



# SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

"NAŠ SLOVENSKI DOM" ESTABLISHED 1995



## GLASILO SLOVENSKEGA DOMA IN SKUPNOSTI V LEMONTU!

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I cannot believe how fast time is moving. We were just coming out of summer when our last newsletter came out and now, we are turning the corner on 2024 and entering 2025! Wow!

The Center had a wonderful 4th Quarter celebrating the Center's 29th anniversary with the theme for this year's celebration being Skupnosti, which means, "Our Community". This theme was a great reminder that we need to foster and grow our community and fellowship not only for this generation but also for the next and need to continue to look for opportunities to serve our community for many years to come.

We also were excited to introduce the Martin Hozjan Award of Distinction which honors a tribute to Martin designed to embody the very essence of what it means to serve our community.

It was wonderful to honor Dana Blase and Nandi Puc as our first recipients of this award and look forward recognizing many other members as we look to continue to recognize service to our community. Our next award recipients will be announced at Koline with the presentations at the Annual Appreciation Dinner in the spring. I cannot wait to hear who we will acknowledge next! I love these stories of service to our Slovenian community and really enjoy recognizing our members and their families for their support.



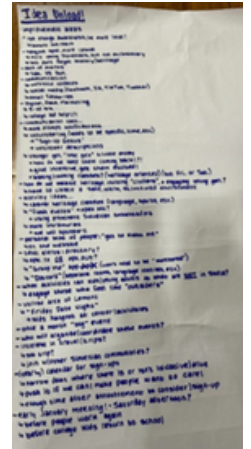
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I mentioned in the last Newsletter that we wanted to hold a SCC Vision Session targeted at our young adult community. Well, we did and ended up having over 40 people participate in our first session over Thanksgiving weekend (I found out offering free beer and kranjske klobase really does work!).

The engagement that we had was fantastic, with ideas ranged across many areas (the specifics below are just a few examples):

- Better Communications around events through social media and online tools (e.g. GroupMe, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook (Tis for old people!) and Sign-up Genie for volunteering)
- Planned Calendar of Events / recurring events for the year, include in an online schedule that can be linked (e.g., Google Calendar)
- Activities / Class Ideas (e.g., Baking / Cooking Classes, Polka / Walz Classes, Open Gyms)
- First Friday events at the Center (e.g., Karaoke, Trivia, Kraft Cocktail, Date Night)
- Event Ideas (e.g., Ski Trip, Cubs Game, Slovenia / Triglav Trip)
- Teams & SCC Sponsorship (e.g., Softball, Volleyball, Intramurals, etc.)
- Dances (e.g., Vinska Trgatev/Wine Festival, New Years Eve, Maškarada)
- Community outreach & activities with the town of Lemont



In addition to the above, there were a few themes that really resonated with me which included:

- Building a stronger and more welcoming and comfortable environment at the Center.
- Building stronger relationships through interactions. Look for ways to mix this group together (e.g., Have them sit together at events at the Center, everyone already knows their own families!) to build relationships with each other.
- Wanting a place to just hang out and have fellowship. (I think that we focus on programming all our kids' time and they just want to hang out and relax in a safe low-pressure place that is fun.)
- We need ideas around getting kids involved at the Center that cannot attend sola due to conflicts (e.g., sports, arts, etc.). This causes kids to be on the outside looking in from a very young age.



I was really impressed by how thoughtful and genuine everyone was for the session. This group really cares about our Slovenian community and wants it to thrive and be a safe haven now and into the future for their families. This is very exciting!

I welcome everyone to come to our next Session on Friday, January 10th, at 6:30 PM and we will be focusing on prioritizing and planning around getting these ideas into action. Even if you are not a "Young Adult" please join us. It is great to hear what is important from our younger generation so that we can better align and plan to help make our Center a better place for our community.

A GroupMe Messaging App has already been setup coming out of the session so if you are a Young Adult and want to get connected with updates, please just scan the QR code below to get connected!

Thanks again for everyone that helped with the sessions and look forward to finishing 2024 strong and wish you all the absolute best in 2025!

