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Slovenian
Christmas
Vesel
Božic!

Lake Bled,
Slovenia
with new
snow!
Zima!



Lake Bled
pletnas in
Winter!



Božič time in Slovenia! Church in Zgornje Gorje! Cerkev sv. Jurija



Ljubljana in light snow! Cathedral of St Nicholas and the Dragon Bridge!





Three Santas in Slovenia!

St Nicholas

Santa Claus

Grandfather Frost (Dedek Mraz)

Who was St Nicholas?

St Nicholas is the universal name for Nicholas of the ancient town of Myra in Turkey.

- Nicholas was born to wealthy Christian parents in AD 270 in Greek Seaport of Patara, Roman Empire.



St Nicholas

- Lived in the 3rd to 4th Century AD. AD 270-343.
- Moved to Myra, Byzantine Empire, present day Turkey
- Became bishop of Myra
- Known for his generosity to the poor
- One legend is that he put coins secretly into the home of a poor man, so that his daughters would have dowries and not go into prostitution.



St Nicholas

- Also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker
- Legend of calming a storm at sea
- Legend of saving three innocent soldiers from execution
- Legend he attended the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD
- Legend he slapped the heretic Arius at the Council!
- 200 years after his death, The St Nicholas Church was built in Myra
- And Nicholas' remains moved to the church
- Later some of the remains moved to other churches in Italy when the Turks arrived in Myra in 1087.



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Monastery of Saint
Nicholas (San
Nicolo al Lido)

Venice, Italy

Relics of St. Nicholas
taken here from Myra
in the 11th Century
and interred.

Nicholas proclaimed
protector of the
Venetian fleet.

Other church in Bari,
Italy with relics of St
Nicholas



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Saint Nicholas (Sveti Miklavž)

On December 5th at 5PM,
Ljubljana
plays host to the St Nicholas
procession,
the first of three
traditions of Christmas
in Slovenia.

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Prešeren Square in Ljubljana

Old entrenched religious event

Procession of St Nicholas:

Children surround Sveti
Miklavž and receive
sweets, fruit, and small
gifts! Angels help hand
out gifts. Devils are
nearby to encourage
naughty children to be
nice!



Sveti Miklavž with Angel and Devils (parklji)



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Dec 5 eve (Eve of St. Nicholas feast day) in Slovenian homes:

Putting out shoes for St Nicholas to fill!

Legend of secret gift giving.

Chocolates, fruits, dates.

Small treats.

Humble gifts.

No lavish spending,
but a wonderful and
magical
treat for kids when they
wake

up in the morning!

