**PEASANT SUNDAY**

Our town Nová Baňa is known for autumn folk tradition called Peasant Sunday. This festival is held every year in the church of Blessed Virgin Mary to thanks for year's harvest.

In Nova Bana it is done in a such beautiful and unusual manner. The altars of the church are decorated with fruits and vegetables and nowadays with different images. In 1954 a simple woman started this tradition, because the canonist gave her space for decoration which was very simple. Nowadays the decoration of the church in Nová Baňa is rich and beautiful. People from Nová Baňa and from the near far surroundings admire it from the end of September to the half of October. The material for decoration consists of various fruits and vegetables worn by local believers. The main topic of Peasant Sunday in 2019 is Protection of our planet and people in need. At the end of Peasant Sunday fruit and vegetable is donated to charity.

In the past the basket was filled with various vegetable and fruit and they were put on the altars. Today the altars are decorated with detailed and precisely processed images made of small materials such as cereals, flour or spices which are colouring. The images used to be spilled straight onto the altars, but they were not durable and they were damaged. For that reason the paintings are prepared for several weeks in advance in the comfort of homes. After preparation they are placed to the church.

The Mass at the beginning of Peasant Sunday is connected with the local folklore. The peasants have their peasant anthem and a pledge. They offer sacrificial gifts, a lot of cakes, men bring a bit of alcohol and then there is also agape in front of the church. Each year Catholic believers publish an explanatory newsletter on the current theme of Peasant Sunday.

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