Srečno novo leto!  
Tony Vuksinic  
SCC President  
[anthony.vuksinic@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.vuksinic@gmail.com)







# **SLOVENSKO VERSKO SREDIŠČE** **SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION**

- **800 years anniversary.** In the year 1224 two years before his death, St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscans, received stigmata – Jesus Christ's wounds (a picture of that event is on the ceiling in our chapel). In the year 1225 he wrote a beautiful song, "The Canticle of the Sun". In Brezje, Slovenia, they published a calendar for the year 2025 with this song in the Slovenian language, and motifs from Assisi and other meaningful places for St. Francis, his followers, and their friends. SVS is giving a Koledar as a Christmas gift for the whole new year to everybody in the community. This calendar is available in the back of the church. Have a Blessed New Year!
- **Blessing of candles & throats** – On Sunday, February 2nd there will be a blessing of candles (which are usually blessed at the feast day of the Presentation of the Lord – February 2nd) and the blessing of the throats (St. Blase's blessing, Feb. 3rd) during the 11:00 AM Mass.
- **Lent** – starts with Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Holy Mass with the distributing of the ashes will be held at 11:00 AM. Every Sunday there will be devotions of the Stations of the Cross at 1:30 in the afternoon. Imperishable food will be collected in the church for the local Food Pantry.
- **Saturday, April 12th** - making of the 'butarice' in the Center. Please, come and help! All proceeds from the sale of them will go to Slovenian Missionaries.
- **Palm Sunday** – April 13th – 11:00 AM – Blessing of the 'butarice' and other greenery will be in front of the Center. The procession to the church will follow. During the mass the solemn reading of Jesus' passion according to Matthew will be read.
- **Holy Thursday** – April 17th – Holy Mass in memory of Jesus' last supper at 7:00 PM. After the Mass, there will be a holy hour with Jesus in the 'jail'.
- **Good Friday** – April 18th – At 7:00 PM there will be a liturgy of the Lord's Passion.
- **Holy Saturday**-Vigil of Easter – April 19th – at 2:00PM blessing of the food (which traditionally entails bread-meat; colored eggs, horse radish, and 'potica'-walnut cake). At 7:00 PM there will be a solemn liturgy of the day followed by a gathering in the Center.
- **Easter – April 20th** – 11:00 AM: solemn Mass of Easter Sunday – Jesus' resurrection.





## ***The Canticle of the Sun. (St. Francis of Assisi)***

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessings.*

*To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;  
especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us light.*

*And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,  
and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night;  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and governs us and who produces  
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,  
through those who give pardon for Your love,  
and bear infirmity and tribulation.*

*Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,  
through our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no living man can escape.*

*Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.*

*Praise and bless my Lord,  
and give Him thanks,  
and serve Him with great humility.  
Amen.*



**Consulate:**

I have submitted my resignation as honorary consul for Chicago. A person has been nominated for this position. I have agreed to stay on until a new person is confirmed. There has been a significant change in the Slovenian citizenship process. The requirement to demonstrate membership in a Slovenian American organization for at least five years has been modified. It is now necessary to submit proof of active membership. Similarly, it is necessary to demonstrate active contact with Slovenia. This can be done through visitation, letter writing and social media for example. The Consulate staff in Cleveland has been helpful in clarifying these issues.

**Retreat House:**

2024 witnessed a record number of retreatants. It is over 1,700 people. Thanks to all who volunteered time to clean, landscape, or help with projects in the Retreat House. That includes the FOSM volunteers who also clean the area around the outside of the Retreat House.



Slovenian Genealogy  
Society International, Inc.

**Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc:**

SGSI has a branch here in Lemont. Mike Vidmar and I have been helpful in helping people identify their roots. SGSI continues to data enter the immigration cards created by the Slovenian Catholic League after WWII. These cards contain the names of the immigrants and their family members, where they were born, where they were coming from in European internment, and where they were heading in the USA. They welcome additional volunteers to help them complete this project. You need a computer and internet access. You can do this from home.

**Bishop Baraga Association:**

Two new books will be published shortly that are translations from Slovenian. The first is the translation of Baraga's book, *Nebeshke Rozhe*, Heavenly Flowers, which he wrote in America in 1846 for Slovenians back home. The Slovenian title is not an Anglicization. That is how the Slovenian title appeared in 1846.

