



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL

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*It's a season to give
It's a season to love
It's a season to share
God's love for you and me.*

Merry Christmas



Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

There is no other holiday that expresses love and family more than Christmas. The first Christmas shows us the way the family is the unit of love and caring. This has continued throughout the centuries, especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. These two special days bring families and friends together to show their love for one another and to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Everyone has rich traditions and customs that were handed down to them from their Slovak great-grandparents, grandparents and parents from wherever they originated in Slovakia, our Motherland. The traditions and customs we follow from the Christmas Eve supper, Vilija, with all of the foods that we enjoy and probably have just once a year. These foods might differ since they come from all over Slovakia, but all have special meaning and purpose; to prepare us to celebrate Christmas Day.

Then on Christmas Day we are blessed to be able to enjoy Christmas

Day Mass and hear the many Slovak songs of Christmas being sung. No matter what age you are, these songs are able to open our hearts, put pleasant though in our mind and smiles on our face. Then after Mass we go home or to a family or friend's house to enjoy Christmas Day dinner. At this Christmas gathering we are amazed to see how big the children have grown since last year and are delighted to see the new babies, which light up any heart just as Baby Jesus did for us two millennia ago.

Make this Christmas better than the past Christmas, by remembering the reason for Christmas and try to live its meaning of peace and love every day.

On behalf of the Supreme Assembly, and from me and my wife Suzanne, and daughters Heather, Jennifer and her husband Carl, and their daughter Kelci, and Megan and her husband James, and their son Jonathan, Seamus and Andrew, we wish all Slovak Catholic Sokol members and friends a Very Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce, and Happy New Year, Šťastný Nový Rok.

With God's Blessings to All!
Zdar Boh!



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Slovak Catholic Sokol



Clifford A. Moeller, Sr., shown center, was honored as our 2019 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. He was feted at a dinner at the Penn Brewery in Pittsburgh, PA on Saturday, November 16. Shown on the photo with him are, from the left: Sharon Monahan, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Diane Moeller, Brother Moeller; Clifford A. Moeller, Jr., Veronica Moeller, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath and Keith Moeller.

*From the desk of the Supreme Secretary***MERRY CHRISTMAS**by Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. *"A merry heart does good like medicine."*

— Proverbs 17:22

I would first like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas. Remembering the true meaning and significance of Christmas is sometimes overlooked amid all that is going on in our lives during this busy time. We need to remind ourselves that Christmas is about the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and not just another day off or a holiday. This special time allows us the opportunity to enjoy the excitement and emotion of the holiday season, especially through the eyes of our little ones.



As the year 2019 comes to an end, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all our members for making this year another successful one. I would especially like to thank our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, our Board of Directors, and our Supreme Officers for all your efforts and hard work in promoting our wonderful organization. I would also like to thank our Group Officers, Assembly Officers, and Wreath Officers for your dedication to our Society. Your efforts throughout the year allow us to thrive as the Slovak Catholic Sokol. A fraternal benefit society like ours is really an extension of our own family. It is what our founders had in mind in 1905 and it is what our organization has become. Over the years, generations of

our members have instilled in us a true family atmosphere at all of our fraternal events. I ask you to continue those efforts and look for ways to increase membership and participation. You have been and will always be our best promoters. We not only provide outstanding financial security with our insurance and annuity products, but we also offer so many fraternal benefits geared to our members. It is who we are, a family.

This time of the year also gives us a chance to reflect on the past year and look forward to the New Year ahead. I urge all our members to evaluate your personal life insurance needs, as well as the needs of your family. You can help strengthen our organization while also protecting your family and friends. Membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol is a wonderful gift for a child or grandchild. Allowing them to be part of another strong "Family" is truly an enduring gift.

In conclusion, I would like to formally thank the people that make the Slovak Catholic Sokol engine go. The Home Office Staff and our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C., work tirelessly for our Society and rarely get the recognition that is justified. Thank you for all your hard work and Merry Christmas to you and your Families.

On behalf of my beautiful wife, Maggie, our sons, Reid and Cole, my entire family, the Board of Directors, and our Home Office, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! Peace be with you and Zdar Boh!

GEORGE J. KOSTELNIK, OUR LATE SUPREME PRESIDENT, PASSES AWAY

George J. Kostelnik, who served as our Supreme President and most recently as an Honorary Supreme Officer, passed away on December 5 at St. Luke's Hospital in Fountain Hill, PA after a brief illness. He was 92. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years Barbara (Knoblauch) Kostelnik

A native of Bethlehem, PA, he was born of Slovak immigrant parents on

Feb. 27, 1917, to the late Urban Kostelnik and the former Anna Bilik. He attended the former SS. Cyril and Methodius School as was a member of the 1945 class of Liberty High School. He attended the Moravian Preparatory School and Lehigh University. He received his undergraduate degree at West Virginia University School of Mines. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force. He joined Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1953 and remained with the company until his retirement. He served on numerous local community groups. He was a member

(Continued on page 19)

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON
PUBLICATION DATES**

The 2019 Annual Review Book will be published on January 1, 2020. The next regular issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of February 1, 2020. DEADLINE for all photos and information for this issue will be JANUARY 23, 2020.

NEW PUBLISHING DATE

Beginning in the month of January, 2020 the publishing date for the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be the first of the month and the newsletter will be published on the 15th of the month.

**HOLIDAY HOME
OFFICE CLOSINGS**

In observance of Christmas, the Home Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25. Likewise, to commemorate the New Year's observance, the Home Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

SOKOL CALENDAR**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11**

■ **ASSEMBLY 16 GENERAL MEETING** for January will be held at 11 a.m. at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA. The Annual Meeting will follow immediately at 12 p.m. Food will be served.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

■ **ASSEMBLY 11 ANNUAL MEETING** at the home of the Financial Secretary Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Dr., Palos Hills, IL beginning at 2 p.m., those planning to attend should call Therese at tel. 708 598-1468.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

■ **SLOVAK BALL** at the Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. More information: SlovakAmericanCC.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

■ **GROUP 1 YOUTH BOWLINGFEST** at the Palace Bowling Lanes, Clifton, N.J. from 2-4 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

■ **GROUP 1 SPAGHETTI SUPPER** at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, NJ beginning at 4 p.m.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF S.C.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN DEERFIELD BEACH, FL



Members of the Board of Directors met in Deerfield, FL for their quarterly meeting, December 2-3. Directors met shown on the top photo include, from the left, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation. Lower photos: Supreme Treasurer Dennis J. Zifcak and Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller. Far right is Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins.

OHIO FRATERNAL ALLIANCE 2020 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

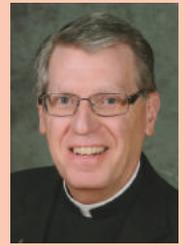
The Ohio Fraternal Alliance annually awards a college scholarship to a graduating high school senior up to \$500. Scholarship applications may be obtained from any Ohio Fraternal Alliance member fraternal home office or contact: Michael Czarney, tel. 440-420-0995 or email: mczarney@hotmail.com

Scholarship Applicant Requirements:

1. Applicant must be an Ohio resident. They must be a current youth policy member of a fraternal society, or included in a family member policy that does not have youth policies belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Alliance.
2. Applicant must be a 2020 high school graduate.
3. Applicant must submit a minimum 150-word essay entitled: How I'm personally involved in my Fraternal Society & its Future.
4. Applicant must submit a list of the following activities: Church related activities, local community and volunteer activities, school activities/clubs.
5. Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from a local Fraternal Society officer.
6. Essay, all activities, and letter will be judged. Completed application must be dated and submitted by March 27, 2020 and mailed to: OFA Scholarship Committee, Attn: Michael Czarney, 1208 Meadowbrook Ct., Amherst, Ohio 44001

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

GOD IS WITH US



Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation! Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant "day" which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and, above all, reconciliation.

On this day, Jesus, the Savior, is born of the Virgin Mary. We see the sign which God has given us: "a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too set out to see this sign, this event which is renewed yearly in the Church.

Christmas is an event which is renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. With the shepherds, let us bow down and worship God's goodness made flesh!

Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born; and where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war.

Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity.

Yet even today, great numbers of men and woman are deprived of their human dignity and, like the child Jesus, suffer cold, poverty and rejection. May our closeness today be felt by those who are most vulnerable.

Where God is born, mercy flourishes. Today, then, let us come together to rejoice in the day of our salvation. As we contemplate the Crib, let us gaze on the open arms of Jesus—the merciful embrace of God. We hear the voice of the Child who whispers to us: "Peace."



Group 2 officers installed during the Annual Meeting held on October 27 in Stratford, CT. L-r: Vice-President Ann Marie Neudeck, Secretary Darlene Musial, President Albert Neudeck, Treasurer Larry Wells.

***GROUP 17 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
HELD DECEMBER 1 AT HOLIDAY BOWL, STRUTHERS, OH***



\$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2020

by Edward D. Moeller, *Supreme Vice President*

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2020. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2020 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards in each category.



A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Yencha Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.

