SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

"NAŠ SLOVENSKI DOM" ESTABLISHED 1995

GLASILO SLOVENSKEGA DOMA IN SKUPNOSTI V LEMONTU!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SCC Family,

I hope you had a chance to attend one of our events this past quarter. Our team of volunteers worked hard to put together an incredible lineup, including:

- Palm Sunday Luncheon – Thank you to all our sponsors and everyone who joined!
- Appreciation/Annual Meeting & Town Hall
  - Congratulations to the Award of Distinction Honorees: Stane Markun Sr. & John Zerdin
- We launched our Charitable Giving Programs for the Dom – "Do well professionally so that you can do good!" – Smart Charitable Giving Options to support our Dom. Thank you to our Volunteer Philanthropy Officer, Ed Burjek, for leading this effort!
- First Annual Dom Spring Cleaning Event!
- St. Stephen's KSKJ Lodge #1 Blood Drive
- End-of-Year Performance by Šola
- Father's Day Picnic hosted by Prekmurje Social Klub
- Sports Weekend of golf, softball, and a music extravaganza hosted by the Sports Klub

Special shout out to Olga Voss and all those who helped out with our First Annual Dom Spring Cleaning, which included power washing the Dom, mulching, gardening, cleaning the windows, library, office, and storage areas, as well as organizing and painting. What a great turnout and impact for our community!

Thank you to all our volunteers and organizations for your hard work in bringing these events to life!

SCC OFFICE HOURS – SUNDAYS FROM 1 – 3 P.M. OR BY APPOINTMENT

CENTER HOURS ON REGULAR SUNDAYS – OPEN UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

Looking Ahead

Beyond these recent events, we are actively planning for the future. Some key updates:

- New Board Members: We've welcomed two new Board members for 2026: David Leonardy & Pat Szerzega. Thank you to both our new and current members for helping lead our Dom into its next phase of growth.
- Dom Campus Master Architecture Plan – Our volunteer architecture team (Nandika Marčič & Kevin Loftus) has drafted the building Master Plan for the Dom, and we are currently in the process of reviewing it with the Board. The scope includes the Grand Hall, entry area, bar, bathrooms, and a new athletic facility. Exciting opportunities are on the horizon!
- Reminder: We are in full swing with rentals for weddings and showers. If you are interested, please reach out via email for reservations at: reservations@slovenian-center.org.

Upcoming Events

- SCC Annual Picnic & $10,000 Raffle – Sunday, August 9th
- Get ready for the BEST day of your summer! Bring your family and friends for great food, live music from Max's Oberkrainer Express with special guests Monika & Louis Mavec, and a chance to win $10,000 - our largest fundraiser of the year! Want to promote your business at the picnic? Become a sponsor! Email me directly to get on board!
- St. Mary's Honey Picnic – Sunday, August 30th. Annual picnic fundraiser hosted by the Franciscan Fathers in Lemont.
- Oktoberfest at the Dom – Music & Beer Festival – Saturday, October 10th & 11th. Why go anywhere else to hear our bands and eat the best food around, when it's right here at the Dom?
- Dom's 31st Anniversary Celebration – Sunday, November 8th
- Let's celebrate our proud history and look forward to a bright future together.

Volunteer With Us!

Have a skill or a few hours to spare? We need:

- SCC Website Student Manager* – This volunteer remote role requires only 2–3 hours per month. No website management experience is required, but an interest in technology, websites, marketing, or communications would be helpful.
- SCC Volunteer Communications Coordinator* – This is an excellent opportunity for someone interested in communications & customer service to gain valuable experience while supporting the SCC community. This is a remote role.
- Slovenian American Times – SCC Correspondent* – Looking for volunteers who can write articles remotely for the SAT (www.slovenianamericantimes.com) about what's going on at the Dom. There is plenty of content, and this is a great opportunity for folks getting into journalism or volunteers with a gift for written communication.
- SCC Event Server Team Members* – This opportunity is ideal for high school students, college students, and young adults looking to earn extra income, gain customer service experience, and support community events.
- FOSM (Friends of St. Mary's) – Opportunities to serve St. Mary's through projects that support the grounds.

Note: Great resume and reference opportunities for students!!!
Visit https://www.slovenian-center.org and click the Volunteer button, or just send an email to me directly to sign up!

Thank you again to everyone who continues to support the Dom. Our community works because people show up - whether it's helping cook, volunteering at events, supporting our programs, or simply coming out to enjoy time together. Thank You All!

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

SVS SLOVENSKO VERSKO SREDIŠČE
SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION

June 21: Prekmurje Social Club – Father's Day Pilgrimage & Picnic
Mass will be held at the Lourdes grotto, with devotions to Mary (including the singing of the litanies) immediately following.

