

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**December 19, 2021**

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS. This 4th Week of Advent is not only a time for the last mad rush to get everything ready for Christmas, but also a time to reflect on the blessings of Christmas, especially the blessings of peace, the blessings of faith and family, the blessings of health and home. As we await the birthday of our Savior, Emmanuel, God with us, give yourself the blessing of a few moments of quiet to listen to the silence, to reflect on the immensity of this great miracle that unfolds before us, the miracle of God's life and love that has changed the course of history forever. Try not to lose the meaning of Christmas in the anxiety of preparations. It's like missing the beauty of the gift in the midst of all the wrappings. Christmas blessings of peace and joy to all of our parishioners, our visitors and our friends.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE. With Christmas falling on Saturday this year, our weekend Masses are completely different, with no Saturday evening Vigil Mass (It's Christmas Day!) Christmas Eve, Friday, will be normal with 5:00 p.m. Children's Mass and Midnight Mass. Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th will be 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 26th, the Feast of the Holy Family we will have Masses as on Christmas Day, at 9:30 a.m. Slovenian Mass, and 11:30 a.m. English Mass. Please remember that Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation and Sunday, the Lord's Day, too is a day when faithful Catholics come together, to celebrate Mass in remembrance of the Lord's Resurrection.

APPLE STRUDEL FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. Slovenian School is selling homemade frozen apple strudel for \$11 a strip. Please contact the rectory office at 216-761-7740 to make a purchase.

NEED A TURKEY FOR THE HOLIDAYS? We still have 15 frozen Amish turkeys waiting to be served on your family's table. They are available at cost. Please contact the rectory office at 216-761-7740

CHILDREN'S 2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES. Boxes for the new year may be picked up in the entrance way by the priest's sacristy. Children from 1st grade to 12th grade should all be using their own contribution envelopes.

2022 CALENDARS, compliments of the Zevnik-DeJohn Funeral Home are by all of the entrances of the church. Please feel free to take one for your home.

LOOKING FOR A GIFT IDEA? Stara Mama's Table, the new cookbook by Toni Srsen, featuring recipes from St. Mary and St. Vitus parishioners would make a perfect gift. Cookbooks are still available by calling the rectory office at 216-761-7740. Cost is \$25.

TODAY'S PSALM RESPONSE:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Last Sunday's Offering: \$4,690**Immaculate Conception: \$1,291**

Church Needs: \$100 from raffle prize winnings from Mihela Lesica; \$50 in thanksgiving for the Baptism of their granddaughter Ava Nichole Rozman from Vince & Martha Rozman; \$100 for church roof repair from Andrej & Pamela Lah.

The following in memory of Robert Klancher: \$35 from Vera Marsic, \$50 from Donald & Marie Spice, \$50 from Andrea & Eric Metzger, \$40 from Rudy & Joanne Ivancic, \$25 from Mary Louise & Vincent Globokar.

Early Christmas Gifts: \$1,000 from the Vana Family Foundation in memory of Jennie Gorjanc Kogovsek

Your generosity to the parish is appreciated!

MAY WE ASK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY? Many of our parishioners generously have open hearts and open hands when it comes to supporting the needs of St. Mary's. We humbly ask for your continued support, especially with your end of the year donations for Christmas. Nearly the entire Christmas collection is used to cover our annual property insurance. Your generosity is very much needed and appreciated.

SO, WHICH IS IT..... MERRY CHRISTMAS OR HAPPY HOLIDAYS? From a Christian perspective, both are appropriate. Merry Christmas is a greeting of joy and celebration that God the Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, is born among us. He who is fully divine as God, is also fully human as man. "Christmas" is just a shortened form of "Christ's Mass", our greatest prayer of thanksgiving for a God who so loves the world that he gives us his Only Begotten Son. What greater joy than to celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord and Savior? And Happy Holidays? We sometimes forget that Christmas is more than just a one-day celebration. The 12 Days of Christmas encompass the great unfolding of God's manifestation to us. Again, the word "holiday" is a shortened form of the words "Holy Day". So, the holy days or holidays are part of one great celebration: the birth of Christ, the Holy Family of Nazareth, the Motherhood of Mary, and the Epiphany of the Christ Child to the Magi, concluding with the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. These are our Happy Holidays that are all part of the Christmas Season. Demonstrating the connection of these great celebrations, it is the Slovenian tradition to not only bless the house once on Christmas Eve, but three times for each of the major holidays: Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and the Eve of the Epiphany. So, if someone greets you with "Happy Holidays", don't get offended and think it's a slight against Christmas. Little do they know that they are extending well wishes for the entire Christmas Season. Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays? It's all good!! Perhaps our Eastern Christians have it right in their simple greeting for the holidays: "Christ is born! Glorify Him!"