With one application you may apply for all college scholarship grants for which you are eligible. Note that only one grant per applicant will be awarded.

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL (a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

- Must have a minimum of \$3,000 permanent Life Insurance Coverage
- Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years.
- Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL TIME student at an accredited college, university or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.
- Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better
- One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member
- Essay- "How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?"

THEODORE AND MARY JANE RICH (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry
- Must be majoring in medical curriculum

EMIL SLAVIK (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

THE DOCTORS' LESKO MEDICAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in Nursing or Medical curriculum
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry

KRISTA L. GLUGOSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in curriculum with a focus in computer graphics, design or layout

YENCHIA SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in Liberal Arts Curriculum

Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
- Essay- "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why".

The process of applying for any of the above college level scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are **ONLY** available on our website @ www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program may be directed to:

Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice-President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org
(412)881-3506

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2020

In addition to our college grant program, we make available **18 Catholic High School Grants** in the amount of \$500 each as well as **36 Catholic Grade School Grants** in the amount of \$250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in December 2019, February and March 2020 issues of the Falcon.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP –TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few issues with the process over the past several seasons. With the help of our technical webmaster, we have redesigned the application process and you should find it to be much more user friendly. You will find the on-line application on our website at www.slovakcatholicokol.org beginning November 1, 2019.

To be best prepared for this process a successful applicant should:

- Review the application on-line for required content and gather prior to beginning to complete the form.
- Be prepared to attach both your essay (in PDF or Word format) and a color head and shoulders picture of yourself (in .jpeg format).

Please note, you may want to print a copy for your records prior to submitting. All applicants will receive automatic confirmation that their e-mail has been received.

It really isn't that difficult to qualify for one of our many college scholarships. With now four years of the new College Scholarship Application process behind us, it is clear that there are a few ways to assure that your application will be reviewed.

1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE APPLICATION.

For example- if something does not apply to you- say N/A. If you are fully independent from your parents- as in, you are not claimed by them on their tax return, you should indicate that in the space asking for total parent income. Leaving this blank does not tell the whole story.

2. INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION- i.e. photo; transcript; essay.

Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW. I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.

- **Transcripts-** please note that "official transcript" means that you have requested it from your University or College and that it has been sent directly to me in a sealed envelope. We have not been as strict in the past on this issue, but began holding each applicant to this requirement last season and will continue to do so moving forward.

3. SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.

The application is clear and I just want to prevent a waste of your time and energy.

Failure to include/complete any of the above items will result in the application being disqualified. To be honest, it is not easy for our committee when we need to disqualify applicants for simple yet important missing requirements.

Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify in order to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a particular scholarship. Competition was fierce for the larger \$ scholarships, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.

Not every applicant receives a scholarship every time they apply. If you have not received one in the past, I encourage you to apply again this year. Before submitting your application- take some time to review the bullet points above in order to assure that your application will be included for consideration.

Good luck and Zdar Boh!

Edward D. Moeller

Supreme Vice President

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

NEW ENGLAND FRATERNAL ALLIANCE MEETS IN NEW BEDFORD, MA



The New England Fraternal Alliance, which represents fraternalists in the six New England states, hosted its 95th annual meeting November 8-9 at the New Bedford Harbor Hotel in New Bedford, MA. Officers and directors elected at the gathering are shown above in the photo and include seated, l-r, Estaela Paulina of Luso-American Fraternal; Janet King, Catholic Association of For-esters; and Past President, Irene Grabow, Polish National Alliance. Standing, l-r Chaplain, Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak Catholic Sokol; Paul Plante, Catholic Financial Life; Anthony L. Pio, Luso-American Fraternal; Secretary-Treasurer, John M. Kamenitsky, Sokol USA, a division of GBU Financial Life; President, Albert Costa, Luso-American Fraternal; Vice President, Daniel Michalak, Polish Falcons of America; Peter Lenart, Polish Falcons of America and Paul Pinsonnaut, Catholic Financial Life.

2.22.20
The Slovak Ball

The Royal Manor
Garfield, NJ

7pm - 2am
Live Band
Black tie attire

For info: SlovakAmericanCC.org

Slovak Catholic Sokol Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic High School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

APPLICATION

ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION you must submit a typed or written essay **DOUBLE SPACED** in 100 to 200 words on the following topic:

“WHAT DOES THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEAN TO ME?” This essay must be submitted along with the application.

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2020** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicosokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

RETURN OF GRANT

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ High School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, please indicate Grade School or High School. What year? _____

High School verification (to be completed by High School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that _____
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2020-2021 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2020. Return completed application to:
 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School Grants

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants each per Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).

ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic Grade School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2020** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

RETURN OF GRANT

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that _____
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2020-2021 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2020. Return completed application to:
 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

SCENES THE OF GROUP 5 FIRST ANNUAL "FRIENDS" GIVING

HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT THE SOKOL CLUB IN BARBERTON, OH



THE BUST OF GENERAL MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK UNVEILED IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



On November 21st Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in the USA Ivan Korčok unveiled the bust of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, the co-founder of the First Czecho-Slovakia in 1918. At an event organized in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, an exhibition about this key figure of Slovak history was opened, as well. The bust commissioned by the Embassy of Slovakia with the support of individual and institutional donors was created by a Slovak-American sculptor Klára Sever.

Milan Rastislav Štefánik (July 21, 1880 – May 4, 1919) was a Slovak politician, diplomat, aviator, and astronomer. During World War I, he served as a general of the French Army and later as the first Minister of War of Czecho-Slovakia.

As one of the leading members of the Czecho-Slovak National Council (the resistance government), he contributed decisively to the cause of Czechoslovak sovereignty. He is considered to be one of the founders of the Czecho-Slovak Republic along with Thomas G. Masaryk and Eduard Benes. – *Photo: Embassy of the Slovak Republic in USA*

CHICAGO, ILL, ASSEMBLY 11

The annual meeting of our Assembly, under the spiritual patronage of SS. Cyril and Methodius, will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the home of the Financial & Recording Secretary, Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Drive, Palos Hills, IL.

All members are urged to attend this very important meeting. After Assembly Officers present their reports, we will have election of Assembly Officers and election of delegates to the SCS Group 4 Annual Meeting. Most importantly, there will be discussion on the future of Assembly 11.

In past years, Assembly 11 has hosted the 100th anniversary celebrations of Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 11, Wreath 9 as well as Group 4. At each of these celebrations, we were pleased to greet anywhere from 60 to 120 members. We urgently invite the members who showed interest in these celebrations to join us at this year's annual meeting.

Remember, the date is Saturday, February 8, 2020 at my home in Palos Hills. Please call me at tel. 708 598-1468 if you plan to attend. Zdar Boh! – **Therese M. Buc**, *Financial & Recording Secretary*

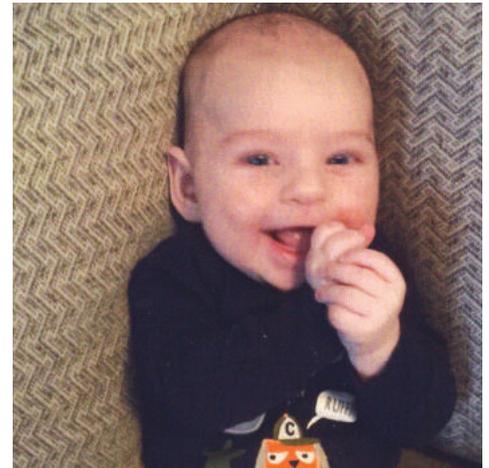


On Sunday, November 17 Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula" hosted its annual meeting in the New York Parish where the Group's patron, Msgr. Krasula served as pastor for more than 50 years. Delegates to this year's meeting are shown in St. John Nepomucene Church following the 10:15 a.m. Slovak Mass with the president, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr. who is also our organization's General Counsel, shown center, flanked by the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the parish and Chaplain of Group 1 and the Rev. Peter Palecko, C.O. This year's annual meeting was hosted by Assembly 182 located at the New York Slovak parish.

Introducing our newest member



Charlotte Bertie Odessa Groth, born May 28, 2019, is the daughter of Charlie and Elizabeth Jocelyn Groth of Minneapolis, Minn. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 47 in Minneapolis, MN.



Jameson David Young, born July 21, 2019, is the son of Chad and Jessica Hudik Young of Bethel Park, Pa. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 25 in Perryopolis, PA.

Count

Count your blessings instead of your crosses
 Count your gains instead of your losses
 Count your joys instead of your woes
 Count your friends instead of your foes
 Count your smiles instead of your tears
 Count your courage instead of your fears
 Count your full years instead of your lean
 Count your kind deeds instead of your mean
 Count your health instead of your wealth
 Count on God instead of yourself

Your Blessings

**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE HOME OFFICE STAFF**



Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary



Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C.
*Director of Sales
& Marketing*



Daniel F. Tanzone
Editorial Consultant



Clarissa Serrano
*Secretary to the
Supreme Secretary*



Livia Karak
Editorial Staff



Lorrie Pinck
Clerical Staff



Melanie M. Sasiela
Bookkeeper



Elzbieta A. Mas
Clerical Staff



Frank Revisore
Custodian

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF GROUP 7, "REV. JOSEPH MURGAS"**

Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas" held its annual meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at the St. Robert Bellarmine Parish (St. Al's), Wilkes-Barre, PA. A Mass to celebrate the Liturgy and remember the living and deceased members of Group 7 was held.