June 26–28: Slovenian Sports Klub Weekend
Golf on Friday. Softball on Saturday and Sunday. Lunch "up on the hill" after the outdoor 11am mass at the Lourdes grotto.

August 9: Slovenian Catholic Center Pilgrimage & Picnic
Mass will be held at the Lourdes grotto at 11:00 a.m., followed by the singing of the Litanies to Mary and a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. Information about the picnic can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

August 30: Honey Picnic
A fundraising pilgrimage and picnic hosted by the Franciscan Monastery to help with the upkeep of the grounds. All support is greatly appreciated! Holy 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 available for sale. Donations of baked goods, especially homemade, are greatly appreciated! Last year, a water slide was donated by generous donors. If you would like to have one again for the children, you are welcome to donate one.

September 27: Slomsek Sunday
Blessed Anton Martin Slomsek is the patron saint of the Slovenian Catholic Mission and Slomsek School. We will celebrate Blessed Slomsek at Sunday Mass. The 100th anniversary of the crowning of the Marija Pomagaj picture in Lemont will also be remembered.

SCC ANNUAL "BIG"PICNIC

Vendor, Seller & Sponsor Opportunities

Sunday, August 9th • Lemont, Illinois

$10,000 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

Event Highlights

- Mass at the Grotto
- Traditional Roasted Pork & Lamb Dinner
- Bakery & Beer Tents
- Bocce, bags, volleyball
- Children's games & playground
- Live music & pavilion dancing

Ways to Participate

- Event Sponsors – Support the picnic and receive community recognition.
- Raffle Ticket Sellers – Help promote our $10,000 Grand Prize raffle & be included in the Sellers Raffle.
- Vendor Booths – Sell products or promote your business.

Let us know if you can help us out by emailing us at communications@slovenian-center.org or contact us via our Website at www.slovenian-center.org

Enter Now!

Entry form for Raffle
August 9th, 2026

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Send to: Slovenian Catholic Center
P.O. Box 634, Lemont, IL 60439

Final mail pickup Sun. Aug. 9th

Your official ticket will be issued and mailed to you upon receipt of check or money order and completed form.
Inquiries: Contact the SCC (630) 243-0670 or Email: secretary@slovenian-center.org

Raffle Prizes

Grand Prize
$10,000

Plus
One $1,000, Sixteen $500 and Ten $100

$50.00 per ticket donation

Enter Now!

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SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS: EXCITING HAPPENINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Slomšek Slovenian School concluded another wonderful school year on Sunday, May 17. Our students participated in Mass by reading petitions, presenting the offertory gifts, and singing after Communion.

This year's program showcased the talents and hard work of our students. Our youngest Srčki delighted the audience with an energetic dance about all the things a bunny likes to do - jumping, fixing his ears, shaking his tail, eating carrots, brushing his teeth, and dancing with friends. Their smiles and enthusiasm brought joy to everyone in attendance. The students also presented a play about Mihec, a young dancer who struggled to learn the steps for an upcoming performance. Feeling frustrated and convinced that he could not dance, Mihec was ready to give up. Fortunately, his friends stepped in to help. Through lessons on directions, rhythm, balance, and teamwork, Mihec gradually gained confidence and improved his skills. By the end of the play, he successfully mastered the dance and joined his friends in a joyful performance, reminding us all that perseverance, friendship, and encouragement can help us overcome challenges.

Of course, we couldn't finish the school year without some more fun! Following the program, students, families, and members of the Slovenian community enjoyed ice cream sundaes and time together celebrating another successful year. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all the parents who have committed their time and energy to our šola. With so many activities and commitments competing for family schedules, we are especially grateful for your dedication to preserving the Slovenian language and culture for the next generation.

A special thank you goes to the Slomšek Slovenian School staff: Maja Magajne (Srčki), Gabriela Anaya (Srčki assistant), Andrea Boltežar (school-age students), Mihec Magajne (school-age assistant), Urška Magajne (school-age students), Millie Hozjan (singing), Teya Magajne (dancing), Martin Puc (performance coordinator), and Mojca Anaya (school coordinator).

Plans for the 2026–2027 school year are already underway! We are especially excited as next year marks the 30th anniversary of Slomšek Slovenian School at the Slovenian Catholic Center. We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our current and former students, families, teachers, and supporters who have helped our school thrive over the past three decades.

If you know of someone who would be interested in joining our Sunday morning school, please reach out to Mojca Anaya at 847-207-0963. And don’t forget to visit the Slomšek Slovenian School tent at this year's SCC Picnic and Raffle on Sunday, August 9. We will be available to answer questions about our school and will have a fun activity for children. We look forward to seeing you there!