ODPEV DANAŠNJEGA PSALMA JE:
Razjasni svoje obličje in rešeni bomo.

Masses for the Week of December 20-26, 2021

Monday:	(12/20) LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Boltižar & Ana Hozjan (John Hozjan Family)
Tuesday:	(12/21) ST. PETER CANISIUS (Priest & Doctor of the Church)
7:45 a.m.	Deceased of Jereb Family (Knez Family)
Wednesday:	(12/22) LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Robert Klancher, Sr. (30 Day)
Thursday:	(12/23) ST. JOHN KANTY (Priest)
7:45 a.m.	Milena Ferkul (Maria Bajc)
Friday:	(12/24) VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS
7:45 a.m.	Dorothy Hodnichak (Linda Kuhn)
5:00 p.m.	Jože, Amalija & Mirko Champa (Randlett Family)
11:30 p.m.	Christmas Prelude Music
12:00 midnight	Marija & Valentin Ribič and Marija & Franc Sedmak (Kristijan & Maria Sedmak)
Saturday:	(12/25) THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD-CHRISTMAS
9:30 a.m.	Celebrant's Choice
11:30 A.m.	Parishioners
Sunday:	(12/26) THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
9:30 a.m.	Anton & Paula Adamič and Radmila Veider (Dolinar Family)
11:30 a.m.	Parishioners

Lectors/Extraordinary Ministers**Christmas Eve-Vigil of Christmas (December 24th)**

Friday	5:00 p.m.	Judi Ferra/Marlene Sondergard
	12:00 midnight	Urška Pišorn/Frank Zalar

Christmas Day (December 25th)

Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Vicky Liptak/Vince Rozman
	11:30 a.m.	Joanna Pope/Marie Kushner

Sunday (December 26th)

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Urška Pišorn/Tom Kastelic
	11:30 a.m.	Laura Merkun/Mary Ojnik

Please Pray for Our Sick: Ted Jenda, Tom McNulty, Pauline Barbish, Mladen & Dušanka Lengel, Mimi Cendol, Anica Knez, Anne Nemeč, Sally Kerman, Norah Konrad, Kristijan Sedmak

May They Rest in God's Peace:

+Stanley Kebe
 +Joseph Gorn
 + Rev. Donald Cozzens,
 former Rector of St. Mary Seminary

**DANES JE ČETRTRA ADVENTNA NEDELJA**

BOŽIČNI BLAGOSLOV. Ta 4. adventni teden ni samo čas zadnje dirke, da se vse pripravi za božič, ampak tudi čas za mišljenje o božičnih blagoslovih, posebno o blagoslovih miru, o blagoslovih vere in družine, o blagoslovih zdravja in doma. Ko čakamo na rojstvo našega Odrešenika, Emanuela, Bog z nami, dajte si blagoslov nekaj trenutkov tišine, da prisluhnete tišini, da razmislite o brezmejnosti tega velikega čudeža, ki se odpira pred nami, čudeža Božjega življenja in ljubezen, ki je za vedno spremenila potek zgodovine. Poskusite, da v tesnobi pred pripravi ne izgubite pomena božiča. Je kot da zgrešimo lepoto darila med zavijanjem. Božični blagoslov miru in veselja vsem našim župljanom, gostom in našim prijateljem.