A dinner was held immediately following the Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish. The food was prepared by Schiel's Market.

Amy Degnan Blasco called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Amy welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Fr. Richard Cirba opened the meeting with a prayer.

Marty Degnan asked all to join in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Kim Graham, Reporting Secretary. There were 11 officers present (Fr. Richard Cirba, Amy Degnan Blasco, Gary Blasco, Marty Degnan, Nancy Fedor, Kim Graham, Joe Hvozdovic Jr., August Palchanis, Dawn Palchanis, Kelly Palchanis, Tony Rasimas); 3 excused (Heather Horvath, Matthew Malenovitch, Tatyana Palguyeva) and 0 not excused for a total of 14. There were also 11 delegates (Audrey Graham, Fr. Andy Hvozdovic, Irene Kaschak, Frank Lipski, Pam Lipski, Leonard Malshefski, Midge Malshefski, Bernie Novabilski, Rob Palchanis, Peggy Poiney, and Steve Vitek).

Amy Degnan Blasco described the events of 2018-2019 year which included participation in events and fundraisers as follows. Group 7 participated in the 49th International Slet in Brockport, NY held in July, in the 33rd Quadrennial Sokol Convention held in Cleveland, OH held in August and the annual Sokol Day that was held in September. Fundraisers included Join Hand's Day (Fr. Murgas gravesite), Parent's Club fundraisers, NYC and Washington DC Bus Trips, Easter & Christmas flower sales and Wisecrackers. Group 7 reunion is planned for Friday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the North End Slovak Club with donation to charity in need.

Minutes of 2018: The minutes of 2018 prepared by Kim Graham were read. A motion to accept the minutes as prepared and read by all was made by Tony Rasimas and seconded by Frank Lipski. All in favor.

Correspondence: Kim Graham read the new correspondence from the Family of Msgr. Francis Beeda thanking the group for a donation in his memory.

The Officer's Reports: The reports were read by all present and since they were in good order a motion was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdovic and seconded by Rob Palchanis to accept the entire Officer's Reports as submitted. All in favor.

Officer's reports not submitted = 0

The Auditors' Report: The auditors found the books in good order and all checks and statements were accounted for. A motion to accept the report was made by Rob Palchanis and seconded by Marty Degnan. All in favor.

The Treasurer's Report: Nancy Fedor gave the treasurer's report which was supported with an outline of income and expenses for the year. Balance in the account as of November 17, 2019 was \$18,902.12. A motion was made to accept the report by Tony Rasimas and seconded by Gary Blasco. All in favor.

The Verifications Report was presented by Marty Degnan. It was verified that there were 11 officers present; 3 excused (includes Heather Horvath, Matthew Malenovitch, Tatyana Palguyeva) and 0 not excused for a total of 14. There were also

11 delegates. A motion to accept the report was made by Frank Lipski and seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

The Bonds and Salary Committee: Amy Degnan Blasco, Nancy Fedor and Kim Graham. The Bonds and Salary Report was presented by Amy Degnan Blasco. The committee reported that they saw no need to increase salaries at this time. A motion to accept the report was made by Tony Rasimas and Seconded by Steve Vitek. All in Favor.

The Resolution Committee: Fr. Richard Cirba, Audrey Graham, Frank Lipski, Pam Lipski and Steve Vitek. The Resolutions Report was presented by Chaplain, Fr. Richard Cirba.

RESOLVE: To remember in prayer: Pope Francis, that God Bless him in all his endeavors as Vicar of Christ.

RESOLVE: To Pray for Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton as we continue to build up the kingdom of God. We especially support through our prayers the ongoing Parish Pastoral Planning in our Diocese as we vision forward in 2020 and prepare for the challenges we will face in the future as presented by Bishop Bambera.

RESOLVE: To Pray for our Clergy and Religious, that God grants them the strength and guidance they need in their Ministry. We especially, Pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life and for those struggling in a Vocation and Prayers for healing.

RESOLVE: To work together for the growth of membership in our Group 7 Slovak Catholic Sokol.

RESOLVE: To acknowledge anyone observing a special occasion this year.

RESOLVE: To thank and appreciate all who helped with the preparation and participation in all the events of this year.

RESOLVE: To support the National March for Life. To pray for the Respect of Human Life and Religious Freedom in our Country.

RESOLVE: To encourage support and participation in all or any of the activities of Group 7's Parents Club.

RESOLVE: To continue to work within Group 7 and our organization with the current and new officers, contributing our time and effort to the best of our ability and keep them in our Prayers.

RESOLVE: To pray for Peace in our Country and World especially during these violent and hostile times.

RESOLVE: To pray for all deceased members of Group 7.

A motion to accept the report was made by Bernie Novabilski and Seconded by Kelly Palchanis. All in Favor.

The New Motions Committee: Fr. Andy Hvozdovic, Irene Kaschak, Leonard Malshefski, Midge Malshefski, Bernie Novabilski and Peggy Poiney. The New Motions Report was presented by Fr. Andy Hvozdovic.

1. Recommend that all Group 7 officers will hold a four year term coinciding with the Convention rules.

2. Recommend that a donation be given to the parish of the annual meeting Mass. Amount of \$150.00.

3. Recommend the minutes of the meeting be submitted within 90 days of the meeting (per the bylaws) to be published in the Sokol paper.

4. Recommend to hold Sokol Day with all assemblies and wreaths supporting the event.

5. Recommend a donation of \$200.00 to the North End Slovak Citizen's Club for the use of the club for monthly meetings.

6. Recommend local wreaths and assemblies hold quar-

terly meetings.

7. Recommend that the Group 7 logo be worn on all uniforms in group activities.

8. Recommend that the Group Physical Director and Directress make a report at the annual meeting and include the number of participants in each program throughout the year an event is held.

9. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 be sent to the SCS Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of all deceased members of Group 7.

10. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 be sent to the Slovak Catholic Federation at the time of the Annual Appeal.

11. Recommend that the Group President send a letter quarterly to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors wishing them a successful meeting on behalf of Group 7.

12. Recommend that we participate in Join Hands Day and in the March of Life Day in Washington D.C.

13. Recommend to support new events on all levels of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

14. Recommend to explore new fundraising events for Group 7.

15. Recommend to continue to hold the Slovak Flag raising at the Luzerne County Courthouse, more information needed on this topic.

16. Recommend the group auditors conduct semi-annual audit to help with fiscal year compliance.

17. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 be sent to the Sisters of Ss. Cyril & Methodius.

18. Recommend that a donation of \$50.00 to the St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen in honor of living and deceased members of Group 7.

19. Recommend that a donation of \$100 be made to the food collection "Day of the Poor" at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish.

A motion to accept the report was made by Frank Lipski and Seconded by Rob Palchanis. All in Favor.

The Physical Fitness Board Report: (Marty Degnan, August Palchanis, Dawn Palchanis, Kelly Palchanis and Rob Palchanis) August Palchanis read the recommendations for the upcoming year.

- To send qualified participants for the Clinic.
- To use available facilities for practices and social events, e.g., North End Slovak Club or other facilities available.
- To pay entrance fees for tournaments; continue to charge for t-shirts.
- To apply to headquarters for allotments for gymnastic/track coaches.
- To continue activities within the Group such as bowling, golf tournament and to award prizes.
- To continue to encourage the Parents Club with fundraisers for the upcoming year.
- To contact the Yencha/Bly family to determine if the "Kathy Yencha Bly" sportsmanship award will continue. This award was usually presented at Sokol Day to an eligible participant to be nominated by the Physical Fitness Board and agreed upon by the Yencha/Bly family. It was not awarded in 2016, 2017, 2018 or 2019. Amy to check with the family and if no determination is received, this will be removed from report next year.
- To have all background checks updated when necessary and for all new coaches.
- For the Group to purchase props for drilling for the upcoming year, this would also include sporting equipment and first

(Continued on page 18)



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

December, 2019

The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.



His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!



Slovak Words=Slovenské slova

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Surprise your parents and grandparents by wishing them *Veselé Vianoce*, Merry Christmas, in Slovak. It would mean a whole lot to them.

