



VESTNIK

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

51/58

Številka - Number / Leto - Year

18.12.2022

4. ADNENTNA
NEDELJA

4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Fr. Drago Gačnik, SDB
ŽUPNIK - PASTOR

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ADVENT, ČAS UPANJA, ČAS RADOSTI

Danes svetopisemska berila govore o izrednem božjem posegu, ki ga je Bog uresničil za naše odrešenje, da bi bil navzoč med nami. Že prvo berilo močno poudarja to božjo pobudo. Izaija reče kralju Ahazu: »Išči znamenje od Gospoda, svojega Boga.« Prerok priporoča kralju, naj postavi svojo zahtevo, kar je že samo v sebi božja spodbuda, kajti prihaja od Gospoda. Ahaz noče sodelovati, tudi ne prositi, noče, da bi Bog posegal vmes. Zato odgovarja preroku: »Ne bom prosil in ne bom skušal Gospoda.«

Znamenje, ki naj bi ga Ahaz zahteval, je veličastno »v globočini spodaj ali v višavi zgoraj«. Ni nekaj vsakdanjega prositi Boga za velika znamenja. Zato Ahaz odgovarja: »Ne bom skušal Gospoda.« Zahtevati veličastna znamenja pomeni preizkušati Boga, prisiliti njegovo voljo, da bo storil izredno dejanje. Toda v našem primeru ne gre za preizkušanje Boga, kajti sam Gospod spodbuja takšno prošnjo.

Čeprav Ahaz noče prositi in se zapre vase, Gospod ne opusti svojega načrta ljubezni, marveč ga še jasneje izrazi. Preroku pravi: »Gospod sam vam bo dal znamenje; glej, devica bo spočela in rodila sina, ki ga bo imenoval Emanuel, kar pomeni: Z nami je Gospod.«

Zavedati se moramo, da je Bog mnogokrat pobudnik. Za nas je to velika tolažba, da nam je Gospod vedno pripravljen izkazati svojo milost, ki je v posameznih primerih resnično dragocena in izredna.

Naš Bog vedno posega v korist našega odrešenja, ne čaka, da bi ga nagovorili, marveč nam prvi prihaja naproti z neskončno velikodušnostjo. »Ljubezen ni v tem, da bi bili mi vzljubili Boga. On nas je prvi ljubil« (1 Jn 4,10.19). Evangelij govori o tem, kako se je obljubljeni znamenje uresničilo. Tto, da bo devica spočela, ni navadno dejanje. Poglejmo, kako je to presenetilo Jožefa, ki ni mogel razumeti. Jožef in Marija sta zaročena, ne živita pa skupaj. Marija je spočela v



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

moči Svetega Duha. Jožef se zaveda tega dogajanja in je ves prestrašen. Kaj naj si misli? Evangelist ne pove podrobnosti; vemo le to, da Jožef želi spolniti božjo voljo in je pripravljen na najbolj radikalno odpoved: »Ker je bil njen mož Jožef pravičen in je ni hotel osramotiti, jo je sklenil skrivaj odsloviti.« Ta kratki stavek povzema resnično veliko notranjo dramo, če pomislimo na ljubezen, s katero je Jožef ljubil Marijo. Bila je to čista, močna, velikodušna ljubezen. Jožef bi želel biti združen z Marijo, sedaj pa mu okoliščine govore, da ta združitev ni mogoča. Moramo se zamisliti v te besede, da bi razumeli, kaj je pomenila grozna preizkušnja, ki jo je moral Jožef prestati v dneh pred Jezusovim rojstvom. Njegova žrtev je bila podobna Abrahamovi: odpoved najbolj dragoceni stvari, najbolj ljubljeni osebi. Kakor v Abrahamovem primeru tudi sedaj vstopa angel, ki pokaže, da Jožefova odločitev ni v božjem načrtu, da mu Gospod odpira pot združenja, ljubezni in sreče: »V spanju se mu prikaže Gospodov angel in mu pravi: Jožef, Davidov sin, ne boj se vzeti k sebi svoje žene Marije; kar je namreč spočela, je od Svetega Duha.«

To so besede odrešenja, razsvetljenja, ki prekinajo to strašno tesnobno stanje. Tedaj je »Jožef storil, kakor mu je naročil Gospodov angel ter je svojo ženo vzel k sebi«. Evangelist pa še dostavlja: »Vse to pa se je zgodilo, da se je spolnilo, kar je Gospod govoril po preroku: Glej, devica bo spočela in rodila sina, ki se bo imenoval Emanuel, kar pomeni, z nami je Gospod.« Božji načrt je nekaj izrednega in izraža izredno dogajanje: devica bo spočela in rodila sina, ki je »Bog z nami«.

