

VELIKA GOSPA NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

We sincerely welcome all of you who join us this Velika Gospa — those who return year after year, who take time off of work to attend our grand, solemn procession and Mass — as well as those who are in attendance for the first time.

We especially welcome Father Miron Sikiric, a Franciscan, professor of theology, who is the main celebrant of today's Mass, Father Marko Puljić, Custos of Croatian Franciscans; our local representatives, Zorica Matković, Consul General of the Republic of Croatia in Chicago.



DOBRO DOŠLI!

Dobro došli svi! Dobrodošli Vi koji ste nazočni svake godine, te izostajete s posla kako bi sudjelovali u našoj svečanoj procesiji i svetoj Misi, kao i Vi koji ste s nama prvi put.

Izražavamo srdačnu dobrodošlicu fra Mironu Sikiriću, profesoru na teološkom fakultetu u Sarajevu, koji predvodi današnje misno slavlje, fra Marku Puljiću, kustosu hrvatskih franjevaca, Zorici Matković, generalnoj konzulici Republike Hrvatske u Chicagu.

ST. JEROME'S & BRIDGEPORTERS CELEBRATE 101ST "VELIKA GOSPA"

Most people in Bridgeport know at least four words in Croatian: "Kako si?" (which means "How are you?") and "Velika Gospa."

"Velika Gospa" is Croatian for "the Great Day of Our Lady."

So what date is the great day of Our Lady?

August 15, the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady's body and soul into Heaven, is considered by the Catholic Church to be Mary's greatest feast day.

That's no surprise to most Bridgeporters — everyone knows that Velika Gospa is August 15th.

This year in Bridgeport the Croatians and all their friends will celebrate "Velika Gospa" for the 101st time. In 101 years, a lot fun facts can develop. Here are five fun facts about Velika Gospa:

► The icon of Our Lady of Sinj that is the centerpiece of the Velika Gospa Procession through the streets of Bridgeport is the center-



piece of the Velika Gospa celebration in Sinj, Croatia, where a great Marian Shrine is located. The icon of Our Lady of Sinj is featured only in Sinj and in Chicago and nowhere else in the world.

► Did you know that the city of Chicago has recognized that Bridgeport's August 15th celebration is the oldest continuously-held celebration in the same place on the same day of the year? (For example, the older St. Patrick's Day parades and

In 2006, at the 100th Velika Gospa celebration, four horsemen and their colorfully dressed, pistol-packing attendants, came from Sinj, Croatia, just to join in our Procession.

festivals have all moved their celebrations from March 17th to the nearest weekend.)

► Did you know that every year in the spirit of penitential pilgrimages to a holy festival, the family of Valerie

Babić and their friends and neighbors make an approximately 15-mile pilgrimage to St. Jerome's from their suburban homes ... BAREFOOT! This fulfilling of a vow to Our Lady of Sinj takes about 6 hours to complete.

► Did you know that every year people come to this Velika Gospa celebration from 10 to 15 U.S. states?

► Did you know that this year's Velika Gospa raffle grand prize of \$20,000 is 4 times bigger than last year's? Drawing is tonight!

www.stjeromecroatian.org

Croatian Catholic Radio
Saturdays
at 10 a.m.
750 AM

NADOLAZEĆI DOGAĐAJI....

- **Hodočašće
na Holy Hill
25. kolovoza**
- **Velika Gospa
Golf Turnir
nedjelja
19. kolovza**
- **Hrvatska škola:
Piknik 3. rujna/
Početak Škole,
8. rujna
Za upis, javite se
Nevenki Jurković:
773 525 8571**
- **Misa za
obljetnice braka
23. rujna
11:00 na hrvatskom**
- **Posjeta biskupa
Bogovića:
nedjelja
30. rujna**
- **Hrvatska žena
Fashion Show
21. listopada**
- **Koncert "Pjesmom
kroz Hrvatsku"
Mario i Srđan
3. studenog**

GRAND MARSHALLS - IVAN I VESNA JURETA

Ivan Jureta se rodio i odrastao u Vinkovcima kao četvrto od osmero djece. Obitelj Jureta je godine 1957. doselila iz Livna u Savoniju. Ova obitelj Jureta je podarila Crkvi dva zvanja, sin Nikola, franjevac i sestra Anica, sestra franjevka.

Vesna Jureta, rođ. Galić, se rodila u Senju, odrasla u Vukovaru, a obitelj joj je stigla iz Širokog Brijega. Ivan i Vesna su sklopili brak 4. srpnja 1987. u Vinkovcima, gdje im se i rodilo prvo dijete, Zrinka, u siječnju 1989. U mjesecu studenom 1989. obitelj se preselila iz Vinkovaca u Chicago. Godinu dana kasnije rodio se sin Josip. Godine 1995. rodio se još jedan sin, Domagoj, a 1997. kćer Ivana.

