

Posel

česká katolická jednota

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2018

VOL. XCVI NO. 6



POSEL

ISSN: 1077-5374
(USPS 439480)

Published Bimonthly by
CZECH CATHOLIC UNION
5349 Dolloff Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44127

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Posel, 5349 Dolloff Road,
Cleveland, Ohio 44127

The Official Publication of
the Czech Catholic Union
Uredni Casopis Ceske
Katolicke Jednoty

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President's Message

Members and Friends of the CCU

As 2018 is coming to an end, much has transpired within this year. In 2013 Robert Cermak was asked to take over the office of President, but now has decided to retire and will not be running for the office of President at the 2018 Convention. The board went on the search for a replacement and through a mutual acquaintance, I was contacted and met with Bob and Audrey (CCU Vice President) on many interviews. After much discussion I accepted to step in as the President of CCU beginning October 2nd. I was asked to officially begin on July 2nd as the Assistant Treasurer until I took over as your new president. CCU owes Bob a huge debt of thanks for taking on the position of president and he has made many significant strides to make CCU what it is today. I feel I have some big shoes to fill, but I feel that with continued assistance of the Home Office staff, the Board and Bob as a consultant, we can continue to do what is in the best interest of the organization and its membership.

Dolores Jacklin has decided to step down as a long time CCU director, and we all want to thank her for her long dedication to the organization and wish her the best in the years to come.

We also would like to say Welcome to our new director, Richard Prospal, a longtime member. I am looking forward to working with you Richard and all of the other Board members in the years to come.

In late August the home Office mailed the 2018 Promo. This program will run September 1 through December 31, 2018. To reiterate the program is a chance to increase your life insurance, either by purchasing a new Single Premium or 5 Pay Whole Life policies. With a purchase of a new life insurance policy you are being offered to open an Annuity earning 3.5% in the first year and will revert to the current rate after the first year. Take a few minutes to review the program which is also printed in the September issue of the Posel and contact the Home Office should you have any questions.

Thanksgiving is around the corner and before we know it Christmas. Take time this holiday season to make the most of it with your friends and family.

Fraternally,
Theresa Aveni
President

The Mystery of Christmas

A retired priest I lived with told me that he gave Christmas creches to couples that he married as a wedding gift. What a great idea! And what a way to remind a couple that as they begin the experience of Christian marriage, Christ is born in their love and commitment to each other. And what a way to ensure that the new family have something religious in their home for Christmas!

I was in Brussels several years ago. It was the beginning of December. In the Cathedral, they had a wonderful display of Christmas creches from around the world. It was fascinating to see how the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, baby Jesus, and the shepherds were represented by the rainbow of faces from Oriental, African, European, and Latin-American countries. The figurines were displayed in beautiful folkloric dress of their respective cultures. And the “stables” where our Lord was born reflected the conditions of the poorest of the poor in each country. The display magnificently presented how Jesus has taken on the “flesh” of all cultures and how he is incarnate in human experience. It was a beautiful display of the catholicity (universality) of our Christian faith.

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, I enjoy observing the Christmas traditions of our Latino parishioners. For them, Christmas is the night of December 24th. We don't even have a Mass in Spanish on the 25th! Many of our Mexican families bring their baby Jesus to Mass on the 24th. Most of them are as big as a real infant - not tiny as we are accustomed to. And they are beautifully dressed. After Mass, the families line up in front of the altar with the baby Jesuses in hammocks. They gently swing the babies and sing a long lullaby that tells the story of His birth - the great mystery of our God becoming a human person - and the redemption this child brings to the human experience. The song is very long and since most memories are short, smart phones assist with the words! The same baby is placed in their Christmas cribs at home. It is huge in comparison with the other diminutive figures. While we may see this as way out of proportion, the scene of the large baby surrounded by very small Mary and Joseph reflects a true understanding of what Christmas is all about!

We as well as Christians around the world will once more contemplate the great mystery of the birth of the Lord. Give special attention to your Christmas creche. Tell your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and godchildren the story depicted in the creche and its impact on the world and on you.

God's blessing on you and yours this Holy Christmas!

Father Joseph H. Callahan

CONVENTION 2018

The 2018 Convention was held September 29 - October 2 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Most of the attendees arrived early to attend the St. Wenceslaus Day Celebration.

On Sunday, delegate registration and President's reception were held at the Home Office.

On Monday, the fun day was an excursion to Amish Country.

On Tuesday, Convention meeting began with Mass celebrated by our Chaplain, Fr. Callahan, followed by the banquet, both held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Garfield Hts., Ohio.

