamnik from Ljubljana will be the main celebrant at the Mass of thanksgiving for 30 years of the Slovenian Catholic Center and 100 years of Ameriške Brezje, Marija Pomagaj, Mary Help of Christians. A choir - 30 members - from Slovenia will join us at the Mass and a program in the Center. Holy Mass will be held in the monastery chapel at 10:00 AM (instead of the usual 11:00). For the dinner reservations are required at the Center.



Advent, November 30 - Any non-perishable food items will be collected during Advent in the church for the Christmas baskets in the local Food Pantry. Personal care items, like shampoo and toilet tissue, and cleaning products like laundry detergent are also accepted.



Christmas, December 24/25th - On Wednesday, Christmas Eve, the church choir will sing Christmas carols at 6:00 PM and the Mass will follow at 6:30. On a Christmas Day Mass will be held at 11:00 AM. An English Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 AM on Christmas Day.



Holy Family Sunday, December 28th – There will be a blessing of children and their families during the 11:00 AM Mass.



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Day – The 11:00 AM Mass will be held in thanksgiving for the past year and in praying for blessings in the New Year



Consular News: General Consul Suzana Češarek is planning to attend the October 19th Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Franciscan presence in Lemont and the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the SCC. We will have consular hours the day before. The remote hardware and software for renewing passports is now available. Please contact the consular office in Cleveland (216-771-7010) to arrange for an appointment



Retreat House News: Thanks to Bullet Proof Plumbing, all the old steel water lines were replaced with copper lines. Water pressure has improved dramatically. They also dug 3 dry wells to absorb the pooling water in the back parking lot. We are almost done refinishing the kitchen cabinets and will be refinishing the doors on the outside bedrooms. We welcome volunteers to help us with the doors. Every weekend is booked from Labor Day into December. We have moved into booking midweek events. Two parish staff days of reflection were held in August, and we are booking more of them for the fall. The Retreat House is also hosting the choir, Primorje, who is performing for the 100th anniversary celebration. Please keep the Festival of Lights in your plans for December. It will start on the second Saturday in December. The Retreat House will again host the trains as well as the hot drinks.

Slovenian Genealogical Society News: The data entry for the Displaced Person Card Index created by the Slovenian Catholic League after WWII is now completed. It will soon be available for people to search for their refugee relatives. The SGSI website is about to publish information on how to access the information. (www.slovenianguenealogy.org) Mike Vidmar (Joliet) or I are available to help advise you on how to research the history of your relatives in the USA. SGSI does a great deal to preserve Slovenian history in the USA.



Bishop Baraga Association News: Baraga Days were held over Labor Day weekend in Houghton, MI at the historic St. Ignatius Church which was built under the pastorate of the Slovenian Monsignor Anton Režek. He was instrumental in the initiation of the Baraga Cause here in Lemont in 1929 at the All-Slovenian Pilgrimage that drew 12,000 people. Baraga Days included a tour of the historically Slovenian Church of Sv. Jožef which was built by Belokrajci in 1902. The BBA is gauging interest in a Tour of Baraga sites in Italy, Slovenia, and Austria next June to join the annual Baraga celebration in Trebnje. If you are interested, contact the BBA office in Marquette (906-227-9117). The BBA is going to move to a regional format for future Bishop Baraga celebrations.



Hope's On The Way: HOTW has shipped over 1,100 buckets of cleaning supplies this year. We have moved the packing operation to a building owned by St. Alphonsus in Lemont but we are still using parts of the monastery garage and the retreat house to store extra supplies. Thanks to all who have helped us either load buckets or load shipping trucks this past year.



Adult Slovenian Language Class: Began on September 8th. Contact Dcn Janez P. Vidmar (jpvidmar@gmail.com) to request a link to the Zoom class. It is held Monday evenings at 7pm. A beginner group will be started this fall.



Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marela

Happy Fall! Marela had an incredibly busy summer filled with activities and performances!

On June 1st, we participated in the inaugural celebration of St. Mary's Franciscan Fathers. We attended the celebratory mass then performed some of our new repertoire for the lunch reception!

