



VESTNIK

SLOVENSKA ŽUPNIJA SV. GREGORIJA VELIKEGA | ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SLOVENIAN CHURCH

52/58

Številka - Number / Leto - Year

25.12.2022

**BOŽIČ
GOSPODOVO ROJ-
STVO**

**CHRISTMAS
MATIVITY OF THE
LORD**

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NE BOJTE SE, KRISTUSA, ČLOVEKA IN ODREŠENIKA

V božični noči nam bogoslužje govori o razsvetljenju: Bog je razsvetlil to sveto noč s sijajem Kristusa, ki je prava luč sveta. Tudi prerok Izaija govori o luči, evangelij pa oznanja, da se je ta prerokba izpolnila z močno svetlobo. Pavel pa spregovori o prikazanju božje milosti, božje velikodušne in zastonske ljubezni.

Izaija v času, ki je bil za izraelsko ljudstvo čas preizkušenj in trpljenja, naznanja, da bo nastopila luč. Gle-da jo kot že navzočo: »Ljudstvo, ki je hodilo v temi, je zagledalo veliko luč, nad prebivalci v deželi smrtne sence je zasvetila luč.»

Zakaj ta luč? »Kajti dete nam je rojeno, sin nam je dan,« pravi pre-rok. Ta luč je luč odrešenja, ki daje veselje in upanje: »Zbudil si silno radost, naredil si veliko veselje.«

Ime otroka veliko obeta: imenuje se »Čudoviti svetovalec, Močni Bog, Večni Oče, Knez miru«. Ta otrok prinaša mir v svet, v katerem so nepre-stani spopadi. Po njegovi zaslugi pa miru ne bo konca. Otrok je Davidov potomec in vladal bo na Davidovem prestolu.

Prva napoved Izaijeve prerokbe je bilo rojstvo sina kralja Ahaza, vendar ta izpolnitev ni izčrpala pomena te slovesne prerokbe. Ko so jo brali v oddaljenosti stoletij, so jo razumeli kot napoved Mesijevega rojstva. V evangeliju nam Luka govori o luči. Nekaj pastirjev je ponoči be-del in »Gospodova slava jih je obsijala«. Spet se pojavlja tema o luči v temi, o luči, ki razsvetljuje noč.

Pastirje je prevzel velik strah, saj je bila ta luč izreden, popolnoma nepričakovan dogodek; dogodek, ki je kazal na božji poseg. In kadar Bog poseže z močjo, človeško pamet prevzame strah. »Angel pa jim je rekel: 'Ne bojte se!'« Bog ne prinaša strah, ampak mir in veselje. Angel je dejal: »Glejte, oznanjam vam veliko veselje, ki bo za vse ljudstvo. Danes se vam je v Davidovem mestu rodil Odrešenik, ki je Mesija, Gospod.«

V tem vidimo izpolnitev prerokbe Izaija, ki je dejal: »Dete nam je rojeno, sin nam je dan...« Ta otrok je Kristus, Mesija, ki bo vladal na Da-vidovem prestolu, kakor je povedal angel ob oznanjenju.



NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Ta otrok je rojen prav v Davidovem kraju, v Betlehemu. Previdnostne okoliščine so to povzročile. Samo po sebi ni bilo potrebno, da bi bil rojen tam, saj sta Marija in Jožef živela v Nazaretu. Je pa rojstvo v Betlehemu uresničitev napovedi in znamenje uboštva in ponižnosti. In tudi prerok Mihej je naznanil, da se mora Mesija roditi v Betlehemu, da bi se razodelo, da je Davidov sin in da je prišel, da prejme Davidovo kraljestvo.

V dogodku so torej nasprotujoči si vidiki, ki se kažejo tudi v angelovih besedah pastirjem: »Našli boste dete, povito in položeno v jaslji.« Gre za čudno znamenje: Odrešenik, Kristus Gospod je ubog otrok, ki nima niti zibelke; leži v jasljih.

Tako se božji načrt izpolni v teh neugodnih okoliščinah. Že od začetka vidimo, da Jezus ni prišel, da bi z veličastvom in močjo prevzel človeško oblast, ampak je prišel z nami delit naše človeško življenje; prišel je, da bi delil usodo z najbolj ponižnimi in ubogimi ljudmi. To pa v nas budi veliko večje upanje. Če je Jezus nase vzel našo usodo, to pomeni, da njegova milost lahko pride vsepovsod: ne bo omejena na nekatere izjemne okoliščine, ampak bo prodrla v vse naše življenje.