Pictures are on the following pages.

More pictures will be in the January-February 2019 Posel.



At the St. Wenceslaus Day Celebration dinner at Bohemian National Hall

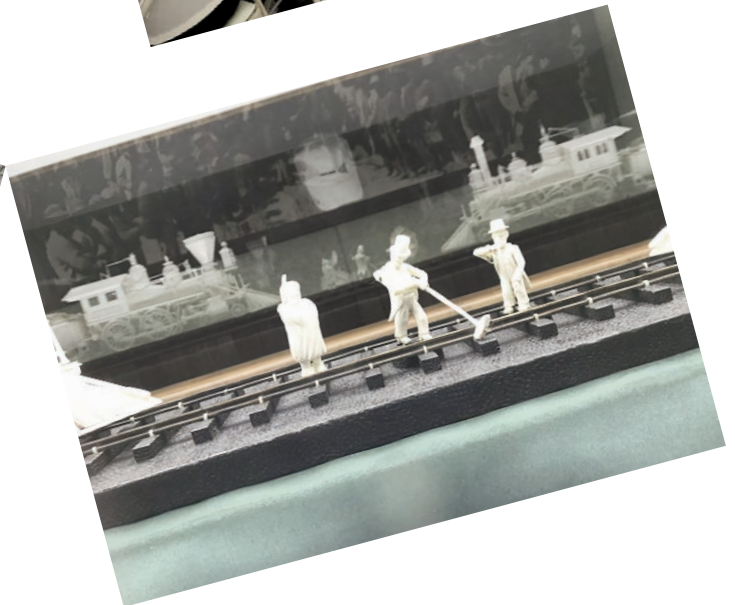


Most Reverend Roger W. Gries, O.S.B.

Convention 2018 Registration & Reception



Convention 2018 Trip to Amish Country



Convention 2018 Mass & Meeting



Want to add your child's name to your deed? Think twice first.

Recently, I have received many calls from potential clients who say "I want to add my child's name to my deed" or "I want to transfer title to my house to my child." I, without fail, tell these clients that they need to think long and hard before this is done.

Generally, the reasons a home owner would want to do this is either to avoid Probate upon his or her passing or to attempt to preserve the home in the event of a long-term nursing stay.

When you add another person's name to a deed, you lose a degree of control over your property. If you want to sell or mortgage your home, your new co-owner has to agree and sign any needed documents. If this person is sued or has financial trouble, your house is vulnerable to being lost. If your name comes completely off the deed, then you have no say in what happens with your house.

Another consideration is that if you receive the homestead exemption on your property taxes, then this discount may be reduced or ended all together. Next, your child likely will need to pay capital gains tax (as high as 20%) once he or she sells the property.* To avoid this tax, a child needs to inherit the property or, in other words, take title after your death.

Now, one of the few ways to protect your house from being sold and its proceeds spent on a long-term nursing home stay, is to take your name off the property (then wait 5 years). However, again, you still face the downside to this action which I outlined above. So, this action needs to be carefully considered if the risky downsides are worth the transfer.

If the only goal is to avoid Probate, there are several, non-risky ways to do this, without changing your current ownership. If you live in Ohio, feel free to call me and we can discuss these options!

*Do not despair - when selling a property (during your life) that you resided in, you are exempt from capital gain taxes.

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Note: Christina is the legal counsel for the Czech Catholic Union and has graciously offered to extend a 10% discount to any of our members who mention this article.

Please be advised that Christina M. Hronek is licensed to practice in the State of Ohio only and the information provided in this article is based upon Ohio law. The laws of your state as they relate to probate may be different. The article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

In Appreciation

St. Ludmila Society #7, St. Louis, MO - "Dear Robert, Please know of my deep gratitude to you and the other executive members of the CCU. I have been encouraged by your commitment to my Catholic Formation, especially while in seminary. Thank you all for both the grant and your additional donation to assist with my costs of education. I am currently back in St. Louis having returned from Rome a couple days ago. Your prayers will be much appreciated as I begin my new ministry as a deacon. Please be assured of my prayers for you and the many members of the CCU. God Bless!"

Yours in Christ, Andrew Auer

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Society #145, Cleveland, OH - "Thank you for awarding me the Czech Catholic Union High School grant. I will be entering the 9th grade at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron this fall. Over the summer, I participated in "JAM", Justice Akron Ministry, completing 3 days of service hours at Center of Hope in Ravenna. I'm on the JV Soccer Team and have made many new friends. I look forward to starting school and this grant has helped my family."

