

AUŠROS VARTŲ PARAPIJA

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Christmas is almost upon us, and as we look back, we can certainly say that we have had a busy autumn at our parish. Three major events took place in addition to the fall clean-up around the church and presbytery.

On Saturday, October 1, Bulvepalooza, a fund-raising event for the parish organised by the singing group Viena Širdis attracted over 100 participants who were ready to listen to some lively music, dance and feast on a potato-based meal. Lithuanians LOVE potatoes! On this occasion we were spoiled with a specially prepared kugelis, cabbage rolls + potatoes, and various delicious desserts. A huge thank you to the Montreal Lithuanian youth who manned the kitchen and prepared most of the food. Also, we thank Antanas Intas who supplied us with the cabbage rolls.



The evening's program was comprised of a concert which opened with the group Garbanotos Mintys who performed a lively tribute to our beloved potato.

Here is a photo of Garbanotos Mintys.



Next, the singing group Viena Širdis sang some all-time favorites in several languages. These included *Čigonai*, *Those Were the Days*, *Skinsiu Ramunę*.



The closing numbers were performed by Father Paul and Gytis Niedvaras.



Many thanks to all who contributed to making this evening a wonderful success. Special thanks to our Ambassador Darius Skusevičius and his group for attending this event.



Our traditional fall clean-up was held on Saturday, October 29. The great weather, many helpful hands and leaf blower manned by Vytas Ptašinskas made the work advance quickly. Thanks to all the helpers!



The Aušros Vartų annual luncheon took place on Sunday, November 6. This event is always a favorite with the parishioners for its interesting program and fabulous food. This year was no exception. We were treated to a wonderful program organized by our organist Ian Plansker. Several musicians and one vocalist, all music students of Mc Gill University, performed some excerpts from the opera *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell. It was truly a memorable performance, and we are very grateful to Ian for having organised this program and for playing the organ at Mass every Sunday to accompany our parish choir.



The main attraction of the meal was the cepelinai prepared by the parish committee and their helpers. All worked hard for two days to treat everyone to this Lithuanian favorite.

Here is our head chef Dana Deltuvaitė.



Part of our kitchen team.



We also had some very happy lottery winners. Thank you to all who contributed cakes for our dessert table or gifts for the lottery.



The third event to take place at our parish was the Christmas Fair held on December 11. Quite a few people reserved tables to sell baked goods, arts and crafts, and even fresh eggs from the farm. Coffee, cakes and a light lunch were available to all for a modest fee.



At the same time Aušra GERALAVIČIŪTĖ and Dana DELTUVAITĖ held a cooking class for young parents and their children. The object was to make kučiukai, a traditional Lithuanian Christmas favorite.



Warm thanks to Daiva Blynas and Brendan Drysdale for contributing photos to this newsletter.

Our traditional Christmas Eve Mass will be on December 24 at 10:30 pm. We invite you all to attend and then join us downstairs for our wine and cheese celebration.

We wish you all a wonderful and healthy Christmas. May it be filled with love, hope and peace!



For information or comments, please contact Vilia. (viliabulota@gmail.com)