The second book is one of the most important biographies written on Baraga by the Slovenian priest, Dr. Franc Jaklič. He wrote the first edition in Ljubljana in 1931. He emigrated to Argentina after WWII and then in the 1950s at the request of Škof Rožman, he moved to Marquette, MI, to work at the Bishop Baraga Association. He revised his 1931 work in 1951 and that is the edition that we had translated into English this past year. It includes detail about his life in Slovenia and letters home to Slovenia that are not found in English biographies of Baraga.

**Bishop Baraga Days** will be held in Houghton, MI, over Labor Day weekend, Friday, August 29th, and Saturday, August 30th, at St. Ignatius church. This was the church where Monsignor Anton Režek was pastor for over 40 years. The sanctuary candle was made in Ljubljana. The Slovenian missionaries Fr. Ivan Čebul and Fr. Andrej Andolšek, both, served in the area as well. St. Joseph Slovenian Church is in Calumet, MI, just a few miles to the north. Bishops Mrak and Vrtin, both, had relatives in this area. I would like to organize a bus to go to Baraga Days. Družina is trying to organize a bus of pilgrims from Slovenia that would join us. If you are interested, contact me as soon as possible.



**Congratulations to our inaugural recipients of the SCC Service Award Gospodična Moira Claridge and Gospod Adam Petrovič! We look forward to seeing you both in our Slovenian community for years to come.**

We are now accepting applicants for the 2025 SCC Service Award. Eligibility requirements are as follows: Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 30 by July 1 of the current year, must be high school graduates, must be active in the Slovenian community, specifically the Slovenian Catholic Center community, and must be a member of the Slovenian Catholic Center.

Duties and participation expectations of the Gospodična / Gospod / Gospa include:

Attend the SCC Anniversary Mass and luncheon in the year of recognition and the year following recognition.

Be an active member in the Slovenian Catholic Center Community.

Attend and participate in events that include Slovenian dignitaries. Advance notice will be provided.

In your application, please provide the following information:

- Name, birthday, and male/female
- List any education with current status, and name of institution (high school, college with majors and minors, trade school, certifications, etc.)
- List any other significant things about your education (scholarships, achievements, conferences, etc.)
- List any organizations (sports, clubs, religious, service, and professional) that you participated in with dates and any noteworthy competitions, leadership roles, and other achievements.
- List all volunteer and service work at the Slovenian Catholic Center, Bargara St. Mary's Retreat House, and/or Blessed Anton Martin Slomsek Slovenian Catholic Mission.
- List all Slovenian associations and include dates of active participation and volunteer work (KSKJ, SNPJ, Slovenian Union of America, etc.)
- List any family members involved in the Slovenian community and any of their contributions.
- What does it mean to be part of the Slovenian community to you and how does it impact your life?
- Goals for the next 10 years
- Any hobbies and interests you enjoy doing regularly
- Would you be willing to attend SCC events (such as Koline, Annual Membership luncheon, SCC Picnic, SCC Anniversary, etc.) in the current and following year?

Applications are due by June 15 to [secretary@slovenian-center.org](mailto:secretary@slovenian-center.org) with the subject line SCC Service Award or dropped off at the SCC.

Selection process for Gospodična / Gospod / Gospa:

- Applications are due by June 15.
- All submitted applications are reviewed to ensure that applicants meet the eligibility requirements.
- The Young Adult Service Recognition committee reviews all eligible applicants and nominates the top applicants for Gospodična / Gospod / Gospa to the SCC General Board.
- The SCC General Board votes and determines the Gospodična / Gospod / Gospa for the coming year. Up to 2 applicants, 1 of each gender, can be selected each year. This is based on the applications received each year.
- The selected candidates will be notified after the SCC General Board votes to have pictures taken and to provide further information about the rest of the process.
- The Gospodična / Gospod / Gospa will be announced at the SCC picnic on the second Sunday in August.
- The Gospodična / Gospod / Gospa will be honored at the SCC Anniversary celebration on the second Sunday in November.