Thank you again, Angie George

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Czech Catholic Mission, Forest Hills, NY - "Dear Friends, Thank you very much for your support of Czech Catholic Mission in New York."

Fr. Kocourek

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Director Dolores Jacklin from Our Lady of the Mount Society #143 in Cicero, Illinois retired at the 2018 Convention and was presented with a planter at the banquet. She has been a CCU member for 71 years and a director for 18 years. We thank her for her years of service!!!



EDITOR'S NOTE: Words on front cover picture, ZROZENI REPUBLIKY CESKOSLOVENSKE, translates to: Born Republic Czechoslovakia.

WORLD WAR I

A monument honoring Americans who fought in World War I is slated for a ceremonial dedication in November 2018. The memorial will be located in Washington, D.C.'s Pershing Park, between the White House and the U.S. Capitol.

World War I began July 28, 1914 and ended November 11, 1918. Over 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians died as a result of the War. More than 116,000 Americans died in the War.



As World War I ends in 1918, political leaders in Europe and America create the new nation of Czechoslovakia. Crucial to that decision are 70,000 brave Czech and Slovak soldiers who support the Allies, seizing the Trans-Siberian railroad and fighting their way across Siberia - and eventually reaching their new homeland in Europe.



“God Bless America”

Irving Berlin
(1888-1989)

Irving Berlin wrote some of America's most beloved songs, including “God Bless America.” He wrote it in 1918 and put it aside.

In 1938, just before World War II began, he wanted to write a “peace” song. He made some changes, and it was first performed by singer Kate Smith on a radio broadcast.

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home.



Irving Berlin performs for sailors aboard the U.S.S. Arkansas in 1944, during World War II. Berlin was born in Russia but moved with his family to the United States when he was just 5 years old.



KAPUSICA

(Traditional Christmas Sauerkraut Soup)

- 2 ham hocks
- Small package pork neck bones
- 1 to 2 pounds smoked sausage
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, cut in half
- 3 cans sauerkraut, rinsed
- 1 cup dried mushrooms
- 1/2 small box of prunes

Soak dried mushrooms in water to make them soft. Cook the ham hocks in a large kettle filled about half way with water. Add the neck bones, onions, garlic and sauerkraut. Cook for one hour and then add drained mushrooms. Cook for another hour and add sausage and prunes. Cook for another half hour. Remove sausage before the skins start to split. Add a little thickening of 1/2 cup water and 1 tablespoon flour. If the soup is too sour, add some brown sugar.

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WASSAIL BOWL

- 2 quarts apple cider
- 1-1/2 cups orange juice
- 3/4 cup pineapple juice
- 2 cups sherry (more or less)
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 cinnamon sticks (3 inches)
- Dash ground cinnamon
- Dash ground cloves

In a large saucepan, combine all of the ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 20-30 minutes. Discard cinnamon sticks. Serve hot in mugs.

MORAVSKE VANOCNI SUSENKY

(Moravian Christmas Cookies)

- 8 oz. dark molasses
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. margarine
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 t. baking soda
- 4 c. flour
- water, if needed

Preheat oven to 350 Degrees F. Mix flour, sugar and spices together. Heat molasses until lukewarm and add baking soda to it. Add molasses to rest of ingredients and mix well. If necessary, add a little water to the dough to get it to a soft enough consistency to roll it.

Roll the dough on a well-floured surface, making it as thin as possible. Cut into desired shapes and transfer to a non-stick baking sheet.

Bake at 350 Degrees F. for 6 to 8 minutes.

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Arlington Cemetery Is Filling Up

Despite planned expansions, Arlington National Cemetery is nearing capacity. Some facts:

- 400,000 - Estimated numbers of graves
- 7,000 - Approximate number of graves added each year
- 4,641 - Unknown soldiers buried there, including those in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from WWI, WWII and Korea.
- 1864 - The year Civil War dead were first buried there, on what had been the estate of Robert E. Lee's wife
- 35 - Years until full, under existing rules



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **POSEL**

2. Publication Number: **4 3 9 - 4 8 0**

3. Filing Date: **9-18-2018**

4. Issue Frequency: **B1-Monthly**

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **6**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **- 0 -**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):
Czech Catholic Union 5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, OH 44127

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
Czech Catholic Union 5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, OH 44127

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address):
Czech Catholic Union 5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, OH 44127
Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Jane M. Milczewski 5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, OH 44127
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Jane M. Milczewski 5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, OH 44127