In July we hosted our annual Backyard Barbecue and are grateful to our community for the support. The weather turned out to be lovely and we sold out of our luncheon! We moved on to prepare for the annual SCC big picnic on August 10th, where we performed our newest dances in 90-degree heat! We were met with a great crowd and rousing applause. Several members volunteered on Saturday with picnic preparations from grass cutting to assisting in preparing for the luncheon.

No rest for our group as we moved on to the annual Franciscan Fathers Honey Picnic on August 24! Once again, we performed under the pavilion, on a beautiful, sunny day we entertained the crowd and were so happy that Father Metod extended the invitation.

On Sunday, August 31st we participated in our first ever parade! The Lemont Keepataw Day parade has been a tradition in Lemont for over 40 years! This was the first year that the local Slovenian community participated. We entered a beautifully decorated float, we had several SCC and Marela members participating including live music provided by Max Petrovic, Dave Pakiz and Marko Cepon! St. Mary's Franciscan Fathers also had an entry with our beautiful Maria in honor of the 100-year anniversary! We had a great time and cannot wait to do it again!

September 6th we were excited to be invited to the annual Grape Harvest Festival in Joliet, Illinois hosted by the Joliet Historical Museum society. We, along with the Singing Slovenians, from Minnesota, were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd and wonderful applause!

Our upcoming events include a fund-raising luncheon on September 28th where we will serve filane paprika (stuffed peppers), then we will participate in the final 100-year celebration of our church on October 19th, and we will finish off the year with our annual bake sale on December 6th. Please mark your calendars and come out to support our endeavors.

As always, we welcome anyone of Slovenian decent, who may be interested in joining our group, to come check us out. Please contact [Nada Petrovic](#) at [630-863-5648](tel:630-863-5648) or any member of Marela.





MORE FROM MARELA!





We are pleased to announce that this year's recipients of the SCC Service Award of Gospod and Gospodična are Janez Lockwood and Sophia "Sophie" Martinčič.

Janez Lockwood has been active in our SCC community and grounds for his entire life. His involvement began with attending Slovenska šola and continued through becoming an altar server at St. Mary's, serving at SCC events, a founding member of SMS Marela, and a student assistant Slovenska šola. He can still be seen around the SCC helping at events as a head server, serving soup after mass on Sundays, and cleaning the retreat house. Janez has also helped at the St. Joe's parish fish fry alongside his stari ata, Bernard Rozman, for several years. He can be seen volunteering around the center with his mother, Theresa Rozman, brothers, Anton, "Tinč", and Greg Rozman, and cousin, Stephanie Williams. He also has fond memories of attending many SCC events with his late grandparents, Marinka (Markun) and Bernard Rozman, long time SCC members.

Janez graduated from Joliet Central High School in 2022. Since then, he has been working under a fellow Slovenian, Lance Sturges, to make architectural molding and other carpentry projects. He has also spent quality time taking care of his family whilst healing from injury, a severely broken wrist, and is maturing by running errands, cleaning, cooking, and being a fantastic conversationalist. In his spare time, Janez enjoys playing Dungeons & Dragons on a weekly basis and playing video games such as, Fallout, Mass Effect, and Minecraft.

While Janez has not had the opportunity to travel to Slovenia yet, he would love to see the hometown of his stara mama and stari ata and see the historical landmarks, like the castles and the Dragon Bridge. When asked what it means to be Slovenian, Janez stated, "It's been my entire life; ever since I was born. I barely know anything other than this community." This is demonstrated in his compassionate and caring nature. After taking out the garbage after an SCC event, he will ask if there is anything else that needs to be done. He cares deeply about those around him and will offer you the hoodie off his back if you need it. Janez's plan for the future is to keep living life well, bettering himself, and bettering his community.

Sophie Martinčič has been active in the SCC community for years. She is a Slomšek Šola graduate and a former assistant šola teacher, a founding member of SMS Marela, helped prep pigs and lambs for the big picnic, read for mass, helped with gardening around the Dom, and helped set up for several dinners at our Dom. She can often be seen around the SCC with her parents, Paul and Christine Martinčič, and brother, Sam, as they volunteer around the SCC and the grounds as a family. She also has fond memories of attending many SCC events with her late grandparents, Mara and Frank Martinčič, long time SCC members.