Merry Christmas = *Veselé Vianoce* [ve-sell-leh vyah-knowts-saah]

Baby Jesus = *Ježiško* [Yeah-zheesh-kow]

ANGEL = *Anjelový strom* [Awn-yell]

TREE = *strom* [strom, with a trilled "r"]

HOLIDAY = *sviatok* [svyaw-toke]

WISH = *vinš* [veensh]

GIFT = *dar* [daar]

NEW YEAR = *Nový rok* [Know-vee roke]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Cole Baker 12/12

Dominic Roman 12/15

Aiden James McCoy 12/15

Riana Hoeck 12/24

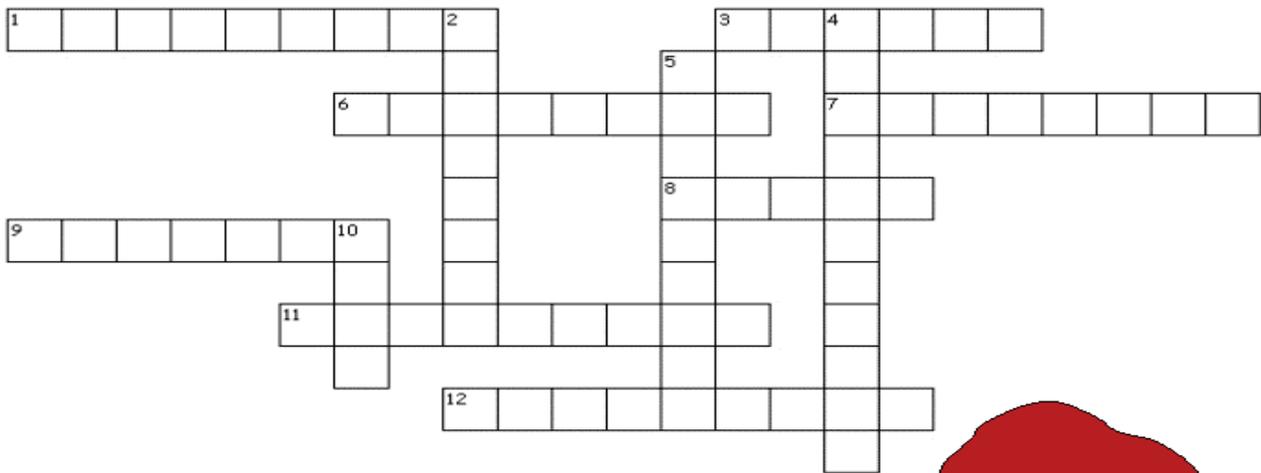




KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

December, 2019

Christmas Crossword



Word List: angels, candycane, Christmas, comet, cookies, gingerbread, Nicholas, ornaments, presents, shepherd, star, stockings

Across

- 1. Pretty baubles to hang on the Christmas tree.
- 3. Guardians who announce the good news.
- 6. Wrapped with love.
- 7. Jolly old Saint _____.
- 8. Dasher, dancer, prancer, vixen, _____, cupid, donner, blitzen
- 9. Warm snacks for Santa.
- 11. Sweet and red and white.
- 12. We wish you a merry _____.

Down

- 2. Keeper of the flocks.
- 4. House made of sweet treats.
- 5. The _____ were hung by the chimney with care.
- 10. Bright light marks the way.



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CARDS



Though wood engravers produced prints with religious themes in the European Middle Ages, the first commercial Christmas and New Year's card was designed in London, England in 1843.

John Callcott Horsley (1817 – 1903), a British narrative painter and a Royal Academician, designed the first Christmas and New Year's card at the suggestion and request of his friend Sir Henry Cole, who was the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Horsley designed the first Christmas card in 1840, but it went on sale only in 1843, when one thousand cards were offered for 1s each.

The card was not received without controversy, for it showed a family raising their glasses to toast Christmas. Puritans immediately denounced it. The idea was a hit with others. Christmas cards became very popular, and other artists quickly followed Horsley's concept. A particularly popular card was designed by English artist William Egley in 1849.

The first Christmas cards were printed in 1843 in lithography by Jobbins and Warwick Court, Holborn, London, and hand-coloured by an artist named Mason. They were lithographed on stiff cardboard, with the greeting, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." It also states that it was "Published at Sumnerly's Home Treasury Office, 12 Old Bond Street, London.

Greeting cards were not new. Since Aloys Senefelder perfected lithography in 1796, merchants would send their customers best wishes for the new year. (Lithography is the technique by which large numbers of drawings or texts first drawn on a finely-textured stone could be reproduced on paper.) Christmas cards gradually replaced New Year's card, except in France, where there was a preference for the latter.

Fun Facts about New Year's Eve

- * 1 Million: The estimated amount of people who will gather in New York's Times Square to see the ball drop.
- * 70 percent: In attendance between ages 19-35.
- * 32 percent: In attendance between ages 36-45.
- * 1 Billion: The amount of viewers worldwide who watch Times Square on TV.
- * 2,000: The pounds of confetti expected to rain down on the crowd in Times Square.
- * 49 million: The amount of bubbles in a standard Champagne bottle.

THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROL SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

The best known Christmas carol Silent Night was written in 1818 by an Austrian assistant priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Day. Saddened, he sat down to write three stanzas that could be sung by choir to guitar music. "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" was heard for the first time at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation listened as the voices of the Fr. Joseph Mohr and the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Fr. Mohr's guitar. Today, Silent Night, Holy Night is sung in more than 180 languages by millions of people.

The popularity of Christmas was further spurred on in 1820 by Washington Irving's book *The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall*. In 1834, Britain's Queen Victoria brought her German husband, Prince Albert, into Windsor Castle, reintroducing the Christmas tree and carols to the British Empire. In 1837, T.H. Hervey's *The Book of Christmas* became a best seller. Printed books were more popular than ever. The Bible was selling marvelously well. Christmas was here to stay. But it was another title that took Christmas right into people's homes.

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS OPLATKY *A cherished Slovak faith tradition*



The traditional Oplatky are generally enjoyed during the Christmas Eve dinner. However, they can be enjoyed at any dinner during the Christmas observance. As family and friends begin their meal, the head of the household begins the "Stedry Vecer" (bountiful evening) with sharing of the Oplatky, the blessed Christmas wafers eaten with honey. He or she places honey on the Oplatky and shares them with the family and friends assembled for the meal. He then makes the sign of the cross with the honey on the foreheads of all present and shares the Oplatky. The Oplatky, actually Oblatky, since the word comes from the Latin word "oblata" or offering; have been blessed by the priest according to the prescribed formula for the blessing of bread in the Roman Ritual.

The Oplatky are eaten with honey and remind us of the unleavened bread of the Passover. It also reminds us of the manna which God fed the chosen people in the desert following their Exodus from Egypt. Most importantly, they remind us of the Eucharist.

SLOVAK CHRISTMAS RECIPES

NUT AND POPPY SEED ROLL

POPPY SEED FILING

1 pound poppy seeds
2 cups milk
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 stick butter
1 cup raisins



WALNUT FILLING:

1 lb. ground walnuts
3/4 cup sugar
4 tbsp. melted butter, plus extra for greasing sheet and brushing
1/4 to 1/2 c. warm milk
1/2 tsp. vanilla flavoring

For both fillings combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Simmer for 30 minutes. Let cool entirely before using as a filling.

DOUGH

1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
1/2 cup warm water
2 tablespoons white sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour, or more if needed
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup butter
1 egg, separated - white reserved

Mix yeast with water and 2 tablespoons sugar in a small bowl. Allow to stand until the yeast forms a creamy layer. Whisk flour with salt in a bowl; use a pastry cutter to cut 1/4 cup butter into the flour mixture until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Pour yeast mixture and egg yolk into flour mixture and stir to make a soft dough. Turn dough out onto a floured work surface and knead until smooth and slightly springy, about 5 minutes. If dough is too sticky, knead in more flour, about 2 tablespoons at a time.

Cut dough into 2 equal pieces. Roll each piece out into a 12x16-inch rectangle. Spread half the filling over each rectangle, leaving a 1-inch border. Fold the 1-inch border back over the filling on all sides and press down. Pick up the shorter side of a dough rectangle and roll it like a jelly roll; repeat with second rectangle. Pinch ends together or tuck ends under to prevent filling from leaking out. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; place rolls seam sides down on the baking sheet and allow to rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Beat egg white in a bowl until frothy; brush the rolls with beaten egg white. Bake in preheated oven until dark golden brown on top, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven and cover rolls with a clean kitchen towel until cool to keep crust soft. Cool completely before slicing.

SAUERKRAUT SOUP – KAPUSTNICA

This traditional Slovak soup uses already prepared ingredients, like sauerkraut, smoked ham, and smoked sausage, to make a hearty and warming soup that requires very little prepping time.

2 lbs smoked ribs or ham
4 quarts water
2 bay leaves
1/2 tsp peppercorns
2 tbsp lard
2 onions
1.5oz bacon
4 cloves garlic
1oz dry mushrooms
1 tsp coarsely ground caraway
1 tbsp paprika
25oz sauerkraut squeezed
11oz klobasa 2-3 smoked sausages
sour cream for optional garnish



Put water, whole smoked ham, bay leaves, and peppercorns in a 5 quart pot. Let simmer for at least one hour, if not longer. In a pot of at least 7 quarts, melt lard and saute onions until golden. Meanwhile, soak mushrooms in water. Chop bacon and garlic and add to onions, stirring until garlic is fragrant. Add caraway, then paprika, stir and immediately add in squeezed sauerkraut, reserving the juices. Sauerkraut can be cut shorter beforehand, for easier eating. Stir. Add soaked mushrooms and whole klobasa. Add broth from the smoked ham, and simmer until sauerkraut is soft, about 30 minutes. Cut up ham and klobasa and slice, then add both to pot. Use the reserved sauerkraut juice to add extra saltiness or sourness. Serve with optional sour cream for garnish.