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name: **Czech Catholic Union** Complete Mailing Address: **5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, OH 44127**

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: ☒ None

Full Name: **N/A** Complete Mailing Address:

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (See Instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: **POSEL**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **8-30-2018**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

B1-Monthly

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): **1,830**

b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)

(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): **1,344**

(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): **385**

(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®: **- 0 -**

(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): **- 0 -**

c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)): **1,729**

d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)

(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: **- 0 -**

(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: **- 0 -**

(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail): **- 0 -**

(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): **- 0 -**

e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)): **- 0 -**

f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): **1,729**

g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)): **101**

h. Total (Sum of 15f and g): **1,830**

i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): **100%**

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

a. Paid Electronic Copies: **1,729**

b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)): **1,729**

c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)): **1,729**

d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 15c × 100): **100%**

☐ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **Nov-Dec 2018** issue of this publication.
☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Robert L. Cernak, President** Date: **9-18-2018**

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The All-American Fruit

Were cranberries on the table at the first Thanksgiving feast shared by the English Pilgrims and the native Wampanoag people in 1621? Maybe, say food historians. Cranberry sauce, as we know it, was unlikely part of the menu. Sugar was in short supply, if it was available at all, and the first mention of boiling cranberries with sugar doesn't appear in print for another 50 years. But, say the folks at Plymouth Plantation (a museum in Plymouth, Mass., that replicates the 17th-century settlement), cranberries may well have turned up in dishes shared by Wampanoag guests.

It's known that Native Americans brewed the berries into calming tea and poultices to help wounds heal. Later, American whalers kept vitamin C-rich cranberries on board to help prevent scurvy. Modern-day research finds the fruit may have many other benefits.

96%

of first time hosts plan to include cranberries in some form in their Thanksgiving feast.



2.3

pounds of cranberries are consumed per capita in the U.S., mostly in the form of juice.

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Sympathy to the family of Judy Jacobs, member of Blessed Virgin Mary Society #119, on the passing of her husband and member Thomas Jacobs on June 7, 2018. Thomas was the son-in-law of Lillian Kopecky, a former director of CCU from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Eternal rest grant upon him O Lord and Let perpetual Light shine upon him.



REMINDER - OUR CONVENTION SPECIAL IS STILL GOING THRU DECEMBER 31ST 2018. CALL THE HOME OFFICE FOR DETAILS!!!

St. Paul, Minnesota



Long time policy holder and member of Sacred Heart of Mary Society #45, Jordan Heinz of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, has joined the US Navy. She was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. After graduating, she received orders to the Naval School at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. After her graduation in San Antonio, she had

orders to report to the USS Gerald Ford Aircraft Carrier. Jordan is enjoying her new career in the US Navy.

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Cleveland, Ohio

St. Joseph Society #156 continues its monthly meetings held at the Home Office, 5349 Dolloff Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44127. All members are invited to attend.

Sunday, November 12, 2018

Regular meeting, Memorial Service for deceased members of St. Joseph's Society and light luncheon beginning at 1:00 pm.

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Regular meeting at 1:00 pm, election of officers and adult Christmas party with optional \$10 gift exchange.

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Installation of officers beginning at 1:00 pm followed by musical entertainment and a luncheon of jaternice (liver sausage), kielbasa and sauerkraut. To order jaternice to take home for your freezer call Joe Kocab at 216-883-4760. For luncheon reservations call Jane at 216-341-0444.

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Annual Communion Breakfast. Celebration of Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes at 10:00 am followed by breakfast at CCU Home Office (across the street from Our Lady of Lourdes). **Please call the Home Office at 216-341-0444 for reservations before Tuesday, March 13, 2019.** 50-year members will be honored.

PLEASE NOTE: The location of the Communion Breakfast has been changed. If you plan to attend, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT!!!

VANOCKA (CHRISTMAS SWEET BREAD)

Vanocka is a braided bread baked in the Czech Republic traditionally at Christmas time.

The first reference to a vanocka was in the 16th century. In the past it has gone under such names as: huska or calta, and can be found under such names as: pletenice, pletanka, stedrovice, strucla, stricka, stedrovecernice, zemle and ceplik. At one time a vanocka could only be made by a baker who was a guild craftsman.

In the 18th century people began to bake them at home. The first of the home baked vanocka had to be given to the master of the house, so that the grain would prosper in the following year. At the end of a Christmas Eve dinner, a large vanocka was sliced up, and in some areas a slice was given to the live-stock so they would be healthy and safe from evil spirits.

