

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT****November 28, 2021**

**O COME, O COME EMMANUEL.** This Sunday we begin our holy season of Advent, and the beginning of the Church's New Year, a time of joyful anticipation and preparation for the celebration of our Savior's birth. Advent is so overshadowed by Christmas preparations and celebrations, that we too often forget how necessary it is for us to set the mood, so to speak. We, like ancient Israel wait patiently for our Messiah. Like Mary, we reflect on the great mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming man so that we might enjoy the fruits of redemption and share in his divinity. As Christians, we joyfully reconnect ourselves to the unfolding of our Faith, and what we truly believe, lest Christmas become nothing more than a pagan celebration of materialism and consumerism. Advent directs us to Bethlehem, to Jesus, to the Holy Family, to God who is with us as Emmanuel.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION.** During Advent, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday from 2:00-6:00 p.m., especially for vocations to the priesthood. We will conclude at 6:00 p.m. with Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Benediction.

**WITH MUCH GRATITUDE.** A lot of hard work and support pays off! Last Sunday's Fall Festival, our first since the pandemic's lockdown, was a great testimony to what can be accomplished when there's good will, determination and cooperation. It was a smaller than normal, but steady crowd throughout the day. People were genuinely having a good time and there was a spirit of wanting the festival to be successful. People enjoyed the food and were not afraid to try their luck in winning a turkey or ham for the holidays. Paul Sedmak did a great job, with a lot of moments of frustration, in organizing the festival and setting up the hall, much of it by himself, because even with appeals for help, "the work was plentiful, but the laborers were few." Thank goodness the ever-faithful Kozak family and Lou Menart were there to help with preparations before and during the festival. Adding to the frustration was having two of our hall freezers stop working the day before the festival and scrambling at the last moment to find adequate storage space. The hall was beautifully decorated, the faithful volunteers were ready to work the stands, and the kitchen, under the direction of Joanna Pope and Lucy & Joe Colo prepared an abundance of food. Maria Sedmak's famous plum dumplings were a welcomed treat. Our gratitude to all of our volunteers and to everyone who provided gift baskets and donated baked goods for the Altar Society Bake Sale. Our special thank you to the ever-faithful "Krofe Krew" for providing us with our Slovenian donuts. To everyone who made a sincere effort to purchase or sell raffle tickets, to everyone who attended the festival, especially so many non-parishioners who came to support us, to our Slovenian radio stations and to the Slovenian American Times for advertising, and everyone who contributed in any way, great or small to make our 2021 Fall Festival a success, our sincere thank you and our prayers that God bless you abundantly.

**Last Sunday's Offering: \$5,305****Church Needs:** \$1,000 from Douglas Smith for church roof repairs**Your generosity to the parish is appreciated!**

**"THANK YOU" FROM ST. VITUS CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS.** Commander of St. Vitus Post 1655 of the Catholic War Veterans, John Kirk, extends the gratitude of its members for the generosity of our parishioners for its support for the Veteran's Day Poppy Sale. Every dollar donated supports the Post's programs at Cleveland Veterans Hospital, the Homeless Veterans Facility and Fisher House. The St. Vitus War Veterans also support the local Coast Guard based in Cleveland. Without support from caring, generous people, it would be impossible to provide these needed services.

**PATRIOTIC ROSARY** will be prayed on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

**COLLINWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION** will have a Christmas Party in the Atrium on Wednesday evening December 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**ST. NICHOLAS IS COMING.** St. Mary Slovenian School students and parents will expectantly await and welcome good St. Nicholas on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The Slovenian School students are preparing a short program to show St. Nicholas how diligent they have been with their Slovenian studies this year.

**ALTAR SOCIETY** will have their Corporate Communion at the 10:00 a.m. Mass next Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Holy Hour will be at 1:30 p.m. After Holy Hour, members will put together St. Nicholas packages for all our homebound parishioners, and those in nursing facilities.

**ADVENT "GIVING TREE".** Once again, we will have our Giving Tree to help Westside Catholic Center and Birthright. The tree is located next to the St. Lawrence statue. Please take a gift suggestion ornament and return your unwrapped gift under the tree by December 15<sup>th</sup>. There are also free Christmas gift bags by the tree for your use.

