- Precarnival time, the time of wedding (Predpust, čas svatbe)
- Carnival (Pust) chases the winter away and calls the spring.

Kurent or Korent, the main character of our Carnival, comes from Ptujsko polje (the Ptuj field). He is the persecutor of the winter and bad spirits and attracts the spring and rich harvest with his dancing.



Pustni krof, the Carnival doughnut is a special pastry filled with jam. They are eaten at the Carneval, but you can also eat them some other time.



Shrove Sunday - Pustna nedelja Shrove Tuesday - Pustni torek Ash Wednesday – Pepelnica (With Ash Wednesday the forty-day fast begins.)

#### March - Marec - Sušec

- 8<sup>th</sup> March- Women's day (Dan žena) The international day of women's rights. Flowers are given to women!
- 12<sup>th</sup> March: Gregorjevo It was used to be known as the first spring day in the past. It's the day when birds mate.

  Birds and hearts are drawn, paper houses are made for their weddings by children.
- 25<sup>th</sup> March Mother's day Flowers and small presents are given to our mothers.



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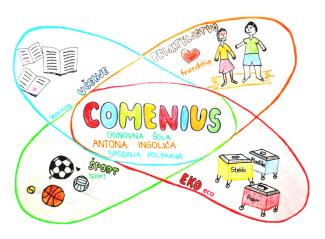








# TRADITIONS AROUND EUROPE WITHOUT BORDERS 2010 - 2012



# WINTER HOLIDAYS IN SLOVENIA

Spodnja Polskava, January 2011

#### December - December - Gruden

- ♣ 6<sup>th</sup> December: St. Nicholas (Miklavževo) The Legend of St. Nicholas says that one night St. Nicholas throw three pieces of gold into a house of a poor man for his three daughters. Even nowadays he brings presents to children on the Eve of 6<sup>th</sup> December.
- 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas (Božič) This is time for family, friendship, peace and charity.

Christmas Carols (Silent night) are sung, Christmas Cards are made, Christmas tree is decorated, presents are given, a special dinner is prepared.

At Midnight people go to the Christmas mass, to the Christmas crib with Jesus in it.

Christmas Carols singers are called Koledniki.

♣ 26<sup>th</sup> December: The Independence and Unity day (Dan samostojnosti in neodvisnosti) is celebrated since 1991.

On the same day is the St. Stephan's (Štefanovo). On this day the priest blesses horses and salt.



■ 28<sup>th</sup> December: Tepežni dan – Tepežnica Children get up early in the morning to beat adults with a hazel rood to wish them good health and get some money.



31<sup>st</sup> December: New Year's Eve (Silvestrovo) is spent by eating, celebrating and expecting the New year.

## January - Januar - Prosinec

- ▲ 1<sup>st</sup> January: New Year's Day (Novo leto)
- ≤ 2<sup>nd</sup> January: New Year's Holiday
- ← 6<sup>th</sup> January: Three Holly Kings (Sveti trije kralji)

  Village boys go from house to house and sing carols of the Three Holly Kings. The carol singers present the end of New Year carols. The doors are marked with crosses and the initials of Three Holy Kings' names. G + M + B (Gašper, Miha, Boltežar)

English: Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar



### February – Februar – Svečan

 2<sup>nd</sup> February: Blessing of candles (Svečnica – praznik blagoslova sveč)



8<sup>th</sup> February: The Presern's day, The Slovenian culture day (Prešernov dan, Slovenski kulturni praznik) – The 7<sup>th</sup> stanza of Zdravljica that was written by France Prešeren (1800-1849) became the Slovenian Anthem in 1989.