To je torej božji načrt, načrt neskončne božje ljubezni. Moremo ga še globlje razumeti, če pomislimo, kakšen pomen ima učlovečenje Božjega Sina: ne samo njegovo rojstvo v Betlehemu, marveč tudi vsa naslednja dejanja do darovanja lastnega življenja na križu.

Božič je blizu, praznik Emanuela, »Boga z nami«. Sprejemamo to sporočilo in priznavamo, da ima Bog pobudo v našem življenju. Ta nas včasih preseneti; toda če resnično iščemo božjo voljo, se za nas pokažejo vedno rodovitna, kajti omogoča združitev z Bogom, mir, veselje in odrešenje.

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

First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-14*

The people should not put God to the test, but they will be given a miraculous sign.

Response: May the Lord come in; he is king of glory.

Second Reading *Romans 1: 1-7*

The promise of God is revealed in God's Son and it is his Good News that the faithful are to take out to the world.

Gospel *Matthew 1:18-24*

The world is turned upside down but we need not be fearful.

"Do not be afraid."



Illustration

There are times when we think we know where life is going; we've mapped out what the future is going to hold. People excitedly tell others of their plans, how they will get their qualifications, then make their way up the career ladder. Or how they are planning to get married, create a home, have children. But something unexpected puts all their plans in disarray. It's happened to plenty of people in the last couple of years during the Covid-19 pandemic: lockdown changed lives, and illness and death upended ambitions. It's at moments like these that people have to make different life-changing decisions and the strength of their character is shown, overcoming their fears, sticking to their principles and standing by others.

Gospel Teaching

In today's Gospel, Joseph is betrothed and is expecting to marry Mary. Then he finds that



she is pregnant. We are told how he discovers this; it would have been a shattering blow. All his plans for the future are in disarray. Yet as a man of honour he decides not to shame Mary but divorce her informally, for betrothal then in Jewish culture was a serious legal contract. At first, Joseph seems to see things as they are: Mary is having a baby outside wedlock, and this is unacceptable. But it takes an angel for Joseph to see things as they really are – as God sees them. To do this, Joseph has to put aside his fears: “do not be afraid”, the angel tells him.

So Joseph first has his world turned upside down, and then makes a choice about what he will do next that will go against the customs of his people, against what he has accepted all his life as the way to behave. It is an extraordinary challenge, but Joseph has both the strength of character and the faith in God to do it. It is not the life he has chosen, or at least not the way he expected life to

turn out. Joseph highlights what comes with responsibility and what comes with love. Above all, he is open to listening to God through a messenger.

Application

While Joseph’s situation is unique – unique in the history of salvation – his story is one that so many of us can identify with. Everything he thought was sure – that he had found love with Mary, and could look forward to a certain future – is suddenly undone. Nor can life go back to normal. Suddenly, God is asking of him something more momentous than Joseph might ever have envisaged. In the Gospel story of the annunciation, when the angel appears to Mary, she has to make a choice and she accepts the role that God wants of her. In Joseph’s case, what God asks of him could be said to be even harder: he is being asked to stand by Mary’s choice. What his life will be in the future is a consequence of her decision. We have to face those decisions ourselves in life, too. A husband who stands by his wife when she gives up a well-paid job to take on a much lower-paid but worthwhile career; a wife who accepts that her husband can no longer take the suffering of more chemotherapy treatment and instead chooses palliative care.

Joseph’s story also highlights the importance of listening. We are all influenced by our culture, our past experiences, our expectations. But Joseph was prepared to listen to the angel. Are we prepared to recognise those among us who are credible messengers, who might have something to say that is totally unexpected? Can we put aside our preconceived notions, and be open and humble enough to listen to those around us, and to discern what God might be saying and what God is calling to us to do? The Gospel stories around the birth of Jesus frequently refer to fear. When the angel appears to Mary explaining that she will conceive the Son of God, when angels appear to the shepherds in the fields announcing Jesus’ birth, as well as when the angel appears to Joseph, the message is the same: do not be afraid. All of them were shocked by what they saw, and what they were told, but faith in God helped them muster courage to deal with what befell them. When we are faced with the most tremendous challenges, can we also find the courage to heed the message: do not be afraid?

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!**

Slovenski Park Christmas Party

Sun Dec 11, 2022

Well, I can't think of a more fitting way to end this year than with a party - a party to thank you the Membership for all your volunteer hours and your dedication and love for our Slovenski Park. A great time was had by all as we wished each other Vesele Božične Praznike and Christmas-time blessings.

As always, these events cannot happen without the help and support of volunteers and guests. Thanks to Štefka Kanc for preparing the hall and bathrooms and kitchen by cleaning and set up and lighting our cozy fireplace. Thanks to Adam D'Alessio for shovelling the drive, and setting up the tables and chairs. Thanks so much to Mary Ann Demšar and Amanda Purdon for decorating the hall ready for the festivities. The kids loved the crafts you set up, the cookies to decorate, the games to play.