Sophie graduated from Downers Grove South High School in 2023 and is currently working on her Associates of Arts degree at College of DuPage. At the College of DuPage, she has been a recipient of the College of DuPage's Board of Trustees Scholars Award scholarship since 2023 and is an honors program student. She is also a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts of America. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, traveling, drawing, painting, writing, photography, and reading. In the future, Sophie wishes to earn her degree, travel to at least two countries, and meet as many interesting people as she can.

When asked what it means to be a part of the Slovenian community Sophie stated, "To me, being in the Slovenian community means being a part of something larger than myself. Like the saying goes, 'The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.' Yes, the community is, quite literally, a group of people and some buildings, but it is also so much more than that. There is deep heritage, both locally and internationally. While we are connected to the country of Slovenia and its national history, we are also connected to the history of Eastern European immigrants in the Chicago area and their struggle. I find the intersection of these two identities deeply fascinating, and very humbling to be a part of. Although my Slovenian American past plays a part in forming my community identity, the present plays an equal, if not larger role. While I see many of my American peers struggle with finding "their group," I am at ease knowing that I can always find a home in Lemont. Some of my closest friends have come from dancing in Marela. I've gained many valuable life skills from volunteering at the Center. I treasure the relationships I have with older community members. The grounds themselves hold so much meaning in my heart. To put it succinctly, there's no place else I'd rather be than spending time with my Slovenian family."

These thoughts were further cemented on her recent trip to Slovenia where she saw many different parts of the country from mountains to farms, to caves, to the Adriatic coast, to modern suburbs, and to Ljubljana; it was all so beautiful. "Small towns were tucked away on top of mountains and hidden in valleys; it was so enchanting. The people were very pleasant, as well, both relatives and strangers. I would say that my favorite memory, or rather set of memories, was eating at the gostilnas. Being able to enjoy a hot meal on top of a mountain after long or short hike was delightful. My favorite things to eat were definitely čevpčiči, but I savored every meal that came my way".

We would like to thank our outgoing Gospod and Gospodična, Adam Petrovič and Moira Claridge, for their continued volunteer work over the past year.



Slovenian Sports Klub Nation!



The Slovenian Sports Klub hopes that you were able to attend at least one of our fun events in the 2nd quarter of 2025. Thanks to everyone who participated or just came out to socialize!

**SSK GOLF**

Annual Golf & Softball Tournaments and Music Festival – June 27-29

Sponsored by The Otter Limits live band

What a terrific turnout for our SSK America's Cup 2025 golf scramble that was held on 6/28/25 at Stony Creek Golf Club in Oak Lawn, IL. We had 14 teams (56 players). The four new "Young Guns" (friends of Mike Breszach) from Lemont High School took the championship this year. After tying the defending champs, they were able to pull off the upset with a 10-foot putt on the first hole of sudden death. Both teams had originally turned in scorecards of 11 under par! Congratulations to Jake Slater, Jimmy Rostis, Aidan Leonard, and Jack Noetzel. A big thank you to Olga Voss and Stan Kastelic for running this event!



Eight teams battled it out in our annual softball tournament, with Team Joe Nasti (Ed Jozwik and Grace Puc lead the charge) clinching the championship in an exhilarating final showdown against Team Madisyn (Vuksinic) Dederichs!

2025 1st place softball champions – Team Joe Nasti



2025 2nd place softball team – Team Madisyn Dederichs



Our heartfelt thanks to the incredible kitchen volunteers and everyone who brought delicious homemade salads and desserts! Yum!



For the first time ever, we held balina (bocce ball) instruction for kids on 6/29/25. Although it was a small group, they were enthusiastic learners and the instruction provided by Alex Sutton was the start of a lifelong tradition for these kids! Thank you, Alex! The little ones also enjoyed a slip-n-slide and lots of ice cream and freeze pops!