V berilu Pavel razglša: »Razodela se je Božja milost.« To je zastonska, velikodušna božja ljubezen. Ob božiču namreč naš svet razsvetljuje prav božja milost, ki prinaša odrešenje vsem ljudem.

Gre za izjemen dar, ki ga daje Bog. V Janezovem evangeliju Jezus pravi: »Bog je namreč svet tako vzljubil, da je dal svojega edinorojenega Sina.«

Jezusova ponižnost ob božiču pripravlja razodetje slave. To bo slava božje ljubezni, ki bo z veseljem napolnila vsa srca. Jezus je prišel, da bi »dal sam sebe za nas, da bi nas odkupil iz vse nepostavnosti in nas zase očistil kot lastno ljudstvo, ki je vneto za dobra dela.«

V tej sveti noči sprejmimo božično svetlobo. Sprejmimo oznanilo rojstva Jezusa kot Kristusa Odrešenika, kot Kristusa Gospoda.

Poživiti moramo svoje upanje, ker je Bog že navzoč v svetu. Zato imamo tudi v najbolj preprostih in bolečih okoliščinah svojega življenja »Boga z nami«, Emanuela, Jezusa, ki je postal otrok, da bi z nami delil naše življenje in nas spremljal na naši poti.

(Prim. Oznanjevalec - A_2007/8, štev. 1)

First Reading *Isaiah 52:7-10*

The prophet announces good news: the birth of the Messiah, who heralds peace.

Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Second Reading *Hebrews 1:1-6*

In past ages God spoke to us through prophets, but now speaks to us through God's Son, the radiant light of God's glory.

Gospel *John 1:1-18*

St John declares that the Word of God, the light that enlightens everyone, has come into the world, to give us power to become children of God.

"The Word was the true light... coming into the world."



Illustration

Far away from where Jesus was born, in the city of Rome, there stood a grand temple to the Roman god Saturn. Eight noble pillars still remain, even though it was built nearly five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, had to be restored after a fire, and eventually fell into ruin. Just as we celebrate festivals and holy days, so did pagan Romans; and Saturnalia, as they called it, was the most popular feast in the Roman calendar. It was a public holiday lasting from 17 to 25 December, with music and dancing, parties and colourful costumes. Homes were decorated with greenery, candles were lit and carried around, and people gave each other presents.

If you think this sounds a bit like Christmas, you are right. No one had recorded the



date when Jesus was born, and so when the Church decided to fix a suitable day to celebrate it, 25 December was chosen, the last day of Saturnalia. For as well as the singing and merriment, one Saturnalia custom that particularly interested the Church was that domestic slaves changed places with their masters on that day, and the masters waited on the slaves. The Church thought: did Jesus not say, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve"? And St Paul had written, "His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave." Saturnalia also included the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, after which daylight begins to increase. As it was a festival of light, Christians thought it an appropriate day to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

Gospel Teaching

Christianity is not a narrow faith. The Gospel tells us that every human being is enlightened by God, whether they recognise God or not. Members of other religions, and people without faith, have light. The Second Vatican Council, in its Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, said:

"The Catholic Church rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions. It has a high regard for the manner of life and conduct, the precepts and doctrines which, although differing in many ways from its own teaching, nevertheless often reflect a ray of that truth which enlightens all men and women." The light of reason, of goodness and of truth is found in everyone, but many do not realise it as the light of God.

Therefore God sent John the Baptist to witness and speak for the light, so that everyone might believe. The second reading reminds us that "At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets." But now God has spoken through God's Son, Jesus, who came to live among us: "The Word was made flesh." This is the belief grasped by St Thomas, who on seeing Jesus after his resurrection murmured, "My Lord and my God", words we might utter silently when the host and chalice are raised above the altar at Mass.

Application

Why was Jesus born? Why did God send him into the world? The Gospel tells us that to all who accepted him "he gave power to become children of God". Those who recognise that the light within them, the desire to do good, the desire to love, the desire to seek the truth, is implanted by God really have become "children of God". When we grasp this we are impelled to adore the God who made us, the God who is the light within us, the source and origin of love, beauty and goodness.

The wonder of Christmas is that, like the ancient Roman devotees of Saturn, we know how to celebrate with singing and dancing, with feasting and fun, and exchanging presents as signs of love. Like them, gathering round their temple to rejoice in the light, we too gather here to rejoice in the light of the world. Christ came down to earth in order to raise us to heaven. He lived an earthly life so that even on earth we might begin to live the life of heaven as children of God. In the words of today's Collect, he humbled himself to share our humanity so that we might share in his divinity. He is the giver of immortality and we have seen "his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth".