Thanks also to Peter and Linda Novak who helped set up and took care of the kitchen with tasty schnitzels and the bar with festive cheer. Thank you Danny Demšar who stepped in to help where needed and stayed to clean up.

Special thanks to Mark Morassutti who provided musical entertainment - leading us in Christmas Carolling setting the mood for the feature attraction - Santa Claus. Santa arrived with presents for all the good boys and girls - and they loved it. The children are adorable and were so happy to play and spend time with Santa, family, and friends. Thanks to all the parents who took the time at this busy time of the year to bring the children to the park



and begin making Christmas memories for them. Thanks to the senior members who also made the drive on this beautiful sunny snowy day to show support and allow us to thank you for your support at this most happy time of the year.

What a wonderful tradition - and the Slovenski Park Membership is so lucky to have volunteers to carry forward the legacy for generations to come. We give our children wings - but we also give them roots - and the roots we have cultivated for the near 60 years at Slovenski Park is growing and will keep going for a long while yet - if we all continue to put the needs of the community cooperative of Slovenski Park first.

I am so proud to have parents who raised me in the spirit of volunteerism and showed by the joy and doing for others selflessly and I am proud that this spirit continues with my family, your families, and our children.

We hope you will attend the final event of the year - New Year's Eve / Silvestrovanje at St Gregory the Great Parish in Hamilton.

With the kind support of Moya Financial and the support of Slovenski Park members, families, and friends, we can together say good bye to 2022 and hello to the adventures 2023 will bring.

**Vesele Božične Praznike
Srečno Novo Leto**

Mary Ann Demšar, Chairperson
Board of Directors, Slovenski Park



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.

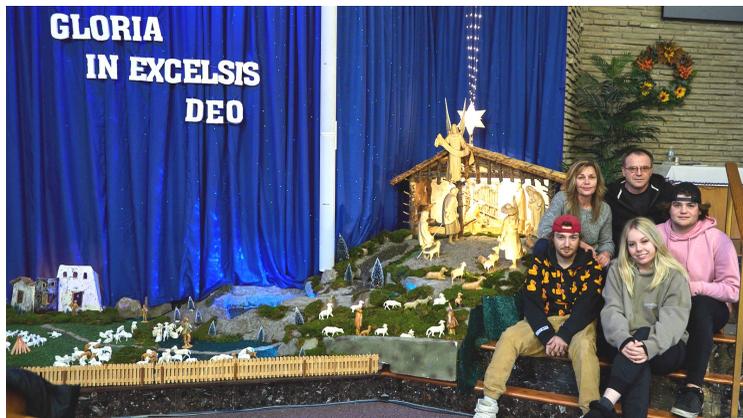


Please note that membership fees have gone up and are now \$35. \$25 is directed to national office, \$3 to the provincial office, \$6 to the Hamilton Diocese and \$1 covers insurance. Rationale for this increase includes a significant decrease in membership and an increase in operation costs.

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.

SPOVED PRED BOŽIČEM - CONFESSIONS

Letošnjo duhovno pripravo pred Božičem bomo imeli **v sredo, 21. decembra zvečer**. Priložnost za sveto spoved ob **od 5h popoldne do večerne maše in še po maši** če bo potrebno. Ob 7h zvečer pa je večerna maša s kratkim nagovorom. Spovedoval bo g. Leopold Valant, župnik župnije Brezmadežne iz



Jaslice so pripravljene. Hvala družini Mramor, ki jih je zopet postavila. Hvala pa tudi Marjanu Glavaču, ki je letos nabral mah.

Christmas Midnight Mass – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass on Sunday, December 25th at 12:00 a.m.

The celebration will be livestreamed and can be accessed by visiting the Cathedral's website – www.ctkbasilica.ca.

Na račun

»Eno Srce, Ena Duša«

»One Heart, One Soul« ste za našo slovensko župnijo sv.



Gregorija Velikega do 9. decembra 2022:

- \$144,440. - Obljubili / Pledged

- \$131,970. - Vplačali / Paid

Hvala vsem, ki ste že prispevali.





Z otroci Slovenske šole in učiteljicama smo imeli v soboto, 17. decembra - zadnji šolski dan pred Božičem - v kapeli mašo. Ob kitari in pesmih smo doživljali lepoto bogoslužja in pripravljali na praznovanje Božiča. Po maši so si še ogledali jaslice v cerkvi in potem okrasili smreko v atriju z okraski, ki so jih naredili prejšnjo soboto.