BOBALKY

2 cups whole milk
1/2 cup unsalted butter
7-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
2 teaspoons salt
2 envelopes active dry yeast, 0.25 ounce packets
2 whole large eggs
2 tablespoons hot water
Honey for drizzling
Poppy seeds for sprinkling

Heat milk and butter over low heat in a saucepan. Heat it just enough to melt butter then remove the pan from the heat and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl combine dry ingredients (flour through yeast). Add milk and butter to the dry ingredients. Then add eggs. Mix well and knead till dough is no longer sticky. Cover the bowl and let the dough rest for 10 minutes. Punch it down and let it rise till doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 400 F. Pull off dough into walnut-sized pieces. Roll into balls and place the balls on sheet pans lined with parchment paper.

Bake at 400 F for 12-15 minutes. Remove pans from the oven and put baked balls into a colander. Pour a small amount of hot milk over the balls then put them in a large bowl. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with poppy seeds as desired. Toss and serve.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GROUP 7

(Continued from page 13)

aid supplies when needed.

There were 2 men and 6 women who participated in the International Slet, 9 men and 3 women who participated in the bowling tournament and 11 men and 2 women who participated in the golf tournament.

A motion to accept the report was made by Irene Kaschak and seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

The Nominations Report was presented by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. All positions were up for reelection and need to be up-
dated at this time.

Nomination for Chaplain – Fr. Richard Cirba. A motion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Fr. Richard Cirba accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for President – Amy Degnan Blasco. A mo-
tion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Amy Degnan Blasco accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Vice President – Marty Degnan. A motion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Marty Degnan accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Financial Secretary/Treasurer – Nancy Fe-
dor. A motion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy
Hvozdo-
vovic. Nancy Fedor accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Recording Secretary – Kim Graham. A mo-
tion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Kim Graham accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Reporter – Tatyana Palguyeva. Tatyana no-
tified Amy that she will not run for office this year. A motion to ac-
cept the nomination of Pam Lipski was made by Tony Rasimas
and seconded by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Pam Lipski accepted the
nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Auditors (3) – Gary Blasco, Joe Hvozdo-
vovic Jr., Tony Rasimas. A motion to accept the nominations of Gary
Blasco, Joe Hvozdo-
vovic Jr., and Tony Rasimas was made by Fr.
Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Gary Blasco, Joe Hvozdo-
vovic Jr. and Tony Ra-
simas accepted the nominations. All in Favor.

Nomination for Sports Director – Dawn Palchanis. A mo-
tion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Dawn Palchanis accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Assistant Sports Director – Heather Horvath.
A motion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvoz-
do-
vovic. Heather Horvath accepted the nomination through a let-
ter. All in Favor.

Nomination for Physical Director – Matthew Malenovitch. A
motion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvoz-
do-
vovic. Matthew Malenovitch accepted the nomination through a
letter. All in Favor.

Nomination for Physical Directress – Kelly Palchanis. A mo-
tion to accept the nomination was made by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Kelly Palchanis accepted the nomination. All in Favor.

Nomination for Assistant Physical Directress – August Pal-
chanis. A motion to accept the nomination was made by Fr.
Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. August Palchanis accepted the nomination.
All in Favor.

Nomination for Historian – Frank Lipski. A motion to accept
the nomination was made by Tony Rasimas and seconded by
Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic. Frank Lipski accepted the nomination. No
nominations for Assistant Physical Director.

A motion to close nominations was made by Rob Palchanis
and seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in Favor.

New officers were sworn in by Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic.

Old Business: Amy Degnan Blasco – no old business at
this time.

New Business: Amy Degnan Blasco

There are a few items:

1. Poinsettia flower sale – orders due by November 25th.
Delivery TBD.

2. Timeframe/Site of next annual meeting - November
2020, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA

3. Annual reunion – 4th annual reunion to be held on No-
vember 29th 7-10 pm at the NE Slovak Club. Bring covered
dish. Will have giving tree at reunion. Donation for a friend in
need.

4. Parents Club – Dawn Palchanis - Treasurer's report as
of 11/17/19, Balance in account is \$2,771.00. Fundraiser lottery,
paid for Slet shirts, donation of \$250 to Dave Check.

5. Group 7 Christmas Party – Friday, December 13th at
NE Slovak Club 7:00 p.m. Bring \$10 exchange gift.

6. Mohegan Sun Sokol Membership Drive - Headquarters
purchased banner and will have table and literature at a date to
be determined (tickets will be available for the game).

7. Fraternal Society of NE PA – will hold its annual Christ-
mas party on Wednesday, December 11th at East Mountain
Holiday Inn, cost is \$25 per person.

A motion to accept new business was made by Kelly Pal-
chanis and seconded by Gary Blasco. All in Favor.

Good of the Order: Amy Degnan Blasco thanked everyone
for helping throughout the year. No one had anything else to
add.

Fr. Andy Hvozdo-
vovic told the Group that they can request do-
nations and/or match of fund raised from Headquarters quarterly
at the Board of Directors Meeting. Also, in addition to the Group
nominations there were four elected to the Board of Directors
from Group 7 (Michael Horvath, Supreme President, Fr. Andrew
Hvozdo-
vovic, Supreme Chaplain, Martin Degnan, Supreme Assis-
tant Physical Director and Robert Palchanis, Supreme Physical
Fitness Board.

Audrey Graham made a motion to adjourn and it was sec-
onded by Pam Lipski. All in Favor.

Fr. Richard Cirba closed the meeting with a prayer.

Zdar Boh!

Kim Graham

Group 7 Recording Secretary

**CGSI OFFERS ONLINE
SLOVAK LANGUAGE COURSE**

An online Beginning Slovak Language course sponsored
by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI) is be-
ing offered January 16 to March 26 (Thursday evenings) from
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (EST). In this 10-week, 20-hour course,
participants will learn basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases
and be introduced to Slovak grammar. The course is designed
to be interesting and informative—and also includes various
aspects of Slovakia's rich culture and traditions.

A PDF Course Book and audio files are provided. The
instructor is Dennis Ragan, who has been teaching basic Slo-
vak language and 'real' halušky culinary classes for 17 years.
The cost is \$195 (\$180 for members of CGSI). For additional
details and a copy of the course syllabus, contact Dennis at
drgan322@gmail.com



OBITUARIES

THOMAS K. GARCAR, 68 WAS ASSEMBLY 108 MEMBER

Thomas K. Garcar passed away peacefully in Campbell, Oh. on October 10 at the age of 68. A native of Youngstown, Oh., he was born there December 26, 1950, son of the late Steve and Mary L. Simkovic Garcar. He was a 1968 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School.



A 60-year member of Assembly 108, Brother Thomas proudly served in the U.S. Army Artillery Division during the Vietnam War from 1970 to 1972. He was a specialist second class with the rating of Sharpshooter on the rifle range. Thomas then returned to work at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and LTV Steel until their closing.

Tom enjoyed fishing and watching football. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his brother, Stephen(Carol) of

Livonia, Mich., his sister, Ruth Garcar of Youngstown; his nieces and nephews, Stephen(Lori), Christopher and Susan(Leonard)Minor; his great-niece, Lauren; and great-nephews, Ryan and Jack. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to especially thank his caregivers, Bob and Jewel Pluchinsky, also friends Monty and wife, Nicholas, Jimmy and Sammy Fitch, and Frank, Tina and Josh.

The family also sends many thanks to all of Tommy's doctors and nurses at the Hope Cancer Center; St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital and St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on October 17 at St. Joseph the Provider Church of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, with the Rev. Michael Swierz officiating. The Wasko Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

May our Brother Sokol, who so beautifully mirrored our faith and heritage, now rest in peace.

GEORGE J. KOSTELNIK PASSES AWAY

(Continued from page 3)

of the Bishop's Committee on various fundraising appeals of the Diocese of Allentown and was active in the former SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish now known as the Parish of the Incarnation of the Lord.