MORE FROM ŠOLA

SLOVENSKA MLADINSKA SKUPINA MARELA

As summer approaches, excitement is building for another busy season of music, fellowship, and community events for SMS Marela. Our members have been hard at work rehearsing and preparing for several upcoming performances that we are looking forward to sharing with everyone.

Be sure to join us at the St. Joe's Welcome Back Picnic on June 28th, where we'll help celebrate the return of another wonderful summer gathering with plenty of music and fun. In July, we are excited to travel to Slovenefest on July 11th in Enon Valley, Pennsylvania, where we always enjoy reconnecting with friends and fellow musicians from near and far. We are also eagerly preparing for our own SCC Big Picnic, on August 9th, which promises to be another memorable event filled with music, food, and great company.

We would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to two of our recent university graduates, Jacob Wick and Adam Petrovic. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments, and we wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

In addition, we are happy to welcome home Tinc Lockwood, who recently completed his U.S. Marine Reserves training. We thank him for his service and dedication, and we are excited to have him back home with family and friends.
We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and appreciate all the support you continue to give SMS Marela throughout the year. As always, if you have a young person of Slovenian descent interested in our group, please contact Nada Petrovic at (630) 863-5648 or any member of SMS Marela!

Slovenian Sports Klub Nation!

37th Annual Softball, Golf, and Music Festival: June 26th-28th
We hope you will be able to attend our upcoming golf outing and softball tournament.
We're always looking for more players ages 15 and up! You can sign up as an individual, and we'll put you on a team.
Even if you don't play, come out to socialize, play bocce ball, enjoy the playground, play volleyball or pickleball, 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, text Jake Gregorich at 630-962-9288. Details are in flyer below

Annual SSK Golf Outing – Friday, June 26th
Location: Village Greens in Woodridge
Register with Mike Breszach. Shotgun start at 3 p.m.
The cost is $85 per person and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, and a drink. The format is a 4-person scramble, with winners' names going on the Sports Klub trophy. A scramble format means players of all skill levels are welcome! Remember to wear your patriotic attire!
Please contact Mike Breszach at: mike.brezsach@jll.com or 630-781-6675 to sign up as a team or as an individual, or for more information.

37th Annual SSK Softball Tournament – June 27th & 28th
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, play pickleball, 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, text Jake Gregorich at 630-962-9288.

Bocce Ball - June 27th
Last year was the first time the SSK held a short, one-hour camp for kids to teach them how to play bocce ball. In Slovenian, we call it "balina." This year's Bocce Ball Tutorial for kids ages 3 and up will be held from 1–2 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. Meet at the bocce ball courts. Last year, we had just 6 participants, but we're hoping for a few more this year. FREE ice cream for all participants!

Live Music – Saturday, June 27th!
They are back! Join us Saturday night around 7 p.m. for live music featuring The Otter Limits. Get there early for the best seats and bring your dancing shoes!

Sunday Lunch "On the hill" at noon
Immediately following the 11 a.m. Mass at the outdoor grotto. Softball semi-finals and championship games will follow immediately after lunch.

Sports Equipment Check-out

Did you know that the Slovenian Sports Klub has sports equipment you can check out? If you'd like to play pickleball or Nine Square while you're on the grounds of St. Mary's, please ask one of our members to get the equipment out for you, or ask the bartender at the Slovenian Catholic Center. Please make sure to return all items when you're done borrowing them. The pickleball courts are marked on the south side of the Center's parking lot.

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 visit our Facebook page. Search for Chicago Slovenian Sports Klub.

Article written by Jeanie Gregorich

Supporting the Future of The Dom

Charitable Giving Options for the Slovenian Catholic Center

Supporting The Dom at the Slovenian Catholic Center helps sustain our facilities, traditions, and programs so that future generations can continue to gather, celebrate, and build community together. Please consider the following Charitable Giving Options to help support our Dom:

💵 Cash Gifts
Cash donations are the most straightforward way to support the Center. If you itemize deductions, cash gifts may generally be deducted up to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI). They are simple, flexible, and allow the Center to immediately put your generosity to work.

📈 Appreciated Stock or Securities
Donating appreciated stocks, mutual funds, or ETFs may provide significant tax advantages. You may be able to deduct the full market value of the investment while avoiding capital gains tax that would normally be due if the asset were sold.

🧭 Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)
A Donor-Advised Fund allows you to contribute cash or securities, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants to charities like the Slovenian Catholic Center over time. Many donors use DAFs as a flexible way to plan long-term charitable giving.

🎁 Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)
For individuals age 70½ or older, funds can be transferred directly from an IRA to a qualified charity. The distribution counts toward required minimum distributions while not being included in taxable income, which may help reduce overall taxable income.