OBVESTILA - ANNOUNCEMENTS

KOLENDAR DOGODKOV

- Dec. 18, 2022 - **Breslau** - Mass at 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 18, 2022 - **London** - Mass at 4:00 p.m.
- 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 cele-**
bration in the Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2022 - **St. Gregory the Great - Novo**
letno - 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 18, 2022

Slovenska maša - Olga Glavač
English Mass - Mary Miklavčič

GIFT BEARERS - SLOVENIAN MASS

Dec. 18 - Jožica Vegelj & Terezija Sarjaš
Dec. 24 - 10 PM - Milena V., Pamela G.
Dec. 25 - Albina in Joe Antolin

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.-

DAROVI - DONATIONS

Za gradbeni sklad so darovali:
\$100 - Peter in Marija Markeš ob smrti
Jožeta Kolenko
\$100 - Martin in Frances Gazvoda namesto
cvetja za pokojno Alojzijo Saje
Ob smrti Ivana Doma so darovali namesto
cvetja ali v njegov spomin:
\$2000 - Žena rozina z družino
\$100 - Mary Hanc z družino
\$100 - Ignac Dorenčec
\$200 - Marjan Hozjan z družino
\$100 - Toni in Marija Franc

POKOJNI - DECEASED



10. decembra 2022 je odšel k Bogu po večno plačilo naš faran, **Ivan Žigon**, star 96 let. Od pokojnega ste se lahko poslovili v torek 13. decembra med 4. in 7 uro zvečer v Markey-Dermody

Funeral Home. Ob 4h popoldne smo molili rožni venec za pokoj njegove duše, v sredo ob 10h dopoldne pa darovali pogrebno sveto mašo in nato ga položili k večnemu počitku na Holy Sepulchre pokopališče, poleg njegove žene. Iskreno sožalje hčerki Sonji in sinu Danielu z družinama. Pokojni Ivan pa naj uživa večni mir in pokoj.

11. decembra je Bog poklical k sebi **Alojzijo** (Louise) **Saje** (nee: Gazvoda). Lojzka je bila stara 89 let. Dolga leta je živela v Hamiltonu in je bila naša faranka, leta 2015 pa se je preselila bližje sinu Andrew v Crowsnest Pass, Alberta.



V naši župniji smo v torek, 13. decembra zvečer, darovali sveto mašo za pokoj njene duše. Za pokojno mamó žalujejo sinovi: John R., Danny I., in Andrew, prav tako tudi bratje: Martin, Milan, Lojze in sestra Ančka, poročena Klobučar. Pokojni Lojzki pa večni mir in pokoj.

Že v prejšnjem Vestniku so bili podatki o smrti **Ivana Doma**. Danes samo dodajam še njegovo sliko, za vse tiste, ki ga po sliki boljše poznate.



V torek dopoldne ob 10:00h smo darovali zanj pogrebno mašo. Po maši smo pokojnega pospremili k večnemu počitku na Our Lady of the Angels pokopališče. Potem pa so domači vse povabili v dvorano na kosilo. Še enkrat sožalje ženi Rozini, sinu Johnu (Margaret) in hčerkama Rosemary (Joe) in Jane (Andy) in njihovim družinam.

Svete maše - Masses

<p>4. ADVENTNA NEDELJA 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18. DECEMBER GACIJAN, ŠKOF</p>	†	Za žive in rajne župljane	9:30 A.M.	-----
	†	Frank Gimpelj		Žena Elizabeth
	†	Frank Saje		Žena z družino
	†	Olga Peternel		Hči Sandra Peternel
	†	Irma Dorenčec		Mož Ignac z družino
	†	Franc Ferenčak		Franc in Ljudmila Zadavec
	††	Stane in Mihajela Simrajh		Magdalena Razpotnik z družino
	†	Rozina Vučko	11:00 A.M.	Kathy Prša z družino
	††	Joe in Elizabeth Gerič		Vera Lackovič z družino
	†	Joe Lackovič		Žena Vera z družino
††	Ana in Franc Ferenčak		Ivan Mertuk	
†	Štefan Horvat		Vera Lackovič z družino	
††	Pokojni iz društva Sava	1:00 P.M.	Breslau - dvorana	
††	Pok iz družine Šutej		Anica Kobetič	
††	Majda in Frank Čagran		Družina Mirt	
††	Pokojni Slovenci iz Londona	4:00 P.M.	St. John the Divine Parish	

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.

To pa še ni vse. Imate na mizi tudi **Božično pismo** in kuverto za božični dar. Hvala družini Novak Franka, ki je vse lepo zložila v kuverto.



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

Stergulc	Giovanni	December 20, 2005
Šverko	Marija	December 21, 2020
Sudac	Anna	December 22, 1995
Ponikvar	Lucija	December 23, 2000



DON BOSCO

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