George was enrolled at birth in the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Bethlehem and began his activity at an early age. He participated in calisthenics and competed at our national Slets. As a young man, he was elected an officer of Assembly 78 serving in various capacities over the years including that of president. He served as elder of our former Jr. Assembly 18 and was treasurer of the Catholic Sokol Home Association. He began his long tenure as a supreme officer in 1967 when he was elected a Supreme Auditor. He was appointed Chairperson of Supreme Auditors in 1970 and elected to that position at the 1971 convention. In February 1973 at the annual meeting, he was unanimously elected to fill the position of Vice President. At the 22nd quadrennial convention in Youngstown, OH in 1975, he was elected as Supreme President. Brother George was the first American born supreme president of the organization. He was again elected as supreme president in 1992 and served in this position until 1999. He was elected an

In Memoriam

OCTOBER 2019

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	Vincent Simko, Hamden, CT	90	December 22, 2016
Assembly 11	Marian Klimek, Chicago, IL	84	October 16, 2019
Assembly 11	John F. Bendik, Chicago, IL	41	October 6, 2019
Assembly 11	Robert J. Keblusek, Orland Park IL	80	October 30, 2019
Assembly 24	Julia H. Bolcar, Schuylerville, NY	96	September 19, 2019
Assembly 25	Joseph P. Kostolansky Jr., Donora, PA	86	February 5, 2019
Assembly 36	Helen Osika, Lennon, MI	90	July 19, 2019
Assembly 36	Mary M. Stanek, Saint Clair Shores, MI	87	October 14, 2019
Assembly 57	Edward B. Mangan, Wilkes-Barre, PA	77	October 29, 2019
Assembly 78	Frederick R. Halupka Sr., Bethlehem, PA	82	October 24, 2019
Assembly 79	Michael B. Nesbella, Garnet Valley, PA	93	October 29, 2019
Assembly 108	Thomas Garcar, Campbell, OH	69	October 10, 2019
Assembly 162	Mary Ann Robinson, Willingsboro, NJ	61	October 4, 2019
Assembly 111	John R. Oravec, Rockville, MD	83	March 18, 2014
Assembly 113	John G. Kopesky, Waite Park, MN	83	October 21, 2019
Assembly 162	John Glogiewicz, Clifton, NJ	82	September 27, 2008
Assembly 185	John W. Krna, Oviedo, FL	88	September 13, 2019
Assembly 185	Cyril Polacheck, Endwell, NY	93	Sept.ember18, 2019
Assembly 188	Edward M. Poshefko, Lansford, PA	94	September 20, 2019
Assembly 214	Minnie Ilconich, Rossford, OH	93	September 22, 2019
Assembly 219	Theresa L. Gundersen, Castle Rock, CO	91	October17, 2019
Assembly 285	Mary Zawislak, Smithtown, NY	97	October 6, 2019
Assembly 312	Eleanor Hnat, Fort Myers, FL	89	October 10, 2019
Assembly 312	Ryan M. Manca, W. Caldwell, NJ	37	October 18, 2019
Assembly 312	Jane Ellen Ulaki, Scotch Plains, NJ	67	September 10, 2019
Wreath 11	Mildred Macek, Newburgh, NY	93	August 1, 2019
Wreath 22	Mary A. Kulick, Pittsburgh, PA	91	September 27, 2019
Wreath 22	Rose C. Bagin, Pittsburgh, PA	78	August 30, 2019
Wreath 34	Paul R. Klubert, Westlake, OH	90	July 31, 2019
Wreath 43	Richard Hrubovcak, LaCrescenta, CA	74	May 2, 2019
Wreath 47	Frances M. Mc Glip, Bloomington, MN	86	September 24, 2019
Wreath 81	Margaret J. Vriik, Crown Point, IN	91	September 21, 2019
Wreath 93	Milan A. Grambicka, Wauwatosa, WI	80	September 21, 2019
Wreath 93	Mary Jane Baker, Sheboygan, WI	66	September 17, 2019
Wreath 111	William S. Frey, Chambersburg, PA	73	August 17, 2019

Honorary Supreme Officer in 1999. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress, now the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance and was active in the National Fraternal Congress of America, now the American Fraternal Alliance.

He was active in the American Slovak community all his life and was a life member of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America, subsequently serving on both organizations board of directors. He was active all his life at the former SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish on Bethlehem's South Side, now the Parish of the Incarnation of Our Lord.

In addition to his wife, Barbara, Brother Kostelnik was preceded in death by his sisters Helen, Irene and Annamae Kostelnik, Mary Aylward and brother Dr. Francis Kostelnik. Survivors include seven nephews, three nieces, four great nephews, six great nieces, two great great nephews and five great great nieces.

A viewing was held on the morning of December 11 at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish in Bethlehem followed by the Mass of Christian burial. Interment followed at Holy Saviour Cemetery.

May our Brother Kostelnik who so beautifully mirrored the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system throughout his life, as well as our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith now rest in peace.

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland**EC Predicts Slower GDP Growth in Slovakia until End of 2021**

Slovakia's real GDP growth will significantly decelerate from last year's level of 4.0 percent to 2.7 percent in 2019 and remain at similar levels – 2.6 percent and 2.7 percent – in 2020 and 2021, respectively, stated the European Commission (EC).

As a result of significant salary growth and record-low unemployment, private consumption will continue to be a significant source of GDP growth, but weaker demand from key trading partners in the EU will “take its toll” in the form of lower exports to those countries, mainly in 2019.

According to the EC, Slovakia has been under pressure from lower foreign demand in 2019, but exports can be expected to increase gradually, probably by 4.5 percent in 2021. Slovakia's trade balance should slip into negative territory in 2019 and then gradually recover in 2020 and 2021. However, this bounce back will depend on the prospects for Slovakia's key trading partners and developments influencing the automotive industry (such as potential US customs charges).

Job creation in Slovakia decelerated in 2019, and the EC stressed that this trend might continue in 2020 and 2021. The unemployment rate is expected to drop to a record low of 5.9 percent in 2019 and to fluctuate around this level in 2020 and 2021 as well. The positive impact of job creation on disposable household incomes is expected to weaken, but strong salary growth should support these incomes. Following this year's significant salary growth in the public sector, salaries will go up only moderately in 2020 and 2021.

The Commission predicted that inflation will remain at a slightly increased level during the monitored period, standing at 2.7 percent in 2019, 2.5 percent in 2020 and 2.2 percent in 2021. Overall inflation should mainly be driven by services, food prices and energy. Food prices, which recorded rapid growth in 2019, should slow down in the next two years.

Slovakia's public finance deficit rose by 0.1 percentage points to 1.1 percent of GDP in 2018. It should fall to 0.9 percent of GDP in 2019. The EC expects it to increase to 1.2 percent in 2020 as a result of Government fiscal measures aimed at reducing the tax burden and the introduction of minimum pensions.

TASR RELEASES NEW VERSION OF TASR PRO MOBILE APPLICATION

The News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR) released a new version of the TASR Pro application on Wednesday, allowing access to agency services via Android and iOS mobile devices, while the upgraded version offers flash and brief story notifications, broader customisation options and other functional enhancements.

“The quality of contents and innovations in their delivery are our priorities. The application is a news agency on a mobile phone. Customers don't need to be on a desktop computer or within the editorial system to know what TASR has released. A notification will alert them to important stories according to the

selected criteria,” said TASR general director Vladimir Puchala.

The application is intended for the agency's clients. It's available in the Play Store and App Store under the name TASR Pro 2, and requires a login to use. In addition to agency services, the application also offers the possibility to integrate outputs from WebReport online monitoring or monitoring of TASR's agency service.

“We focused on improving existing functions and added others partly based on user feedback. We think the application will be appreciated not only by media staff, but also by people in communications departments and other professions working with information,” said TASR sales and marketing director Rastislav Borsik.

TASR Pro offers full-fledged TASR text services, a modern design and a wide range of individual settings for professionals.

“N'89-ROAD TO FREEDOM” EXHIBITION OPENS AT BRATISLAVA CASTLE

An exhibition titled N'89 – Road to Freedom, capturing the era of late 1980s up to the 1989 Velvet Revolution, opened on Thursday, November 14 at Bratislava Castle.

Organised by the Slovak National Museum, Nation's Memory Institute and Klub 89, the exhibition opening ceremony was also attended by Parliamentary Chair Andrej Danko. “It was an era [the previous communist regime] that had a certain appeal, but, of course, it also had downsides and shortcomings. Key among these [shortcomings] was the fact that we couldn't really say what was on our minds and people always had to be on guard as to whether or not they were under surveillance,” claimed Danko.

The organisers decided to expand on the project and add the aspect of freedom perception. “Two generations of young people have grown up in Slovakia since the revolutionary days of 1989 that either hadn't lived through the Velvet Revolution or were barely ten years old and hence didn't really understand political changes in the state. That's why the beginning of the exhibition is set in the mid-1980s and perceptive visitors might familiarise themselves or recall the main restrictions on freedom in communist Czechoslovakia,” the organisers wrote on the museum's website.

The exhibition concludes with the first free election of 1990, the destruction of the Klement Gottwald Memorial [dedicated to the Stalinist-era Czechoslovak president-ed.note] and the renaming of Gottwald Square as the present-day Namestie Slobody [Freedom Square]. N'89 – Road to Freedom will stay open until November 22, 2020.

ANALYSTS: WEAK FOREIGN DEMAND DRAGGED SLOVAK GDP GROWTH DOWN

Slovakia's economic growth decelerated significantly to 1.3 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) in the third quarter of 2019, far below expectations, which were at the levels seen in the previous quarter, namely 1.8-2.4 percent y-o-y.

The slowdown was mainly due to lower foreign demand, but certain domestic sectors also weakened, the analysts concurred.