A variety of customs were followed in preparing the dough, braiding and baking it to ensue success.

The woman of the house had to wear a white apron and kerchief and not talk while mixing the dough. She was supposed to jump up and down while the dough was rising. In some areas a coin was baked in the vanocka. The person who found it in their slice was assured of good luck. A burnt or split vanocka was a bad omen.

Today the vanocka is an indispensable and necessary part of the Christmas holidays, whether made at home or bought in a store.

VANOCKA

4 cups flour
1 cup sugar
3 egg yolks
1 cup milk
1 tsp. salt
1 cake yeast
3/4 cup melted butter
1/4 cup almonds, slivered
1 cup raisins
1/2 tsp. lemon rind
Pinch of mace

Crumble yeast in a cup of lukewarm milk, add 1 Tbsp. sugar and let it stand. Put the flour in a large bowl, add sugar and salt and the flavorings. Mix in egg yolks, butter, milk and yeast mixture. The dough must be mixed thoroughly until it does not stick to the bowl. Add raisins and almonds. Put a cloth over the bowl and let the dough rise in a warm place for about 2 hours. After this, place dough on a floured board and make 9 portions, 4 large, 3 medium, and 2 small. Roll out into long thin rolls. First braid 4 large rolls and place on a greased pan, then braid the 3 rolls, and place on top and last twist the two on top of this. Let it rise again about 1/2 hour, brush it with beaten egg and bake in a 350 degree oven about 50 minutes, until it is nice and brown.



KAREL HASLER

This Czech song writer was born in 1879 in Zlichov, near Prague. From a young age he was interested in music, theatre and the stage. His talent took him to the National Theatre in Brno and later to the theatre in Lublan. During the 1908 Exposition in Prague, a new form of entertainment rang forth, the cabaret (song and humor). He contributed to the creation of popular songs of Old Prague such as "the White Blossom" and "Prague How I Love You." On November 1, 1918, Hasler's Cabaret was officially opened at the popular Lucerna Entertainment Center. Karel continued to compose, present and play sketches with deep political intonations. He returned to the stage as an actor, director and translator of plays.

Karel wrote "Pisnicka Ceska", ("Our Czech Song") in 1932. Because of its patriotic nature, the song was forbidden to be played or sung during the German occupation of Czechoslovakia in World War II and also during the Communist Regime. Karel was imprisoned twice by the Germans during World War II and died in the German Prison Camp Mauthausen in 1941.

When World War II ended and the Czech people liberated, Karel Hasler's "Pisnicka Ceska" resounded in every street of every city, town and village, and Karel Hasler was formally decorated "In Memoriam". "Pisnicka Ceska" is considered the 2nd National Anthem of the Czech People.

TA NASE PISNICKA CESKA

Verse

1. Ty nase pisnicky, jsou jak ty perlicky,
Na snurce navlece.
Kolik je krásy v nich a je to velký hřích,
Ze jsou tak upustěny.
2. Zpívejte lidicky, ty nase pisnicky,
Pisnicky z Moravy, z Čech,
Ta nase pisnicka, je sice prostická,
Ale je nejhezčí z všech.

Chorus

Ta nase pisnicka ceska, ta je tak hezka, tak hezka,
Tak jako na louce kytička, vyrostla ta nase pisnicka.
Az se ta pisnicka ztratí, pak už nic nebudem mít,
Jestli nám zahyne, všechno s ní pomine,
Potom už nebudem zít.

OUR CZECH SONG

Verse

1. Our (Czech) Songs are like pearls
Strung on a string.
There is so much beauty in them
And it is a great sin
That they are so oppressed.
2. Sing people, sing our Czech songs
From Morava, Slovakia and Cechy
Our Czech Song
Is truly simple,
But is the most beautiful of all.

Chorus

Our Czech Song,
It is so beautiful, so beautiful,
Just like a flower in the meadow,
Blossomed Our Czech Song.
When Our Song is lost,
Then we will have nothing..
If it should perish,
Everything we cherish will be lost..
Then we will no longer live.

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Nesem Vam Noviny is one of the oldest and most beloved Czech Christmas Carols. In 1947 it was translated by M.L. Hohman as Come, all Ye Shepherds.