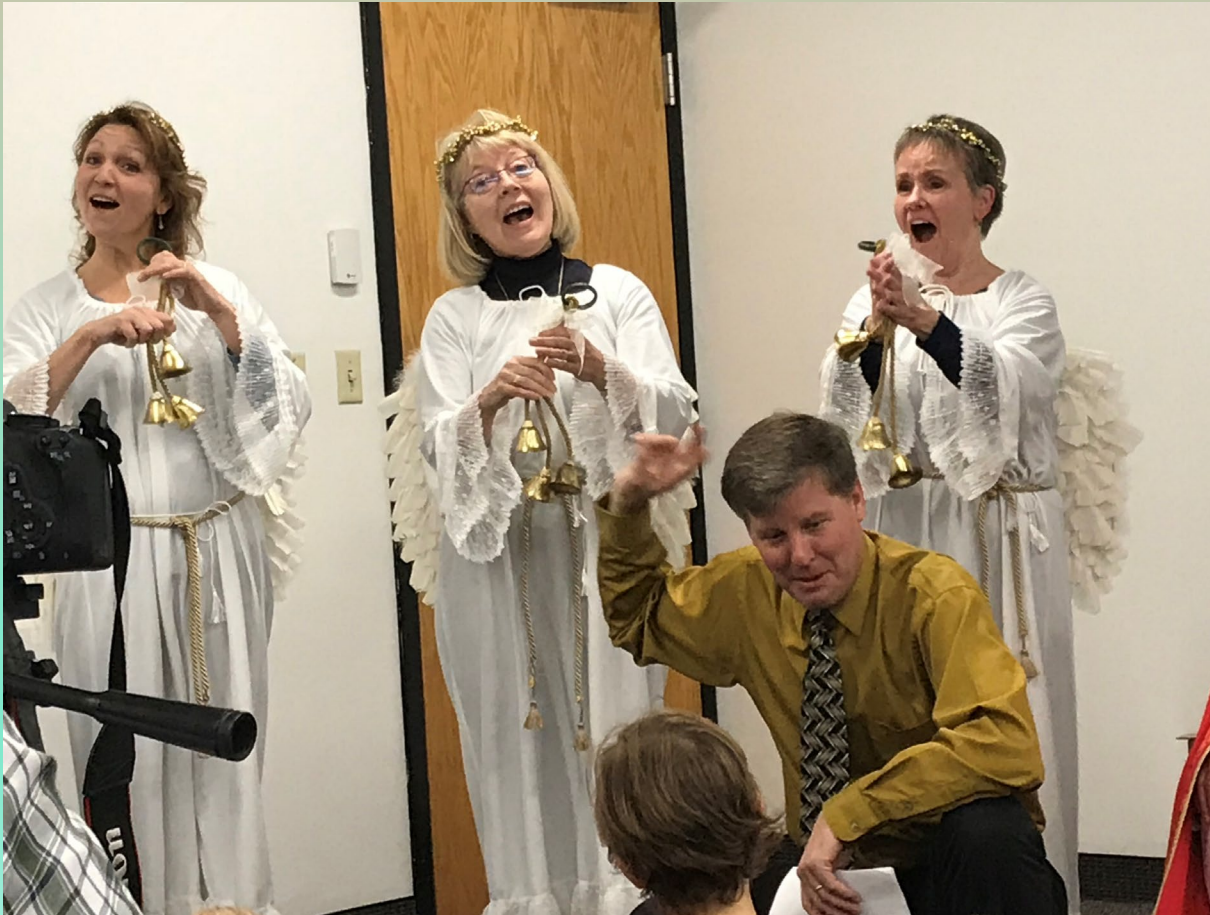


TCS Sveti Miklavž Event December 2017

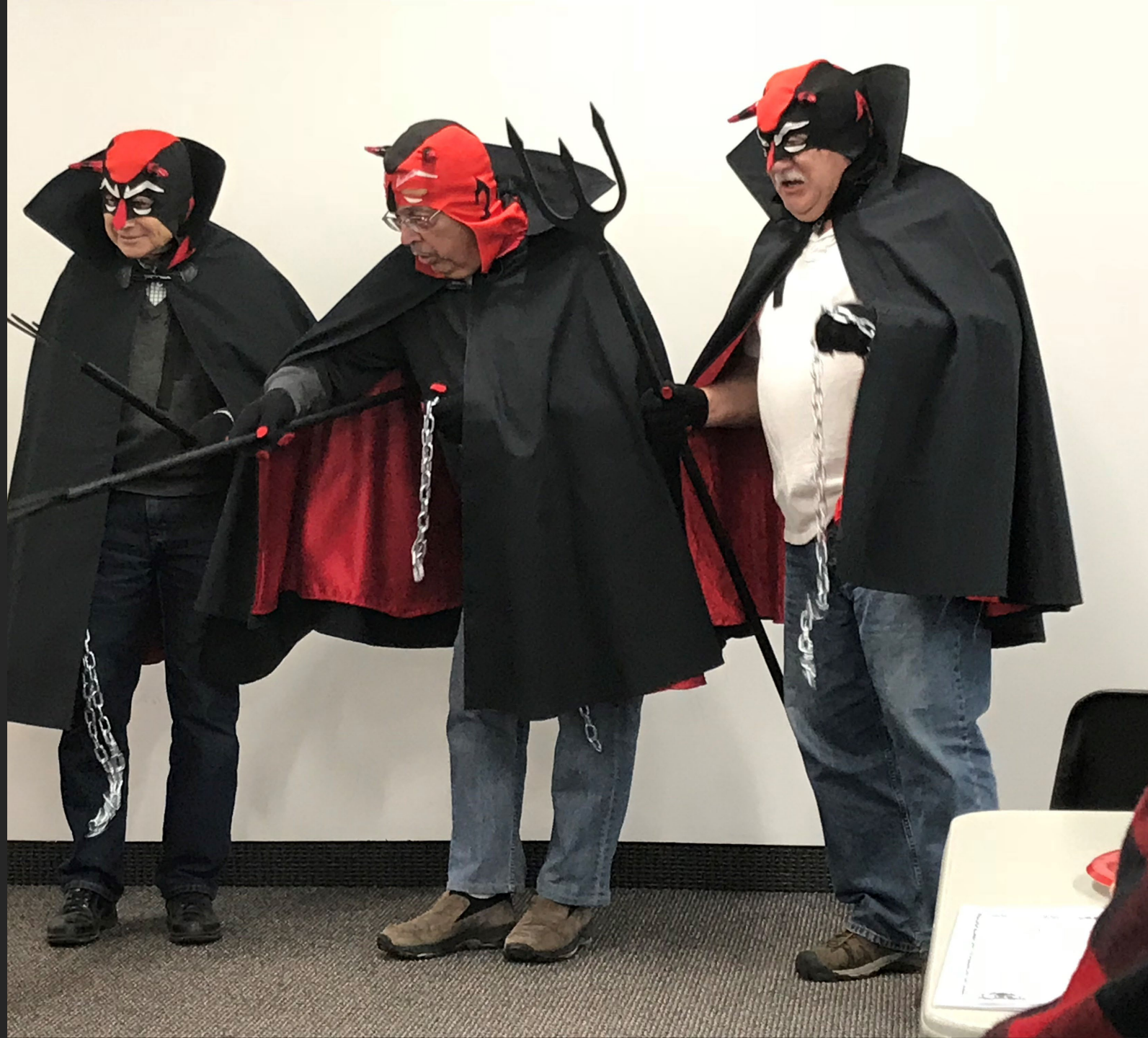
- Thanks to the Slovenians from the Iron Range for bringing this celebration to our TCS Branch 109!
- Starring Frank Medved as Miklavž!



We had the “sweet angels” ringing bells
and the “evil” devils!



Devils looking
fierce scaring
children into
being good!



“Angel” Sue and
son Adam, with
granddaughter,
Vera!
Continuing
the tradition.





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Twin Cities Slovenians Christmas 2013 with Sveti Miklavž

- Samec girls
- Medved granddaughter
- Sue's grandsons
- Sveti outfit sewed by Liz Miller

Santa Claus!

Comes from legend of
St Nicholas

A blend of beliefs of
other countries,
including

British Father
Christmas and
Dutch Sinterklaas.
British and Dutch
came to USA and
tradition became
modern day Santa
Claus.

Commercial Santa
discouraged under
Yugoslavia.

Revived with
independence of
Slovenia.

Gifts brought to
children on Christmas
Eve.



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Potica is served at the family Christmas Eve meal before going to midnight Mass!

Grandfather Frost (Dedek Mraz).

Tradition kept from the Yugoslavia days!
Believed to have his home under Mt Triglav.
From Dec 26 to Dec 30 Dedek Mraz rides through cities, including Ljubljana.

Children also receive some presents from Dedek!





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Dedek Mraz in the Yugoslavia Days



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So, Slovenian Children have 3 Santas!

Vesel Božic!

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