“Slovakia's economy decelerated significantly for the second time this year, and it seems that the economic slowdown in the eurozone, particularly in Germany, has been affecting it strongly,” said VUB Banka analyst Michal Lehuta.

Industrial production in July-September fell by 2.6 percent y-o-y, with exports down by 1.5 percent. Negative figures were also posted by the construction sector (minus 3.8 percent) and retail

revenues (minus 2.2 percent y-o-y).

“Despite rapidly rising salaries and growing employment, people aren’t spending particularly much in the shops. Nevertheless, domestic demand in 3Q19 in terms of revenues allowed for growth in the sectors of accommodation, restaurants and pubs, transport, miscellaneous expert services, and the sale and repair of vehicles,” noted Lehuta.

Slovenska sporitelna bank analyst Katarina Muchova estimates that Slovakia’s GDP growth could decelerate to 2.5 percent y-o-y in 2019 and to 2.3 percent in 2020. She pointed out that these figures could turn out to be even lower due to uncertain developments in industry and foreign trade.

With domestic demand remaining sound, Muchova pointed to some external threats to Slovakia’s economic performance, most notably Brexit, a slowdown in Germany, the eurozone and China, unresolved foreign-trade disputes and possible protectionist measures at international level.

BUS CRASH NEAR NITRA CLAIMS AT LEAST TWELVE LIVES, INCLUDING FOUR MINORS

Twelve people, including four minors, were killed in a crash involving a bus and a lorry near Nitra on Wednesday, November 13 afternoon, with another 17 people being injured, ministers of interior and health, Denisa Sakova and Andrea Kalavska, respectively, told journalists near the scene.

The bus on the Nitra-Jelenec route was carrying many students returning home from schools in Nitra. Both drivers were injured in the accident.

Two paramedic helicopters and seven paramedic ambulances, apart from the fire-fighter ones, intervened on the scene. The injured were taken to hospitals in Nitra, Nove Zamky, Topolcany and Levice (all Nitra region).

The police called Wednesday, November 13 the most tragic day of this year in Slovakia, as 12 people were killed in the bus crash near Nitra, three women were drowned in the Muran River after it burst its banks, five people committed suicide, two people were hit by trains and two others were killed in other traffic accidents.

MOST SUCCESSFUL SLOVAK FEMALE TENNIS PLAYER EVER CIBULKOVA RETIRES

The most successful Slovak female tennis player ever Dominika Cibulkova announced her retirement from professional tennis on Tuesday, November 12.

Cibulkova, the tennis world champion from 2016, made the announcement at the presentation of her autobiography ‘Tenis je moj zivot’ (Tennis Is My Life) in Bratislava.

“It was my last match at Roland Garros [first round, in late May]. I wanted to absorb it and see whether I’ve come to terms with it. I believe that today is the perfect day for this [announcement]. I’ve thought about it for a long time and I’m looking forward to a new life,” said Cibulkova with watery eyes.

Cibulkova, who won eight WTA tournaments in singles in her career, recorded her best result as part the Grand Slam series by reaching the finals at 2014 Australian Open. She was fourth in the WTA world ranking in March 2017, whereby she equalled the Slovak best ever of Miloslav Mecir from 1988.

“I was surprised by Dominika’s decision. It’s a huge loss for Slovak tennis. Dominika was the best-ranked Slovak player in the era of independence [since 1993], she represented the country in an excellent manner for many years in the Fed Cup. She triumphed at the WTA World Championship in Singapore and she was also greatly successful at Grand Slam tournaments, with Australian Open finals and Roland Garros semi-finals being fantastic results. She was a great role model for children and the youth,” said Igor Moska, Secretary General of the Slovak Tennis Association.

“She’s a diligent and fair woman. She’s had to fight out everything hard and alone. She’s never got anything for free. With her short figure, it wasn’t easy for her to get among the world’s best, but she managed it. We’ve been friends since our childhood, we had the same strength and conditioning coach, we played for Slovan [Bratislava]. She’s always been kind-hearted and cheerful,” said Dominik Hrbaty, Slovak Davis Cup captain, who partnered Cibulkova in a campaign that resulted in Slovakia’s third title at the 2009 Hopman Cup.



Christmas markets are very popular in Slovakia, principally in its capital city of Bratislava. The squares located in the heart of these cities are all aglow with bright and colorful lights and decorations. Especially in the evenings, these centers are filled with an array of vendors offering a selection of handcrafted Christmas gifts, with unique items for everyone on one’s Christmas list. In addition, featured are traditional Slovak culinary specialties, like klobasy, ciganska pecienka, kapustnica and goulas soup to warm the innards on crispy cold evenings are featured. A variety of hot teas, honey liquor and cooked wine are also enjoyed. There are concerts, singing and dance ensembles and exhibits celebrating the merriment of the festive Christmas season throughout the day. In Bratislava, the Christmas Market is located in Hviezdoslav Square and the Franciscan Square in the Old Town section of the city.

*Selected stories are provided by TASR
– the Slovak Republic’s official News Agency.*

VIANOČNÝ POZDRAV Z MATICE SLOVENSKEJ

Na cesty sa sype ťažký čerstvý sneh, plný mesiac sa skvie medzi miliónmi zlatých hviezd a ľudia, z takmer celého sveta, v teple domova, ticho, túžobne i radosne očakávajú začiatok najkrajších sviatkov roka – sviatkov vianočných.

Práve v tomto čase si matiari intenzívnejšie pripomínajú, že slovenský svet sa nerozprestiera iba od Bratislavy po Košice, ale jeho hranice objímajú takmer celý svet. V starých archívnych dokumentoch sa neraz nájde fotografia slovenskej rodiny, ktorá oslavuje slovenské Vianoce v Austrálii, Argentíne, zámorí, na Dolnej Zemi či v inom meste Európy. Zdá sa, že z tradícií, ktoré si mladí Slováci odnášali z domoviny, boli azda najdominantnejšie práve tie, ktoré sa praktizovali v magickom čase vianočnom. Naši krajanovia, či už tí, čo inde žili 200,100 alebo iba 10 rokov na svoje korene nezabudli. Mnohí z nich si spomínajú na tradičné Vianoce, ktoré zažili ešte s ich prastarými rodičmi v neslovenskej krajine alebo si spomínajú na tie, ktoré zažili v časoch, keď ešte žili na Slovensku.

Vianoce sú azda najkrajší kresťanský sviatok. Človek k človeku má v tomto čase bližšie, v hrudiach bijú slovenské srdcia hlasnejšie, náruč sa otvára širšie, ruky viac hladia, ústa viac chvália...

Pre slovenskú národu však celoročne ostáva typické, že si z pokolenia na pokolenie zachováme svoje zvyky, lipneme na starootcovskom dedičstve a nezabúdame na tradičné...

Mnohí z krajanov ešte stále na stromčekoch majú zavesených vyrezávaných drevených anjelikov, krehké bábiky zo šúpolia, kúsok sušeného ovocia, vlašské oriešky, voskové sviece a na štedrovečernom stole sa tkvie krásna, slovenská výšivka.

Podľa starých zvykov je pod ňou ukrytá šupina z kapra – pre bohatstvo a na nej sú položené misky s cesnakom, medom, oplátkami, jablkom i trúnkom – pre zdravie i poslušnosť. A poznáte poveru s orechovou škrupinkou? Keď sa vlašský orech rozpolil, položila sa škrupina na vodu a tomu, komu odplávala najďalej, predpovedala odchod do cudziny. Kto vie, či sa takáto predpoveď ukázala i našim krajanom, ktorých osud zavial ďaleko od svojej domoviny...

Po štedrej večeri mnohí odchádzali do kostola, iní vytvárali živý Betlehem a chodili spoločne koledovať z jedného konca dediny na druhý.

Aj my, tak ako betlehemi ský koledníci, Vám chceme adresovať naše prianie do všetkých kútov zeme, všade tam, kde žijú naši krajanovia. Zo sídla a srdca Matice slovenskej, z Martina, Vám chceme z úprimného srdca zaželať krásne, pokojné, radosné a najmä šťastné a veselé Vianoce, plné vzájomnej lásky a pokoja.

Matica slovenská je hrdá na to, že i dnes, v roku 2019, udržujete slovenské zvyky a cítite sa byť Slovákmi.

Šťastné a požehnané, milí krajanovia!

Zuzana Pavelcová

riaditeľka Krajského múzea MSatice slovenskej

KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Slovensko tento rok zaznamenalo nárast počtu žiadostí cudzincov o udelenie azylu. Do konca septembra vyhovelo iba štyrom žiadateľom. Vyplýva to z údajov ministerstva vnútra SR. V Európskej únii sa Slovensko neradí k cieľovým krajinám migrantov. Od začiatku tohto januára do konca septembra slovenské úrady dostali 176 žiadostí o azyl. To je takmer toľko ako za celý minulý rok; oproti prvým trom štvrtrokom 2018 počet žiadateľov o azyl na Slovensku stúpil o viac ako štvrtinu.