NESAM VAM NOVINY

1. Ne sem vam no vi ny, po slou chej te,
Bet lem ske kra ji ny, po zor dej te.
Slys te je pil ne a ne o myl ne,
Slys te je pil ne a ne o myl ne,
Roz ji mej te
2. K nemuzto andele s nebe prisli,
I take pastyri jsou se sesli,
Jeho vitali, jeho chvalili,
Dary nesli

COME, ALL YE SHEPHERDS

1. Come, all ye shepherds, your flocks will not stray,
Come and see Jesus asleep on the hay.
Near the dark manger sits His mother mild,
Humming she hovers o'er her precious Child;
Come without fear!
2. Hasten to Bethlehem, there to behold,
The Christ-child whose coming angels fore-told.
"Peace on the earth and good will to all men,"
That is the message sent down from heaven;
O praise the Lord!

VETERANS DAY November 11



Dear Veterans: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you, as well as to the brave men and women still on active duty, some of whom are in harm's way. I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made.



An Old Soldier's Prayer

"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he's weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

"Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know Thee... and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

"Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high, a son, who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will reach into the future, yet never forgive the past. And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom and the meekness of true strength.

"Then, I, his father, will dare to whisper, I have not lived in vain."

Gen. D. A. MacArthur

Stastny Dikuvzdani Happy Thanksgiving



The first Thanksgiving was in 1621, with about 50 Pilgrims and roughly 90 Wampanoag Indians. It must have been fun - it lasted three days!

There was no turkey at the first Thanksgiving. The menu included deer, fish and other fowl. The diners used spoons and knives, no forks.

"Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving song when it debuted in the mid 1800's.



President Harry Truman (left) and a big bird share a fateful encounter in 1947

The annual presentation of a turkey at the White House began in 1947. It evolved into a presidential "pardon" for one lucky bird!

Number of turkeys Americans now eat every Thanksgiving is 46 million. The average weight is 15 pounds.



"Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry. We thank Thee for health and remember the sick. We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless. We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service. That Thy gifts to us may be used for others." Amen.

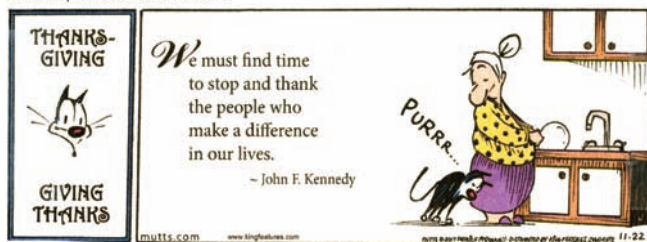
The Meaning of Thanksgiving

T is for the trust the pilgrims had so many years ago
H is for the harvest the settlers learnt to grow
A is for America, the land in which we live
N is for nature and beauty which she gives
K is for kindness, gentle words, thoughtful deeds
S is for smiles, the sunshine everyone needs
G is for gratitude... our blessings big and small
I is for ideas, letting wisdom grow tall
V is for voices, singing, laughing, always caring
I is for Indians, who taught them about sharing
N is for neighbors, across the street, over the sea
G is for giving of myself to make a better me

By Judith A. Lindberg



Mutts | Patrick McDonnell



Jeste Jednou? One More? Na Zdravil! To Your Health!

It was never illegal to drink during Prohibition. Prohibition barred making alcohol, selling it and shipping it for the purposes of consumption. On December 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment was ratified and Prohibition ended. This day is known as Repeal Day.

Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941

The enemy bombers and fighter planes suddenly roared out of the morning mist in a diabolical sneak attack on Pearl Harbor and six other military bases in Hawaii.

The USS Arizona National Memorial spans the sunken hull of the battleship. (pictured below)



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DIVINITY

(A great Christmas gift)

Ingredients:

2 egg whites, stiffly beaten

2 2/3 cups sugar

2/3 cup light corn syrup

1/2 cup water

1 teaspoon vanilla

2/3 cup broken walnuts

Directions: Beat the egg whites until stiff; set aside.

Mix sugar, corn syrup and water in saucepan. Stir over low heat until sugar is dissolved; then cook (without stirring) to 260° until mixture reaches the hard-ball stage. (Note: To determine hard-ball stage, drop a little into cold water and it should form a hard ball). Remove from heat and pour, beating constantly, in a fine stream into the beaten egg whites. Add vanilla and continue beating until mixture holds its shape and becomes slightly dull. Fold in nuts. Spread in a greased pan with a spoon or spatula coated with vegetable cooking spray. Cut into 1-inch squares when firm. Makes 48 pieces.