Obitelj Jureta član je naše zajednice od samog dolaska u Chicago. Obitelj je od samog početka vrlo aktivna u ovoj zajednici.



Otac Ivan je redar u crkvi, član Odbora Hrvatske škole, predsjednik HKD Napredak, te aktivan u svim događajima zajednice kao i supruga Vesna. Djeca su pohađala školu Sv. Jeronima te su vrlo aktivni i ponosni članovi Hrvatske škole "Kardinal Stepinac"!

Naša zajednica je Bogu zahvalna su ovu divnu obitelj. Čestitamo na izboru za Grand Marshalla.

JEDNO SJEĆANJE NA VELIKU GOSPU....

U kasnim 30im i ranim 40im godinama, župa Sv. Jeronima nije imala odgovarajuće mjesto za održavanje piknika nakon svečane Sv. Mise na Veliku Gospu (ulice nisu bile zatvorene kao sada). U to vrijeme, narod je nakon svečane Sv. Mise odlazio autobusima na kat koje su posudili od Chicago Motor Coach Company te odlazili na Western Aveniju i 87. ulicu. Tamo je bio veliki piknik s pečenjem

i ostalim specijalitetima. Nakon drugog rata, vojnici koji su se vratili uspostavili su u Sv. Jeronimu udrugu katoličkih ratnih veterana. Na inicijativu fra Ferdinanda Skoke, muškarci iz ove udruge su gradili stalno mjesto za pečenje janjaca. Uz veliku pomoć arhitekta, gospodina Klarića poslovi su uspješno završeni te se od tada fešta i održava ovdje i na Princeton Aveniji.

Mnogi u našoj zajednici sjećaju se gospođe čije ime je Marija Mandić. Njeno ime u Chicagu postalo je sinonim za dobar rižot, teletinu, štrudle i druge specijalitete. Zajedno sa svojim pomoćnicama Evom Ćorić i Margaritom Vulić, Marija Mandić je svojim kuhinjom i svojom žrtvom ostavila dugotrajne pečate, uspomene i dobar primjer ovoj zajednici.

—*Duško Ćondić, 2007*

OUR LADY OF SINJ

Velika Gospa and being Croatian go hand-in-hand. This day (August 15th) is to Croatians what St. Patrick's Day is to the Irish, or what Columbus Day is to the Italians. The tradition of Velika Gospa originated in the town of Sinj, Croatia.

History tells us that in the year 1716, the barbaric armies of the Ottoman Empire were advancing toward the town. Their plan was to capture Sinj and press forward. The Turks hoped to conquer all of Europe. The people of Sinj, fearing certain annihilation in the face of overwhelming odds, implored the intervention of the Blessed Mother. Throughout the night of August 14th, they prayed before the portrait of the Virgin

Mary, then called "Our Lady of Grace." The following morning, Assumption Day, August 15th, an apparition of a beautiful lady, whom the faithful recognized as



the Blessed Virgin Mary, appeared in the sky. The Turkish soldiers became violently ill. They were

unable to cross the river to Sinj, and thus retreated.

Through Our Lady of Sinj's miraculous intervention, the attack was repulsed and the powerful Turks fled. Ever since that day, the Croatians have maintained a unique love and devotion to Mary. Thousands of pilgrims still make the annual pilgrimage to the church in Sinj.

The religious tradition of a Velika Gospa Procession and Mass was brought to Bridgeport in 1906 by Croatian immigrants from Sinj. In 1912, with the founding of a new Croatian parish, St. Jerome's, the Velika Gospa tradition put down permanent roots in Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS....

- **Velika Gospa Golf Outing, August 19, Hoffman Estates. For more info, call: 312 315 1746**
- **Midwest Pilgrimage to Holy Hill, Sat. Aug. 25**
- **St. Jerome Elementary School begins Aug. 24. To register, call 312 842 7668**
- **Marriage Anniversaries Sunday, September 23rd.**
- **Mario and Srdjan: concert for memories, a journey through time in song, November 2**
- **St. Jerome School Annual Benefit November 10**

A VELIKA GOPA MEMORY....

In the late '30s and early '40s, our Parish did not have a suitable place to hold our picnic after the celebration of the Liturgy. (The street was not blocked off as it is now.) When the Mass following the procession was over, people would board double-decker buses rented from The Chicago Motor Coach Company and head out to the Dan Ryan Woods at 87th and Western Avenue. Roast lamb, plate lunches, various beverages, etc., were served in a country atmosphere.