🧮 Summary of Tax Benefits

Giving Method	Key Tax Benefit	Ideal For
Cash Gifts	Deduction up to 60% of AGI	Simple & Flexible Giving
Appreciated Stock	Deduct Value + Avoid Capital Gains Tax	Highly appreciated Investments
Donor-Advised Fund	Immediate Deduction; Tax-Free Growth	Strategic Long-Term Giving
QCD (IRA Giving)	Excluded from Income, Counts Toward RMD	IRA Owners Age 70 ½ +

For more information about planned giving opportunities supporting The Dom, please contact:

Ed Burjek – Volunteer Philanthropy Officer
Slovenian Catholic Center
630-532-8778 | efburjek@aol.com

Your generosity helps ensure that The Dom remains a vibrant home for Slovenian culture, community, and tradition for generations to come.

Adding Life & Beauty

ADOPT A PLOT

Through Gardening!

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

SERVING OPPORTUNITY

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 Total donation: $ _____

☐ Family Membership - $100

Method of payment:

☐ Cash

☐ Check #: _____

☐ Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

3-digit verification code: _____ Billing zip code: _____

Signature: _____

MAKE YOUR OWN KRUHOV NARASTEK (BREAD PUDDING)

INGREDIENTS

Bread Pudding Ingredients

6–8 slices brioche (or white bread), cut into 1-inch cubes
Turbinado or coarse sugar, for topping
Vanilla ice cream & flaky sea salt, for serving

Brown Sugar Butter Sauce Ingredients

½ cup butter
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup buttermilk
1 tsp vanilla
½ tsp baking soda

Custard Ingredients

¾ cup buttermilk (or whole milk)
¾ cup heavy (whipping) cream
3 Tbsp brown sugar
3 Tbsp granulated sugar
1 tsp vanilla or 1 package vanilla sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
Pinch of salt
3 eggs
1½ Tbsp melted butter

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Prepare the bread
Preheat the oven to 175˚C (350˚F). Grease and line a 9×5-inch baking pan. If the bread isn't already dry, spread the cubes on a tray and toast for 7–10 minutes, just until lightly golden.
If the bread is very fresh, place it in a 400˚F (200˚C) oven for 7–10 minutes to dry it out.

Step 2: Make the custard
In a bowl, whisk together buttermilk, cream, both sugars, vanilla, cinnamon, and salt. Add the eggs and melted butter and whisk until smooth and well combined.

Step 3: Assemble & rest
Place the bread cubes into the prepared pan. Pour the custard evenly over the bread, pressing gently so everything is soaked. Sprinkle with coarse sugar if using. Let rest for 30 minutes at room temperature, or refrigerate overnight for a richer texture.

Step 4: Bake
Bake for 45–55 minutes, until the top is golden and the center is just slightly wobbly. The inside should feel soft and custardy.

Step 5: Make the brown sugar butter sauce
In a saucepan with tall sides, melt the butter with both sugars and buttermilk over medium heat. Bring to a gentle boil and simmer for 2–3 minutes. Remove from heat and whisk in the vanilla and baking soda — it will foam.

Step 6: Serve
Slice the kruhov narastek while warm. Drizzle generously with the brown sugar butter sauce. Top with vanilla ice cream and a pinch of flaky sea salt.

Tips & Notes
Traditionally, kruhov narastek is served with vanilla sauce or a dusting of sugar. This version is slightly richer, but still rooted in tradition.
Buttermilk substitution: Use kislo mleko or plain yogurt thinned with milk.
Bread alternatives: Day-old rolls or simple white bread work perfectly if brioche isn't available.
For deeper flavor, let the bread soak in the custard overnight in the fridge.

~ Recipe From "Slovenian Kitchen" ~

SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

P.O. BOX 634
14252 MAIN ST.
LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60439

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EMAIL: SECRETARY@SLOVENIAN-CENTER.ORG
WEB:WWW.SLOVENIAN-CENTER.ORG

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 21, Sunday.....Prekmurje Social Club, Father's Day Pilgrimage & Picnic
June 26-28, Friday-Sunday.....Slovenian Sports Klub Weekend
August 9, Sunday.....SCC Annual Picnic & $10,000 Raffle
August 30, Sunday.....St. Mary's Honey Picnic
October 10 & 11, Saturday & Sunday.....Oktoberfest at the Dom, Music and Beer Festival
October 18, Sunday.....Mission Dinner
October 25, Sunday.....Fall Festival / Šola Trunk & Treat
November 8, Sunday.....Dom's 31st Anniversary Celebration
November 27, Friday.....2026 Center Young Adult Vision Session
November 27, Friday.....Sports Klub Pub Crawl – Downtown Lemont
December 6, Sunday.....Sveti Miklavž
December 18th – 20, Friday-Sunday.....2026 Festival of Lights
December 24, Thursday.....Christmas Eve Mass (Center open after Mass)