A Christmas prayer:

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
And open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with
every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ
brings,
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be
thy children,
And Christmas evening bring us to our beds with
grateful thoughts,
Forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-Robert Louis Stevenson



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Jim Melantrich

Jiri was born in 1511 In Rozdalovice. He was a Czech Renaissance printer and publisher. In 1557, he received a coat-of-arms (pictured). The Prague publishing company, Melantrich, established in 1897, is named after him.

Jiri Melantrich died on November 19, 1580.



Prague Loreto – the Church of the Lord's Nativity

(Kostel Narozeni Pane)



Loreto is a pilgrimage destination in Hradcany, Prague. It consists of the church of the Lord's Birth (the Sancta Casa) and a clock tower with a famous chime. Construction began in 1626 and was blessed on March 25, 1631.

Sancta Casa is the place in Nazareth where the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, the Son of God.



The altar in Sancta Casa

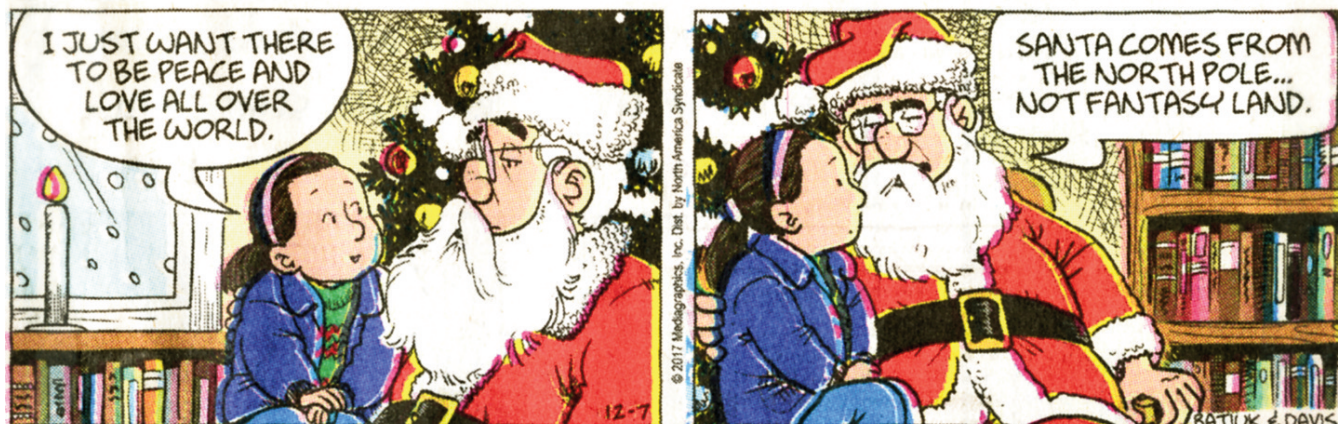
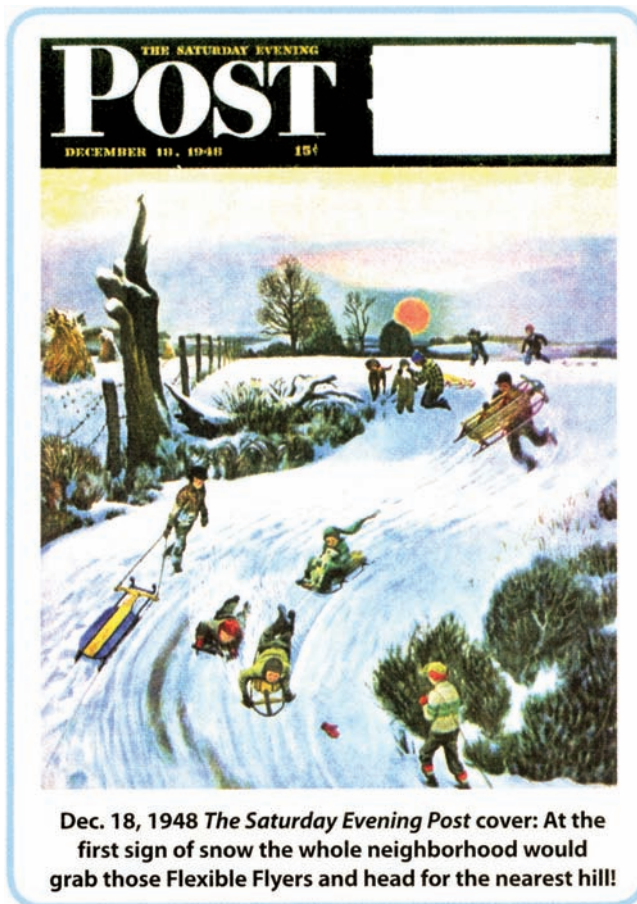
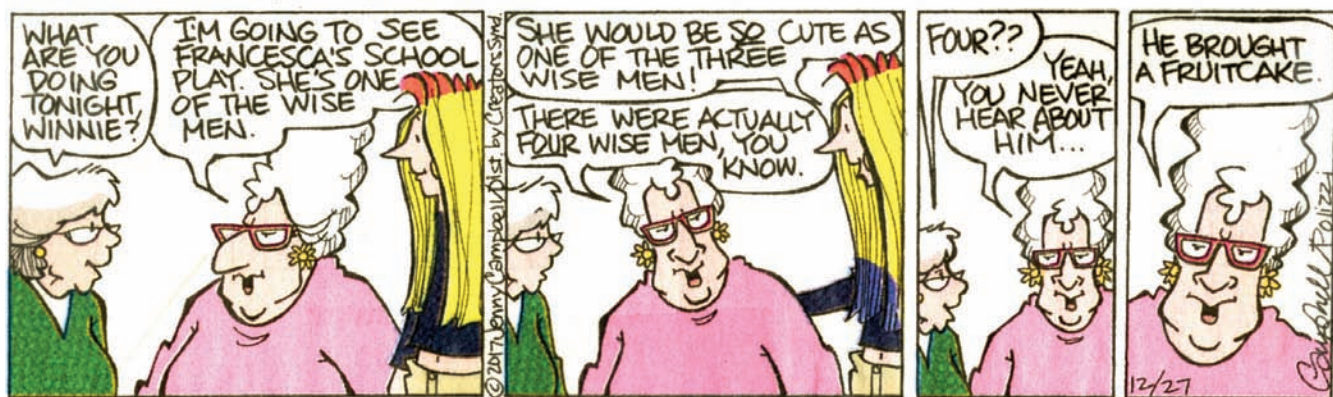
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"The only blind person at Christmas time is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