One of the highlights of our softball weekend is always Saturday night's epic party where a blazing bonfire, incredible live music, and non-stop dancing converge! The Otter Limits band absolutely killed it, keeping the dance floor packed all night long! A big thank you to Peter Buh and his band for sponsoring our softball weekend.

Some of our other past events this year were:

Annual Slovenian Canadian/American Softball Tournament at the Slovensko Letovišče in Canada. We had a group of 25 people from Chicago attend, including some Marela dance group members! We had 12 players in their tournament, danced the nights away to two live bands, played volleyball, visited with our Canadian Slovenian friends, had bonfires, ate a delicious homemade meal of wiener schnitzel, and created many more memories!

Slovenian Catholic Center Picnic, August 10th. The SSK ran a bags tournament, provided kitchen and bar workers, donated money toward the big bouncy slides for the kids, and purchased a tent canopy so the roasting pigs and lambs wouldn't get wet in case of rain.

SSK at the Chicago Cubs game - We hope you were able to join us for our outing to watch the Chicago Cubs on September 13th! A big group had fun in Wrigleyville and we're hoping to make this an annual event. Thanks to Laura (Remec) Atherton for organizing!

Sports Klub upcoming events include:

Annual Pub Crawl in Lemont - Friday, Nov. 28th. Contact Mike Breszach for details at 630-243-0507.

Football for adults & kids - Saturday, November 29th. "Up on the hill" in Lemont. Other details to come.

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 or access our Facebook page. Search under Chicago Slovenian Sports Klub.

Article written by Jeanie Gregorich



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 2025

The Slovenian Catholic Mission & the Slovenian Catholic Center will be hosting a joint anniversary celebration on Sunday, Oct. 19th.

Please join us as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the SCM and the 30th Anniversary of the SCC.

The donation for the luncheon is:

\$40 for adults 19 years and older

\$15 for students ages 11 – 18

All children ages 10 and under are free.

Reservations are due at the Center by Sunday, October 12th.

Reservations — Anniversary Celebration 2025

Reservation Contact Name:

Contact phone #:

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

METHOD

OF PAYMENT:

CASH: \$ _____

CHECK: # _____ Amount: \$ _____

CREDIT CARD: # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Credit Card 3 Digit Code: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____

Please indicate with whom you would like to be seated. We will do our best to accommodate the request provided all parties have a paid reservation by the due date. We are unable to guarantee seating preferences for reservations made after the due date.



Slomškova Slovenska šola

During the SCC annual picnic this past August, the Slovenian School craft was inspired by the 100-year anniversary of the crowning of Marija Pomagaj in Lemont, IL. Children of all ages visited the šola tent to take part in creative activities that honored this special milestone. From bedazzling ornaments of Marija Pomagaj to designing their own Ljubljanski zmaj/dragon, the tent was filled with joy, color, and cultural pride. It was a beautiful way to connect with heritage and celebrate a century of devotion. Our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who helped bring this craft to life for many children: Gabriela Anaya, Maja Magajne, Teya Magajne, Sofia Magajne, and Alenka Rus!

As we begin this new school year, we're especially proud to celebrate a meaningful milestone of our own... 30 years of children attending Slomšek Slovenian School. This anniversary marks three decades of cultural learning, community connection, and special memories. We invite all families to join us - whether able to attend weekly or once a month - all children are welcome!

Classes Begin: Sunday, October 5, 2025

Location: St. Mary's Monastery, 2nd Floor

Class Schedule:

Srčki Class (Ages 2-6): 9:15 - 10:15 AM

School-Age Classes: 9:00 - 10:45 AM

Upcoming... come watch our students perform in the Slomšek Slovenian School Mid-Year Show before the arrival of Sveti Miklavž on Sunday, December 7th. The performance and Sv. Miklavž presentation will take place after the Sunday luncheon.

For any questions regarding Slomšek Slovenian School or to learn more about volunteering opportunities, please contact Mojca Anaya, 847-207-0963 or email slovenianschool@gmail.com.

**Slomšek
Slovenian School**





SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

Please complete one form per family.