## SMS MARELA (SLOVENSKA MLADINSKA SKUPINA MARELA)

### Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marela

After months of preparations, SMS Marela traveled to Toronto, Ontario and participated in one of the most memorable weekends yet. We joined 6 other folklore groups from Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Cleveland, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Mladi Glas Planika Folklore Group. There were over 230 dancers of all ages in attendance. Each group performed two 15-minute performances in front of an audience of 1300 attendees.

The most memorable moment, not only for Marela, but for each group, was when Ansambel Saso Avsenik performed one love song to accompany a dance for each group. Marela chose Po Nevesto which received a resounding response. After the performances and honors were bestowed, the evening continued with dancing and fun with music from Ansambel Saso Avsenik and Murski Val. This event was a sure hit with the performers. Many new bonds were formed. Saso Avsenik was overwhelmed with the dedication and talent of Slovenian youth abroad.

The next day group visited Slovensko Letovisce in Bolton, Ontario to continue strengthening their Slovenian roots and building intercontinental connections. We cannot wait for the next experience like this!

On November 10th Marela performed for the 29th Annual SCC Anniversary event. Two of our members were honored this year. Moira Claridge was Gospodicna Dne, and Adam Petrovic was the inaugural Gospod Dne! Congratulations to Moira and Adam on their dedication to the Slovenian culture. After a beautiful Mass and a delicious luncheon, the group performed 4 new dances. Some of the team also helped to serve the event! Overall, it was a lovely day!

Our annual bake sale will be held December 8th in the foyer of the SCC! This a fund-raising event for our group. Each member bakes all the goodies we sell! We hope to see you there!

Marela is taking a break from regular meets due to the strenuous schedule of the past few months. We are planning some fun activities for the upcoming year! Stay tuned to the email blasts and newsletter for more details!

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 or any member of Marela!

On behalf of SMS Marela, we wish you Blagoslovljene Bozicne Praznike in Srečno Novo Leto 2025!







## Slomškova Slovenska šola

Hard to believe the first half of the Slomšek Slovenian School year is coming to a close. Grade Schoolers have been learning words and conjugating sentences related to FOOD. They have also spent time singing and dancing while preparing for various performances. Our Srčki (ages 2-6) have been practicing their colors and crafting various animals.

In September, students participated in a Slovenian Obstacle course. Each station represented a different place, tradition, or activity that exists in Slovenia. Students scrambled up a "kozolec" to dry grass, climbed "Triglav", kept their balance while walking across "Tromostovje", slithered through "Postojnska Jama" trying to avoid getting scraped by stalagmites/stalagmites, and much more.

Our school hosted a Trunk or Treat in October for the Slovenian community. The warm, sunny day brought out many uniquely decorated trunks and costumes. And what fun activities many trunks set up... skee ball, shooting storm troopers, miniature golf to name a few. Not surprising there were smiles all around. Congratulations to the costume winners, Teja Ulrich & Gabriela Anaya, and the Trunk Decoration winner, the Hozjan family and their Star Wars theme!!

Showcasing their hard work... Students participated in the SCC Anniversary celebration during mass and after lunch in November.

And now in December, the school presented a Christmas program before we began the celebration of Miklavževanje (St. Nicholas Day). Under the direction of Maja Magajne, our srčki surprised the audience when their clock came alive during their "Tika Taka Čas Ne Čaka/Tick Tock Time Does Not Wait" dance. And not to be outshined, under the direction of Martin Puc, our grade schoolers also surprised the audience when a person popped out of a gift in their play "Preparation for Christmas". The afternoon concluded with a special visit from Sveti Miklavž and his angels and devils. Children behaved very well in 2024... all received presents from Sveti Miklavž while the devils walked away with none :)

Our second semester will begin Sunday, January 12, 2025 and we welcome any new children/students who would like to make long-lasting friendships while learning the Slovenian language and its culture. Classes meet Sunday morning St. Mary's Monastery on the 2nd floor. Srčki class meets 9:15 – 10:15 am (ages 2-6). School age classes meet 9:00 – 10:45 am.

For more information or any interest in volunteering, contact Mojca Anaya, 847-207-0963 or email [slovenianschool@gmail.com](mailto:slovenianschool@gmail.com).