St. Gregory the Great, Slovenski Park, Moya Financial

Present

New Year's Eve Gala 2023

Doors Open at 6pm

St. Gregory the Great – upper Hall 125 Centennial Pkwy N. Hamilton

Admission Includes

Reserved Seating

A complimentary welcome drink

Appetizers

Dinner served Family Style

Late Night Buffet

Adults \$100 (after Dec. 20th increase to \$120)

Students 21yrs and younger \$80 (after Dec. 20th increase to \$100)

For Reservations call Heidi at 905-317-6002

Dinner prepared by Betty Gimpelj
and staff

Featuring Live Music by
Šibaj

Door Prizes & Raffle Prizes
(prizes - over \$1,500 value)

Thanks to a generous donation from **Moya Financial**
we are able to reduce our ticket prices for our 2023 New Year's Eve Gala Celebration

An event and facility presented for members and supporters of St. Gregory the Great Slovenian Parish and Hamilton Diocese



Ticket Prices have dropped...

- \$100/adult

- \$80/Student (21yrs and younger)

Thank you to Moya for their financial support to be able to lower our ticket prices for our

**2022 New Year's Eve Gala
at St. Gregory the Great
Slovenian Parish in Hamilton.**

**Saturday December 31, 2022 in the
upper hall – doors open at 6 p.m.**

After nearly 3 years of COVID restrictions, we can once again celebrate New Year's Eve the Slovenian way!

Please discuss and share this the idea of spending New Year's Eve here at our church.

St. Gregory's, Slovenski Park and Moya Financial have joined together to put together a memorable evening for us to ring in the New Year together. We have also put together prizes for this evening valuing over \$3,000.

We have a 12" Meat slicer, Vacuum, Tools, Gift Certificates and so much more. Lots of prizes, lots of chances to win!

As you enter along the **Red Carpet** you will be welcomed with a complimentary drink. The evening will start with appetizers, followed by a delicious dinner prepared by Betty Gimpelj and entertainment by An-sambel Šibaj and of course a late night table for everyone to enjoy just before ringing in 2023.

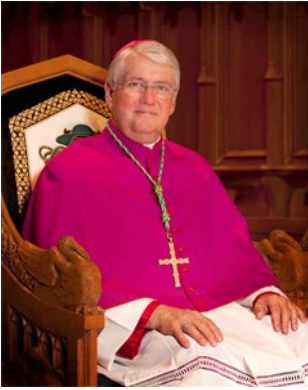
Please order your tickets and reserve your spot before December 21st. There will be a price increase of \$20 after that date.

Call your family, text your friends and reserve your table for our New Year's Eve Gala 2022-2023

Contact Heidy Novak at 905-317-6002 to make your reservation or purchase your ticket before and after Saturday and Sunday masses.



**We look forward
to seeing you all there!**



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2022

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke, Chapter 2

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of familiarity. We sing familiar songs, share familiar greetings, we pray and gather and celebrate in all those ways to which we are accustomed. Yet does this familiarity numb us to the awe-inspiring reality of the Lord's Nativity? Look into the Christmas crèche: what do we see here? The King of the Universe - lying helpless in a manger. The Lord God Almighty — wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Eternal Word — an infant, unable even to speak!

The Creator of Heaven and Earth is held in the arms of one he has created, and upon opening his eyes *looks up at his mother* - and so looks up at each of us. God so loves us that *he comes to us*, he lowers himself for us, he refuses to be distanced from us and so becomes one of us — taking on the frailty of the human form, yet losing nothing of the greatness of his Divine power.

May we never grow tired of discovering anew these jarring truths, which turn upside-down our expectations of power, greatness, kingship, and so much else. May we renew with fervour our adoration of the God who has become a child, who for love of each one of us has inserted his very self into our human story. This is the blessing of Christmas — may it fill our hearts during these holy days!

*May God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favor
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven!*
(From the solemn blessing of Midnight Mass)

Merry Christmas!

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton.





V nedelja, 18. decembra smo se ob 1h popoldne s Slovenci zbrali pri sveti maši v bivši dvorani društva Sava. Nekateri se je zaradi bolezni niso mogli udeležiti, smo pa navzoči bolj sodelovali z molitvijo in petjem. Na koncu smo celo zapeli sveto noč in se tako uglasili za praznovanje Odrašenikovega rojstva.



Iz Breslava sem šel naprej v London, kjer smo se kot ponavadi zbrali za sveto mašo v cerkvi St. John the divine. Tokrat se nas je kar precej zbralo, tudi nekaj mlajših se je pridružilo. Tudi tukaj smo v drugem delu maše zapeli božične pesmi in se tako duhovno pripravili na Božič. Letos smo se po maši lahko zopet zbrali tudi v dvorani in prigriznili dobrote, ki so jih prinesli, pa tudi na kratko poklepali. Hvala vsem, ki ste sodelovali pri bogoslužju.