FAMILY INFORMATION			
Mother's Name			
Father's Name			
Street Address:			
City:		State	Zip Code
Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell (Mother) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cell (Father) _____ (Checkmark if permissible to disclose in group SMS)		
Email Address:	<input type="checkbox"/> (Mother) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> (Father) _____ (Checkmark if permissible to disclose in group email)		
STUDENT INFORMATION			
Student Name (Last, First):			
Will Student receive any of the following sacraments this year? <input type="checkbox"/> Communion <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation	Does Student play any instruments?	Date of Birth:	2025-26 School Grade:
Allergies/Medical Conditions/concerns:			
STUDENT INFORMATION			
Student Name (Last, First):			
Will Student receive any of the following sacraments this year? <input type="checkbox"/> Communion <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation	Does Student play any instruments?	Date of Birth:	2025-26 School Grade:
Allergies/Medical Conditions/concerns:			
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (In case of emergency and parents cannot be reached.)			
Emergency Contact Name:	Relationship to Student:		
Emergency Contact Phone #s: <input type="checkbox"/> Home _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cell _____			
2025/2026 REGISTRATION INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CHECK HERE IF S.C.C. MEMBER			
	S.C.C. Member Rate	Non Member Rate	
Preschool "Srčki" 9:15 - 10:15 am	\$40 per Semester \$75 Yearly **	\$75 per Semester \$125 Yearly **	
Children (grade school) 9:00 - 10:45 am	\$75/Semester \$125 Yearly **	\$150 per Semester \$225 Yearly **	
**Yearly rate to be paid at the beginning of the school year Above fees are listed per student. Tuition is limited to a maximum charge of 3 students per family. <i>Confidential financial assistance is available.</i>			
Method of Payment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____		Total Fee Due:
Credit Card #:			Expiration Date:
Billing Zip Code:			Credit Card CVV #:

Checks payable to: Slovenian Catholic Center

Registration forms may be submitted to the Sloimšek Slovenian School via:

- Email at (SlovenianSchool@gmail.com),
- the comment box or main office at the Slovenian Catholic Center, or
- by mail to Sloimšek Slovenian School c/o Slovenian Catholic Center P.O. Box 634 Lemont, IL 60439

Slomšek Slovenian School presents...

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 26 at 1 pm

Slovenian Catholic Center
14252 Main St., Lemont, IL

Everyone invited to decorate a trunk & share treats

11 am mass
Blessing of children
in costumes

**Fellowship
Luncheon**
following mass

1 pm
Trunk or Treat
SCC south parking lot
(Indoors if bad weather)

**Costume
contest & parade**

Outdoor Games
gaga ball • mummy wrap
9 squares • chess • and more...



Sveti Miklavž (St. Nicholas) is on his way!!

All families, children, grandchildren, and friends are warmly invited to join us for our beloved Slovenian tradition following the fellowship luncheon and a short Slomšek Slovenian School performance on December 7. For those who come prepared - Sveti Miklavž may call your name to present you with a special gift. The angels will be there to protect the deserving while the devils may gently tease those who've been a bit naughty. There's still time to make sure you're not on the naughty list!

If interested in participating as an angel or devil, or have questions about gift giving, reach out to Mojca Anaya, 847-207-0963 or email slovenianschool@gmail.com.





Community Family Feature - A Trip to Slovenia

In recognition of our Slovenian heritage, a group of 14 of Ignac and Gizella Hozian's descendants, traveled to Slovenia in June. Not only was it an opportunity for a mini family reunion with our cousins, but we were also able to re-connect with the family of Ivan and Zuzana Hozjan who hosted us in their lovely home in Trnje. For most of the group, it was their first visit. Three of us had not been back for decades, while one cousin has visited several times over the years.

A highlight of our visit to Trnje was coffee, traditional cakes and various flavors of schnapps, at the Hozjan's home which was next door to our grandfather Ignac's childhood home. We then had a delicious, multi-course lunch at a restaurant by the Mura River, with all the Slovenian treats we don't find back home, including Kranjska and cevapcici sausage and prazen krompir. We visited the beautiful St. Anthony of Padua church in Gornja Bistrica, which our grandparents worked tirelessly to raise funds to build. Another highlight was locating our great grandmother, Marija Rebrica's, nearby gravesite complete with her photo.