**2022 "WORD & SONG" MISSALS.** We were notified, that because of a paper shortage, our missals will not be delivered to the church until mid-Advent at the earliest. We will continue to use the old missals until the new ones arrive, although the readings are different, since we begin Cycle "C" this Sunday.

**BELOKRANJSKI KLUB BOŽIČNICA** will be next Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall beginning at 1:00 p.m. All Belokranjci and families are invited to attend.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A GREAT CONCERT.** On Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Hillcrest Concert Band will have a free Christmas Concert in the parish hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is very welcome to attend and put us in the Christmas spirit.

**TODAY'S PSALM RESPONSE:****To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

## Masses for the Week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 2021

## DANES JE PRVA ADVENTNA NEDELJA

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>(11/29) ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:45 a.m.	Karl Zajec (30 Day)
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>(11/30) ST. ANDREW (Apostle)</b>
7:45 a.m.	Mary & John Petric, Major John A. Petric & Tim Petric (Daughter & Sister Veronica)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>(12/1) ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:45 a.m.	Angela Konte & Family (Annamarie Konte)
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>(12/2) ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:45 a.m.	John Buchanan (Frank & Paula Dolinar)
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>(12/3) ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (PRIEST)</b>
7:45 a.m.	Frank Ferkulj (Goddaughter, Margie Tarasco)
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>(12/4) ST. JOHN DAMASCENE (Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church)</b>
7:45 a.m.	Robert & Jane Hozjan (Grandchildren)
5:00 p.m.	Ciril Štepec (Wife, Urši)
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>(12/5) SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
8:00 a.m.	Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Altar Society
12:00 p.m.	Dorothy Spendal

**Please Pray for Our Sick:** Pauline Barbish, Tom McNulty, Mladen & Dušanka Lengel, Norah Konrad, Ted Jenda, Joseph Gorn, Anica Knez, Mimi Cendol,

**Lectors/Extraordinary Ministers  
(Weekend of December 4th/5th)**

Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Stan Zalar/Cindy Smith
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Florian Osredkar/Kathleen Spilar
	10:00 a.m.	Altar Society/Vince Rozman
	12:00 p.m.	Laura Merkun/Mary Ojnik

**PATRIOTIČNI ROŽNI VENEC** bomo molili v sredo, 1. decembra ob 6:30 zvečer v cerkvi.

**MIKLAVŽ PRIHAJA.** Učenci in starši naše Slovenske šole bodo v soboto, 4. decembra ob 6:30 zvečer, nestrpnost pričakali in sprejeli dobrega Sv. Miklavža v župnijski dvorani. Učenci Slovenske šole pripravljajo kratek program, s katerim pokažejo Sv. Miklavžu kako so se pridno učili Slovenščino.

**OLTARNO DRUŠTVO** bo imelo skupno obhajilo v nedeljo, 5. decembra pri maši ob 10:00 uri. Sveta ura bo ob 1:30 popoldan. Po sveti uri bodo članice sestavile Miklavževe pakete v Slovenski sobi za vse naše bolnike in tiste v starostnih domovih.

**DREVESCE OBDAROVANJA.** Ponovno bomo imeli naše drevesce obdarovanja za pomoč Westside Catholic Center in Birthright. Drevo je zraven kipa sv. Lovrenca. Prosimo, vzemite okras z predlagano darilo in vrnite svoje nezavito darilo do 15. decembra. Na voljo so tudi brezplačne božične darilne vrečke ob drevesu.

**OZNAČITE SVOJE KOLEDARJE ZA ODLIČEN KONCERT.** V torek, 14. decembra, bo imela skupina Hillcrest Concert Band brezplačen božični koncert v župnijski dvorani s pričetkom ob 7:30 p.m. Vsi ste lepo vabljeni da se udeležite da se oživimo v božični čas.