CWL - KŽZ

CWL membership envelopes will be available from Pamela Gosgnach as of Wed. Nov. 23rd. These envelopes can be returned to Pamela or placed in the collection box in the vestibule.



Please note that membership fees have gone up and are now \$35. \$25 is directed to national office, \$3 to the provincial office, \$6 to the Hamilton Diocese and \$1 covers insurance. Rationale for this increase includes a significant decrease in membership and an increase in operation costs.

Our CWL council voted against this increase in fees but since a majority of councils voted in favour of the motion it was passed. Thank you for your understanding.

LIPA PARK

Lipa Park invites you to celebrate the Yew Year

New Year's Day Celebration Sunday, January 1, 2023

Doors open at 12 noon

Delicious home-style luncheon served at 1:00 p.m., \$40 per person

Ticket Order Deadline

Friday, December 23, 2022

Dance, sing along, and enjoy the music of Duo Pannonia throughout the afternoon!

For tickets:

Mary Ann Barich: 905-945-3750
or John Gerden: 905-708-7221

Na račun

»Eno Srce, Ena Duša«
»One Heart, One
Soul« ste za našo slo-
vensko župnijo sv.



**Gregorija Velikega do 20. decembra
2022:**

- \$144,440. - Obljubili / Pledged

- \$132,080. - Vplačali / Paid

Hvala vsem, ki ste že prispevali.



COME HOME
for Christmas

For Mass times and more visit
hamiltondiocese.com

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS is a concerted effort undertaken by The Stewardship and Development Office to invite parishioners to **return to the celebration of Mass – especially at Christmas**. Billboards will soon appear in larger centres throughout the Diocese.

Mass times and Confession opportunities in our Parishes will be available on our Diocesan Website. All this in the hope that our Churches will be filled at the many Masses offered at Christmas – and beyond.

Društvo sv. Jožefa - torkov večer



V torek, 20. decembra je bilo v prostorih društva sv. Jožefa kar živahno. Poleg družabnega srečanja sta Peter in Danny pripravila še nekaj za pod zob in je bilo še toliko lepše in prijetneje. Naročila sta mi, naj napišem, da bodo »torkovi večeri obratovali« tudi v času praznikov, tako, da lahko računate na dobro družbo.



OBVESTILA - ANNOUNCEMENTS

KOLEDAR DOGODKOV

- **Dec. 24, 2022 - St. Gregory the Great - Božični večer - Christmas Eve** Masses: 6:00 p.m. (English), 10:00 p.m. (Slovenian)
- **Dec. 25, 2022 - St. Gregory the Great - Božič - Christmas Day** - Masses: 9:30 a.m. (Slovenian), 11:00 a.m. (English)
- **Dec. 26, 2022 - Lipa Park** - Mass at 3:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 31, 2022 - St. Gregory the Great** - Mass at 5:30 p.m. - **New Year's Eve celebration** in the Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- **Jan. 1, 2022 - St. Gregory the Great - Novo leto - Marija, sveta Božja Mati** - Masses: 9:30 a.m. (Slovenian), 11:00 a.m. (English)
- **Jan. 1, 2023 - Lipa Park** - New Year's Day Celebration - home-style luncheon.

READERS - BRALCI BERIL

December 24, 2022

6:00 p.m. - English Mass - Emily Archer
10:00 p.m. - Slovenian Mass - Mirko Zorko

December 25, 2022

Slovenian Mass - Sue Augustin
English Mass - Mary Ann Demšar

GIFT BEARERS - SLOVENIAN MASS

Dec. 24 - 10 PM - Milena V., Pamela G.
Dec. 25 - Albina in Joe Antolin
Jan. 1 - Aranka Dundek and Danny Fujs

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH - ČIŠČENJE CERKVE

Dec. 30th - Lukežič, Volčanšek team

OGNJIŠČE

Prosimo, da potrdite naročnino za prihodnje leto za revijo Ognjišče. Naročnina za leto 2023 je \$ 91.-

DRUŠTVO SV. JOŽEFA - TORKOVI VEČERI

Villa Slovenia - Tuesday's night social gatherings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

V Villa Slovenia se nada-ljujejo »**Torkovi večeri**« **tudi med prazniki.**

Vabljeni, da pridete skupaj in preživite nekaj uric v dobri družbi prijateljev in znancev.