BOŽIČNI PRAZNIČNI MAŠNI SPORED. Ker Božič letos pade na soboto, so naše maše ob koncu tedna povsem drugačne, brez sobotne večerne maše (to je božični dan!) Božični večer, petek, bo običajna otroška maša ob 5:00 popoldan in polnočnica. Božični dan, sobota, 25. decembra bodo maše ob 9:30 in 11:30 dopoldan. Nedelja, 26. decembra, na praznik Svete Družine, bomo imeli maše kot na božični dan, ob 9:30 zjutraj slovenska maša in ob 11:30 dopoldne angleška maša. Ne pozabite, da je Božič, zapovedan praznik in nedelja, Gospodov dan je tudi dan, ko se verni katoličani zberemo, da obhajamo mašo v spomin na Gospodovo vstajenje.

SMEMO PROSITI ZA VAŠO VELIKODUŠNOST? Številni naši župljani imajo velikodušna odprta srca in odprte roke, ko gre za podporo potrebam Sv. Marije Vnebovzete. Ponižno prosimo za vašo nadaljnjo podporo, posebno z vašimi darovi ob koncu leta za božič. Skoraj celotna božična nabirka porabimo za kritje našega letnega premoženjskega zavarovanja. Vaša velikodušnost je zelo potrebna in cenjena.

KATERO JE PRAV VESEL BOŽIČ ALI VESELE PRAZNIKE? Iz krščanskega perspektiva sta obe primerne. Vesel Božič je voščilo veselja in praznovanja, da se je Božji Sin, Jezus, Emanuel, rodil med nami. On ki je popolnoma božanski kot Bog, je tudi popolnoma človeški kot človek. "Božič" v angleščini je le skrajšana oblika "Kristusova maša", naša največja zahvalna molitev Bogu, ki tako ljubi svet, da nam daje svojega edinorojenega Sina. Je kaj večjega veselja kot praznovanje Kristusovega rojstva, našega Gospoda in Odrešenika? In vesele praznike? Včasih pozabimo, da je Božič več kot le enodnevno praznovanje. 12 dni božiča vsebuje veliko razkritje Božjega razglašanja. Spet je angleška beseda "holiday" ali "praznik" skrajšana oblika besede "sveti dan". Torej sveti dnevi ali prazniki so del enega velikega praznovanja: Kristusovo rojstvo, Sveta Družina iz Nazareta, Marija, Mati Bozja in Kristusovo Razglašanje modrim, in se zaključijo z Jezusovim krstom v Jordanu. To so naši veseli prazniki, ki so del božičnega časa. Kot dokaz povezanosti teh velikih praznovanj je slovenska tradicija, da blagoslovimo hišo ne samo enkrat na božični večer, ampak trikrat za vsak velik praznik: božični večer, silvestrovo in na predvečer Kristusovega Razglašanja. Torej, če vas nekdo pozdravi z "Vesele praznike", ne bodite užaljeni in mislite, da je to podcenjevanje božiča. Niti ne vedo, da izrekajo lepe želje za ves božični čas. Vesel božič ali vesele praznike? Vse je v redu!! Morda imajo naši vzhodni kristjani prav v svojem preprostem voščilu za praznike: "Kristus je rojen! Slavite ga!"

POTREBUJETE PURANA ZA PRAZNIKE? Še vedno imamo 15 zmrznjenih puranov, ki čakajo, da jih postrežete na mizo vaših družin. Na voljo so po ceni. Za nakup pokličite župnišče na 216-761-7740.

JABOLČNI ZAVITKI ZA BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE. Slovenska šola prodaja domače zmrznjene jabolčne zavitke za \$11. Za nakup pokličite župnišče na 216-761-7740.

KOLENDARJI ZA 2022, z hvaležnostjo pogrebnega zavoda Zevnik-DeJohn, so ob vseh vhodih cerkve. Prosimo, vzemite enega za svoj dom.

OTROŠKE NEDELJSKE KUVERTE ZA 2022. Škatlice za novo leto lahko poberete pri vhodu pri zakristiji. Vsi otroci od 1. do 12. razreda naj uporabljajo svoje kuverte za prispevke.