Helen Keller





The Meaning of the Snowman

The **white snow** represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The circular **snowballs** show the everlasting life God promises us.

The **carrot nose** shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.

The **black coal mouth** reminds us to give God praise.

The **scarf** keeps us warm, just as God's love does.

The **top hat** reminds us to honor God above all things.

The **twig arms** are open to hold us the way God does when we need him.



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Stamp Korner

Jiri Melantrich,
Czech publisher
& printer
30 Crowns = \$1.50



Hradec Kralove (city)
10 Crowns = \$.50

Czechs try these to bring good luck in the New Year.

At Christmas dinner, the table should be set for an even number of guests. An odd number brings bad luck. An extra place can be used to even out the number of guests and should be set out in case of an unexpected guest.

Put honey in a saucer on the Christmas table to ward off evil and bring health to the family.

No alcohol should be served on Christmas Eve.

Put fish scales under the dinner plates or the tablecloth to bring wealth to the house.

No one should get up from the table before dinner is finished.

That's bad luck. And don't leave anything on your plate.

Table legs should be tied with rope to protect the home from thieves in the New Year. Also, put a bowl of garlic under the table for good luck.

Sokol St. Louis

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PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Lord, you intended for the Holy Family to be an example for all, and for the Holy Spirit to enlighten our homes.

May we, like them, be able to live according to the family virtues and stand united by the strength of Your love, before meeting again for eternity in the joy of Your house.

Amen.



Best Wishes for
Peace and Joy
this Holiday Season
and a New Year of
Health, Happiness
and Prosperity

FROM THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND
STAFF OF THE CZECH CATHOLIC UNION

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Keep Christ in Christmas!

*"...all good giving and every perfect
gift is from above..."*



*Radostné Vánoce a šťastný nový rok
Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year*



We shall find peace. We shall hear angels,
we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds.

Anton Chekov

Russian playwright and short story writer
(1860-1904)



Notice To Members

A Mass for Deceased members of the Czech
Catholic Union is offered periodically at Our
Lady of Lourdes Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

The Czech Catholic Union extends its sincerest sympathies to the
bereaved families of the following deceased members:

Name	Location	Soc. Name	No.	Date of Issue	Date of Death	Age
Jonah Toothman	Cleveland, OH	Home Office	145	09-01-1987	07-21-2018	36
Francis Bican	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	04-01-1950	08-21-2018	81
Mila Slominski	Berwyn, IL	St. Ann	18	02-01-1945	06-25-2018	91
Mila also was a member of St. Ann Society #117						

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID IN 2018 \$130,211.66