NEDELJSKE KUVERTE - KOLEDARJI

V atriju cerkve imate nedeljske kuverte. Poglejte, če je kakšna napaka v naslovih, da jo popravim v računalniku.

Na razpolago imate tudi **Marijanski koledar** - letos so na njem slike iz raznih Marijih mašnih plaščev.

Prav tako imate na razpolago tudi **Angleški koledar**, ki pa ima več prostora, da se na njem tudi kaj napiše.

DAROVI - DONATIONS

- Za gradbeni sklad so darovali:
- \$250 Mihael in Marija Fabina
 - \$200 Olga Glavač v spomin na pok. Ivana Doma
 - \$150 Olga Hanc z družino v spomin na pok. Ivana Doma
 - \$50 Paul in Gabrijela Žugič v spomin na pok Miro Špiler
 - \$60 Marija Prilesnik in sinova z družino v spomin na pokojnega moža Lojzeta Slomškovega oltarnemu društvu so darovali za rože:
 - \$50 Sonja Langenfus

- \$100 Olga Slobodnik v spomin na pok. Marico Majzelj

Društvo svetega Jožefa je darovalo za One Heart One Soul \$1000.

Iskrena hvala vsem za vaše darove.

POKOJNI

20. decembra je odšla k Bogu po večno plačilo Cvetka Bedernjak (1948-2022), iz Mississauga. Pokojna je sestra našega, pred kratkim umrlega, Jožeta Kolenko. Pogrebna maša bo 29. decembra ob 10h dopoldne pri Brezmadežni v Torontu.



V tem tednu so naslednje obletnice smrti faranov, ki so zapisani v naših knjigah:

Modic	Anthony	December 28, 1976
Prša	Steve	December 29, 1989
Vučko	Štefan	December 29, 2002
Pučko	Eddy	January 1, 2009

Svete maše - Masses



Hvala Olgi Glavač in Marjanu za lepo božično okrašeno cerkev. Hvala vsem, ki redno čistite cerkev; vsem ki sodelujete pri mašah kot bralci, tako pri slovenski kot pri angleških mašah; hvala vsem, ki sodelujete pri prinašanju darov med mašo; hvala angleškemu zboru in Ivanu, ki jih vodi; hvala tudi pevcem, ki z veseljem požete, četudi uradno nimamo slovenskega zbora, pa posebej ob pogrebnih stopijo skupaj. Hvala Pamelii, Franku N. in Mary M., ki organizirate sodelavce; hvala Jožetu in Kristjanu, ki pripravljajo in poskrbita da imamo prenos maše na Facebook.

<p>BOŽIČ GOSPODOVO ROJSTVO</p> <p>CHRISTMAS NATIVITY OF THE LORD</p> <p>25. DECEMBER</p>	<p>††</p> <p>††</p> <p>††</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p> <p>†</p>	<p>Za žive in rajne župljane</p> <p>Pok. iz družin Simrajn in Arko</p> <p>Ana in Franc Ferenčak</p> <p>Bratje Zupančič</p> <p>Rosie Dolar</p> <p>Ann Božnar</p> <p>Magda Udovč</p> <p>Joža Šušteršič</p> <p>Ivan Glavač</p> <p>Bronco Balažič</p> <p>Simon Barry</p> <p>Joyce Vukmanič</p> <p>Benjamin Markoja</p> <p>Spomenka</p>	<p>9:30 A.M. -----</p> <p>Magda in Joe Razpotnik</p> <p>Kathy Prša z družino</p> <p>Pepca Hapke</p> <p>Pepca Hapke</p> <p>John Božnar in družina</p> <p>Družino Udovč in Levstek</p> <p>Ana Gergyek</p> <p>Jenny Antolin z družino</p> <p>Jenny Antolin z družino</p> <p>Jenny Antolin z družino</p> <p>Jenny Antolin z družino</p> <p>Jenny Antolin z družino</p> <p>11:00 A.M. Sestra</p>
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SVETE MAŠE - MASS TIMES: Monday to Friday: 7:00 P.M., Saturday: 5:30 P.M. (Slovenian-Sunday Mass); Sunday: 10:00 A.M. from July to Fall Banquet (Slovenian/English) - **KRSTI / BAPTISMS:** For an appointment, call one month before. **POROKE / MARRIAGE:** For an appointment, call one year before the wedding date. **SPOVED / CONFESSIONS:** First Friday of the month 6 - 7:00 P.M. (or by appointment) **BOLNIKI** - Sporočite, če je kdo bolan ali v bolnišnici, da ga obiščemo. You are welcome to call for a personal conversation with your priest – please call for an appointment. Tel: 905-561-5971 or Cell: 905-520-2014

DON BOSCO