Bratislavské historické centrum patrí medzi 50 najdrahších nákupných lokalít sveta. Vyplýva to z najnovších údajov spoločnosti Cushman & Wakefield, ktorá každoročne zostavuje rebríček najdrahších nákupných ulíc na svete. Slovenská metropola je oproti vlaňajšku o jednu priečku vyššie. V rebríčku najdrahších ulíc sveta sa bratislavské centrum umiestnilo na 49. mieste. Vlni lokalite patrila 50. priečka, v rebríčku bola doteraz zaradovaná ako Obchodná ulica. Tentoraz analytici pomenovali nákupnú lokalitu „centrum mesta“, nielen Obchodnú. Reflektujú tým na to, že najdrahšie obchody nie sú na tejto ulici, hoci práve tá je považovaná za jediný nákupný bulvár v meste.

Miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti na Slovensku v októbri tohto roka dosiahla úroveň 4,94 percenta. Medzimesačne klesla o 0,10 percenta medziročne sa znížila o 0,29 percenta. Vyplýva to z najnovšie zverejnených údajov Ústredím práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny. Nezamestnanosť sa tak podľa ústredia práce vrátila k poklesu a znížila sa v prípade viacerých skupín - mladých ľudí aj v prípade dlhodobo nezamestnaných. Stav disponibilných uchádzačov o zamestnanie dosiahol ku koncu októbra tohto roka 136.192 osôb.

Rozpočet Ústavu pamäti národa na rok 2020 bude doteraz najvyšší v histórii. Podľa návrhu rozpočtu na budúci rok bude ústav hospodáriť s 2 008 292 eur, čo je v porovnaní s rokom 2019 o 92-tisíc eur viac. Materiál schválili členovia výboru Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva a národnostné menšiny. Finančné prostriedky ústav použije na ochranu a sprístupnenie dokumentov o činnosti bezpečnostných zložiek štátu v rokoch 1939 –1989, zhromažďovanie a zverejňovanie informácií o dobe neslobody, sprístupnenie dokumentov prenasledovaným osobám a poskytovanie výsledkov svojej činnosti verejnosti.

27. SLOVENSÝ PLES V GARFIELD, NJ

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko usporiada 27. Slovenský ples v sobotu 22. februára 2020 v Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ. Koktail začne o 7.00 hodine večer. Nasledovať bude večera. Vstupné je \$140.00 za osobu za vstupenky kúpené do 31. januára 2020 a od 1. do 10. februára bude cena vstupeniek \$160.00. Vstupenky sú k dispozícii na webe: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-slovak-ball-2020-tickets-72069181863>

V prípade objednávky poštou majú byť šeky zaslané do 31. januára na adresu: SACC, c/o Tanya Pulver, Treasurer, 3 Hawthorne Place, Summit, NJ 07901.

Bližšie informácie: SlovakAmericanCC.org

ŠTEDROVEČERNÝ STÔL SYMBOLIZUJE HOJNOŠŤ

Počas štedrej večere sa pod biely ľanový obrus sa kládli peniaze alebo hrst' ovsu či jačmeňa, aby sa v budúcom roku rozhojnili.

Na tento deň sa aj v časoch biedy odkladala ušetrená múka, cukor, strukoviny, mak, sušené ovocie, lekvár, med, masť na vyprážanie šišiek aj sladké víno. Večera mala obsahovať aspoň deväťero jedál. Ak bolo jedla dostatok, rodinu čakal priaznivý rok.

Cez deň sa nejedlo nič, alebo len málo, pretože až do Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu v roku 1965 platil na Štedrý deň prísny pôst. Deťom rodičia za sebazaprenie sľubovali, že večervidia zlatú hviezdu, krokvu alebo prasiatko. Pôstny obed zvyčajne tvorili zemiaky bez masti s riedkou nevarenou kapustnicou.

Výber štedrovečerných jedál ovplyvňoval charakter krajiny. Jedálne lístky sa rôznili v horských a nížinatých oblastiach, v ovocinárskych, vinohradníckych a pastierskych regiónoch, v meste a na dedine. K viac-menej univerzálnym jedlám patrili ob-



látky s medom, kapustnica, zemiaky, varený hrach, fazuľa, opekance, rezance či iné cestoviny a kompót zo sušených sliviek.

S rôznymi druhmi cestovín boli spojené mnohé povery. Varili sa rezance, pirohy, šúľance, halušky a najmä opekance, nazývané aj pupáky alebo bobalky. Veľké pirohy a šúľance symbolizovali napríklad veľké obilné klasy. Vodu z opekancov vyľievali pod ovocné stromy, aby dobre rodili. Do tradičnej kapustnice sa pridávali sušené

hríby a slivky, nie mäso, pretože aj večera mala byť napriek hojnosti pôstna. Z toho istého dôvodu sa v katolíckom prostredí rozšírilo podávanie ryby.

V dnešnej podobe sa začala ryba konzumovať až v minulom storočí. Dovtedy sa jedli najmä slané a údené ryby. Ryba je zároveň symbolom kresťanstva, odvodeným z doby starovekých prenasledovaní. Grécke slovo ichthys – ryba, znamenalo v tajnej reči kresťanov Ježiš Kristus Syn Boží Spasiteľ – Iesus Christos Then Hyois Soter. Po rybe nasledovala v niektorých oblastiach "Ježiškova kašička", čiže krupicová kaša, ktorú jedla celá rodina z jedného veľkého taniera. Rôzne koláče a zákusky sa pridávali až neskôr – našim predkom ich nahrádzal chlieb, ktorý bol pre nich vzácnosťou.

Vianočné jedlá požívali osobitnú úctu. Zo štedrovečerného stola sa nemohlo nič vyhodiť, odkladali sa aj odrobinky, ktoré vraj pomáhali, keď ochorel dobytok.

SLOVENSKÉ VIANOČNÉ RECEPTY

MEDOVÉ KOLÁČIKY

Suroviny:

650 g polohrubej múky, 300 g práškoveho cukru, 2 čajové lyžičky jedlej sódy, 1 čajová lyžička klinčekov, postrúhaná citrónová kôra, 8 polievkových lžíc horúceho medu, 3 vajcia, mandle

Postup:

Do múky preosejeme cukor, pridáme jedlú sódu, potlčené klinčeky, postrúhanú citrónovú kôru a s horúcim medom, tromi žĺtkami a dvoma bielkami zarobíme cesto (tretí bielok použijeme na potretie). Cesto vyvalkáme na hrúbku 0,5 cm, vykrojíme rôzne tvary, potrieme ich rozšľahaným bielkom a upečieme v rúre predhriatej na 200 °C.



LINECKÉ KOLIEČKA

Suroviny:

600 g múka hladká, 300 g maslo, 200 g cukor práškový, 1 balík prášok kypriaci do pečiva, 1 balík cukor vanilkový, 2 ks nastrúhaný varený žĺtok, 2 ks vajcia, štipka soľ

Postup:

Všetky suroviny zmiešame a vymiesime

hladké cesto, ktoré dáme do chladničky na 2 hodiny. Cesto rozdelíme na 3 kusy a rozvalkáme na hrúbku 4 milimetre. Dáme na plech a pečieme

12 minút v predhriatej rúre na 165 stupňov Celzia (330 F). Vychladnuté zlepieme lekvárom a poprášime vanilkovým cukrom.



KAPUSTNICA

Suroviny:

1 kg kyslá kapusta, 2 ks klobása, 1 ks cibuľa, sušené hríby, 2 PL mletá červená paprika, olej, soľ, bobkový list, 2 PL hladká múka



Postup:

Kyslú kapustu dáme variť do veľkého hrnca, pridáme klobásku a vopred namočené sušené hríby. V inej rajnici dáme na olej pokrájanú cibuľu, papriku, hladkú múku, urobíme zápražku. Klobásku vyberieme, nakrájame na kolieska. Zápražku vle-

jeme do uvarenej kyslej kapusty, necháme prevrieť, miešame. Klobásku hodíme do plievky, ešte prevaríme. Ochutíme soľou, ak treba.

VANILKOVÉ ROŽTEKY

Suroviny:

170 g hladká múka, 110 g maslo, 40 g práškový cukor, 50 g mleté orechy, 1 balíček vanilkový cukor, práškový a vanilkový cukor na obalovanie



Postup:

Zo všetkých surovín vypracujeme cesto, ktoré zabalíme a odložíme na dve hodiny do chladničky. Potom cesto vyberieme a rukami postupne z neho odobierame kúsky, z ktorých urobíme rožteky, ktoré ukladáme na plech vystlaný papierom na pečenie. Pečieme ich vo vyhriatej rúre pri teplote 150°C (300 F) asi 12 minút. Po upečení ich hneď obalíme v zmesi práškového a vanilkového cukru.

*Naším členom a čitateľom
prejeme požehnané a veselé
Vianoce a v novom roku veľa
šťastia, zdravia a úspechov.*



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VANTAGE 2	2.40%	1.75%
VANTAGE 3	2.65%	1.75%
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