After our stay in Crensovci, our itinerary took us to Ljubljana, touring the Old Town, Castle and St. Nicholas Cathedral, then on to Lake Bled, Vintgar Gorge in Triglav National Park, and Lake Bohinj. Our final visit in Slovenia was to Predjama Castle and the famous Postojna Caves. We were all impressed with the spectacular Slovenian scenery, warm and hospitable people, and delicious food and were feeling so proud of our family's history there. It was a wonderful experience for all of us!

Throughout the trip, we paid homage to the remembrance of Anton Slomsek. Gizella was devoted to the effort to make Slomsek the first Slovenian to be beatified. We are all blessed by everything she did and gave to us and so many others.

By: Diane Lobel
Granddaughter of Gizella Hozian





2025 Annual "Big Picnic" Donation List

Huge thanks to everyone that was able to contribute to such an amazing event, could not have done it without you all!

Branka Poplonski
Bulletproof Plumbing, Brian and Tina Ruda
Crystal Grand Banquets
EDE Corp, Zvonka and Franc Tivadar
Enzo's Pizza, Nick Fortino
Fork & Spoon Café (Lemont)
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
Greg & Lynda Remec
Ignotz, Roger and Joan Wroblewski
Kristin Louapre
KSKJ Joliet
La Dolce Vita
Laura Remec Atherton
Lillian Cepon
Loncar Law, Ltd. - Robert Loncar
Mah Machine, Hozjan Family
Margie Cepon
Maria Stariha
Marko & Kristina Cepon
Martin Novak
Max & Nada Petrovic
Milan's Machine, Pecharich Family
Miriam Stariha
Nandi (Marcic) Loftus
Olga Voss
Prekmurje Social Club
Reza Rozman
SCC
Slavko & Slavica Sovan
Slovenian Union of America
Sonja Lavrisa
Sports Klub
Stan and Ivanka Markun
Stephanie Williams
Tony Vuksinic
Victoria Koren
Wanda & Ed Jozwik



Adding Life & Beauty ADOPT A PLOT Through Gardening!



SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

S E R V I N G O P P O R T U N I T Y

If you have a servant's heart and a willing spirit – please join our team to build and care for our community through God's creation.

- * Adopt a specific plot for maintenance – you choose the time weekly.
- * Share a plot with a sibling, friend, or your kids/grandkids, etc.
 - Slovenian Catholic Center, Retreat House, Grotto, Rosary Valley
 - Plots will be designated around the Slovenian Lemont property for volunteers to “take on” ownership of maintenance with weeding, trimming, watering, and clean-up as needed, about 1 hour a week per area.
- * **WATER BRIGADE** – Memorial Day to Labor Day
Come **ONCE** a week to water new plantings and potted plants.

Join our team – contact Olga Kastelic Voss for more info
630-660-8086 o_voss@msn.com

**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. 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

☐ Family Membership - \$100

Total donation: \$ _____

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



SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER
P.O. BOX 634
14252 MAIN ST.
LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60439
PHONE: (630)243-0670
EMAIL: SECRETARY@SLOVENIAN-CENTER.ORG
WEB:WWW.SLOVENIAN-CENTER.ORG



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sun, Oct 5.....Slomšek Slovenian School 2025-26 school year begins
- Sun, Oct 12.....Mission Sunday Mass & Lunch
- Sun, Oct 19.....***NEW DATE!*** SCC 30th Anniversary & 100 Year “Ameriske Brezje”
Celebration Mass & Dinner
- Sun, Oct 26.....Trunk or Treat
- Fri, Oct 31.....Praznik Pošasti (Festival of Monsters) Halloween Party
- Sun, Dec 7.....Svevti Miklavž/St. Nicholas Presentation
- Sun Dec 7.....SMS Marela Annual Bake Sale
- Sat & Sun, Dec 20th & 21st 2025.....Festival of Lights
- Thurs, Dec 25.....Christmas – CENTER CLOSED
- Wed, Dec 31.....New Year’s Eve
- Sun, Jan 11thWinter Olympics