**O PRIDI, O PRIDI EMMANUEL.** To nedeljo začnemo naš sveti adventni čas in začetek novega Cerkevnege leta, čas veselega pričakovanja in priprave na praznovanje rojstva našega Odrešenika. Advent je tako zasenčen od božičnih priprav in praznovanja, da prevečkrat pozabimo, kako nujno je za nas, da tako rekoč ustvarjamo razpoloženje. Mi, kakor starodavni Izrael, potrpežljivo čakamo na našega Mesija. Kakor Marija, mi premišljujemo to veliko skrivnost učlovečenja, Bog postane človek, zato da bomo mogli uživati sadove odrešenja in deliti v njegovem božanstvu. Kot kristjani, se veselo povežemo v razgrnitev naše vere in kaj resnično verjamemo, da božič ne bi postal nič drugega kot pogansko praznovanje materializma in potrošništva. Advent nas vodi v Betlehem, k Jezusu, k sveti družini, k Bogu, ki je z nami kot Emanuel.

**Z VELIKO HVALEŽNOSTJO.** Veliko dela in podpore se izplača! Naš Jesenski festival prejšnjo nedeljo, naš prvi po zaprtju pandemije, je bil odlično pričevanje o tem, kaj je mogoče doseči, če obstajajo dobra volja, odločnost in sodelovanje. Bila je manjša od običajne, a stalna množica čez dan. Ljudje so se resnično zabavali in obstajal je duh želje, da bi bil festival uspešen. Ljudje so uživali v hrani in se niso bali poskusiti sreče v zmagi purana ali šunke za praznike. Paul Sedmak je pri organiziranju festivala in postavitvi dvorane odlično opravil svoje delo, z veliko trenutkov razočaranja, ker je bil večinoma sam, saj je bilo tudi s prošnjo za pomoč "delo veliko, delavcev pa malo." Hvala Bogu za vedno zvesto družino Kozak in Lou Menart, ki je pomagala pri pripravah pred in med festivalom. K razočaranju je prispevalo dejstvo, da sta dva zamrzovalnika v naši dvorani dan pred festivalom prenehala delovati in smo se v zadnjem trenutku trudili poiskati ustrezen prostor za shranjevanje. Dvorana je bila lepo dekorirana, zvesti prostovoljci so bili pripravljene delati pri stojnicah, kuhinja pa je pod vodstvom Joanne Pope in Lucy & Joe Colo pripravila obilo hrane. Znani češpljevi cmoki Marije Sedmak so bili dobrodošla poslastica. Zahvaljujemo se vsem prostovoljcem in vsem ki ste poskrbeli za darilne košarice in darovali dobrote za prodajo peciva. Še posebej se zahvaljujemo vedno zvestim delavkam krofov ki so nam preskrbele slovenske krofe. Vsem, ki so se iskreno potrudili pri nakupu ali prodaji srečk, vsem, ki so se udeležili festivala, še posebej številnim nežupljanom, ki so nas prišli podpret, našim slovenskim radijskim postajam in Slovensko-Ameriškem Času za oglaševanje ter vsem, ki so na kakršen koli način, velik ali majhen, da je naš jesenski festival 2021 bil uspešen, naša iskrena hvala in naše molitve, da vas Bog obilno blagoslovi.

**EVHARISTIČNO ČEŠČENJE.** V Adventnem času bomo imeli češčenje Najsvetejšega vsak četrtek od 2:00 do 6:00 zvečer, posebno za duhovniške poklice. Zaključili bomo ob 6:00 uri z litanijami Matere Božje in blagoslovom.

**"HVALA" OD SV. VIDŠKIH KATOLISKIH VETERANOV.** Poveljnik St. Vitus Post 1655 katoliških vojnih veteranov, John Kirk, izreka hvaležnost za velikodušnost naših župljanov za podporo pri razprodaji makovih cvetkov ob dnevu veteranov. Vsak dar podpira njihove programe v Clevelands Veterans Hospital, Homeless Veterans Facility in Fisher House. Katoliški veterani Sv. Vida podpirajo tudi lokalno Coast Guard v Clevelandu. Brez podpore skrbnih, velikodušnih ljudi bi bilo nemogoče zagotoviti te potrebne storitve.

**BOŽIČNICA BELOKRANJSKEGA KLUBA** bo naslednjo nedeljo, 5. decembra, v župnijski dvorani s pričetkom ob 1:00 popoldan. Vabljeni so vsi Belokranjci in njihove družine.

**ODPEV DANAŠNJEGA PSALMA JE:**

**K tebi, Gospod, dvigam svojo dušo.**