Following the war, our returning soldiers established a Post and Auxiliary of the Catholic War Veterans. At the initiative of Fr. Ferdinand Skoko, the men of the Post decided to prepare the back yards of the Parish Hall and Sisters' convent as a picnic grove. As amateurs, they began to construct a permanent bar behind the Parish Hall. By luck, Mr. Klarić, a well-known architect and contractor happened to see their struggles.

Before he knew it, he and men of his company joined in and prepared the grounds as a picnic grove. The lambs were roasted in the open, and people sat under two huge cottonwood trees in the Sisters' yard. Picnics were held there and on Princeton Avenue from that time forward.

Those of you who are of a certain age will remember Mary Mandić and her wonderful meals. Who can forget her rižot, roast beef, and strudels? Who can forget her great kitchen staff—her regulars, Eva Čorić and Margarita Vulić. The Saint Therese Altar Society ladies would comprise her expanded staff for special events such as Velika Gospa. Ladies such as Mrs. Babić, Mrs. Želković, Mrs. Šilović and many others would supplement Mary's kitchen staff. Mary's daughters, Eleanor and Katie, and other young ladies from the parish such as Toni Zaninović would serve the people for the sit-down meals.

—**Duško Condich, 2007**



St. Jerome
Croatian Catholic
Church, Chicago

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VELIKA GOSPA PARKING

Please call and tell your friends and relatives that we have plentiful parking available for our feast. Thanks to our neighbors, we have the following:

- Old Neighborhood Italian American Club parking (30th & Shields)
- Ferro's parking (31st between Princeton and Shields)
- State of Illinois parking under the highway (27th & Wells, entrance on 27th).

*Pray
the
Rosary*

VELIKA GOSPA — JESTE LI ZNALI?

VELIKA GOSPA, JESTE LI ZNALI?

- ▶ Da naša Velika Gospa ove godine slavi 101. godinu postojanja.
- ▶ Da je naša Velika Gospa jedina i specifična proslava Gospe Sinjske izvan samog Sinja.
- ▶ Da je grad Chicago priznao da je procesija za Veliku Gospu najstarija takva fešta u Chicagu koja se održava na istim prostorima.
- ▶ Da obitelj Valerije Babić, njeni prijatelji i susjedi svake godine uoči Velike Gospe dolaze pješke u našu crkvu iz mjesta Jus-

tice (oko 15 milja od naše crkve). Oni ispunjaju zavjet Gospi Sinjskoj hodanjem koje traje oko 6 sati uz autoputeve, kroz gužve, promet i sve moguće različitosti čikaške metro-

police.

- ▶ Da posjetitelji za našu Veliku Gospu dolaze iz 10 do 15 američkih država (od Floride do Californije).

- ▶ Da se redovito za Veliku Gospu u župi Sv. Jeronima okupe Hrvati od 1. do 5. generacije.

- ▶ Da ove godine na dan fešte sudjeluje u procesiji 10 orkestara, uključujući i poznati orkestar američke mornarice s



oko 50 članova.

- ▶ Da o događaju Velike Gospe redovito pišu čikaške novine, poglavito Chicago Tribune i Chicago Sun-Times.

- ▶ Da zabava, glazba i zajedništvo čekaju na vaš dolazak!

- ▶ Da na dan velike Gospe imamo I izvlačenje velikih nagrada. Prva nagrada je \$20,000.00 Karte za ovu veliku nagradu su \$100.00.

GRAND MARSHALLS - IVAN & VESNA JURETA

Ivan Jureta was born and raised in Vinkovci, Croatia, as the fourth of eight kids. The Jureta family had moved from Livno to Vinkovci in 1957.

Two siblings had religious vocations: Nikola, a Franciscan priest, and Anica, a Franciscan sister.

Vesna Jureta (nee Galic) was born in Senj, Croatia, and grew up in Vukovar. Her family came from Siroki Brijeg.

Ivan and Vesna were married July 4th, 1987 in Vinkovci, where they lived their first years together, and had their

first child, Zrinka, in January 1989. Later that year, in November, they came to Chicago. A

year later their son Josip was born. In 1995 they had another boy, Domagoj, and in 1997, their youngest child, Ivana.

The family members have been very active in our parish from their very arrival. Ivan is a member of the Croatian School board, president of the Croatian cultural



association Napredak, and helps the parish in many activities, as does Vesna. The kids have attended St. Jerome School, and are proud and active members of Croatian School "Kardinal Stepinac."

We are thankful to God for this family, and congratulate them as this year's Grand Marshalls.