## Sveti Miklavž graced us with his presence!







## Sports Klub Nation!

One of our great Sports Klub Traditions that we have is the Annual Lemont Pub Crawl which was held on Friday, November 29th. Its great having everyone in-town from school to enjoy getting caught up and a night of fun festivities! Downtown Lemont was electric with all their outdoor Christmas lights blazing and its awfully nice of them to decorate for our event every Year!!!! Nice job by Mike Breszach in organizing the event that started at Matts Barbeque, Hugie McLafferty's and finished at Bottles where live music was provided by The Burjek Collective. See the pictures below...



Also, please Save the following dates for our next events at the Center. More information on times will come out shortly...

- Saturday, January 18th - Tarok Tournament
- Saturday, February 15th - Texas Holdem Tournament
- Saturday, March 22nd - Trivia Night

Finally, we had great turnout for the Center Vision Session which focused on our Young Adults. One of the outputs was putting together a GroupMe Young adult group for folks from High School through Young Adulthood to help facilitate communications around events, volunteering and fellowship opportunities. If you are interested in joining, just scan the below bar code and join.



Look forward to seeing you at our next events!!!  
Sports Klub



**KOLINE ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2025**

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our annual KOLINE on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th!

The donation for the luncheon is:  
**\$40 for adult members 19 years and older**  
**\$15 for students ages 11 – 18**  
**Children ages 10 and under are free**



Reservations are due at the Center by Sunday, February 2nd.

**Reservations — KOLINE 2025**

Reservation Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>First/Last Name</u>	<u>ADULT 19 years +</u> \$40	<u>STUDENT(S) Ages 11-18</u> \$15	<u>CHILDREN Under 10</u> FREE
1				
2				
3				
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5				
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8				
9				
10				
	<b>TOTALS</b>			

**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*

We strive to make all of your events enjoyable and kindly ask that when making a reservation for any of our “reservations required” events, all reservations correspondence be made to the Center. This enables our reservationists to more efficiently complete the seating arrangements and communications with our caterers. Please direct all e-mails, texts, or phone calls to the Center. If you have a question or need to change a reservation, we kindly ask you to e-mail us at [secretary@slovenian-center.org](mailto:secretary@slovenian-center.org) or call us at 630.243.0670.



**FRIENDS OF  
ST. MARY'S**

**FOSM   P.O. Box 634   14252 Main Street   Lemont, IL 60439**

FOSM dates weather permitting. 8am-noonish  
Meet at Rosary Valley

1/11

\* Bring your rakes, pruners, gloves etc.

We love our volunteers but welcome more.

Anyone interested in joining FOSM alerts, please send info to be added to the distribution list.

Name, email, cell phone to Joe Vidmar. [volunteer@friendsofstmarys.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofstmarys.org)

### **PUT YOUR SKILLS TO WORK, VOLUNTEER WITH US**

*Deuteronomy 15:10. Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*



We need your support!! Calling on all young members of our Slovenian community to step up and come in and offer your skills in publishing our quarterly newsletter. If you have a flare and passion for design, we need you! Open placement for page design & layout of newsletter as well as editor.

If interested, please reach out to Tony Vuk at [anthony.vuksinic@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.vuksinic@gmail.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](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

☐ 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

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WEB:WWW.SLOVENIAN-CENTER.ORG



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday Jan 12, 2025..... Slomšek Slovenian School resumes 2nd semester

Saturday Jan 18, 2025.....TarokTournament-SCC

Saturday Feb 15, 2025 .....Texas Hold'em sponsored by Slovenian Sports Club

Thursday Feb 6 - Saturday Feb 8, 2025 ..... Koline Prep

Sunday, Feb 9, 2025..... Koline Dinner

Wednesday Mar 5, 2025..... Ash Wednesday

Friday Mar 14, 2025..... Fish Fry

Saturday, Mar 22, 2025 ..... Trivia Night sponsored by Slovenian Sports Club at 5:30pm

Saturday, April 12, 2025..... Butarice Making

Sunday, April 13, 2025..... Palm Sunday Brunch