

# March 4 - St. Casimir's (Kaziukas) Day



## Growing value of intangible heritage

- St. Casimirs' Fair tradition is *the oldest, largest and most famous public city fair* in Lithuania.
- Since the beginning the Fair tradition permanently grew: historically emerged as a religious celebration, it turned into the urban fair of craftsmen, farmers and folk artists in 19-20th c., and today it's *the public urban fair of artisans, artists and tradespeople*.
- Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency in cooperation with members of Vilnius Crafts Program and National Centre of Ethnic Culture inspired *recreation of the traditional fair festive procession of craftsmen in 2007*.
- *This unique Fair is a living historic cultural tradition* of Vilnius and has a high value in the context of UNESCO WH site maintenance (Vilnius Historic City Centre inscribed into UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994).
- *Intangible historic and cultural heritage* is revitalised and maintained by activity of scientists, public will and awareness rising.

## Historic Kaziukas Fair

- The year 1604: *religious procession of Prince St. Casimir.*
- *The Flag of St. Casimir* was important attribute of festive processions.
- *The festive procession consisted of 4 groups:*
  - craftsmen with their guilds' flags and signs,
  - merchants and city guards with their armour,
  - clergy and monks with their religious flags,
  - noblemen and their ladies,
  - pilgrims, students, musicians and others.
- Vilnius merchants acquired the privilege to have *3 days market at the Cathedral* Square during St. Casimir Holidays in 1827.
- Religious procession turned into *the public festivity followed by the fair* in early 19th. c.
- Traditionally the Fair took place in largest city squares – the Cathedral, Lukiskiu and Town Hall as well as at the adjacent major streets.

## Fairs in 1900 – 1990

- The Fair was relocated from the Cathedral *to Lukiskiu Sq. in 1901*. Nearly 2400 carriages were located between Green and Zverynas bridges.
- *The festive procession was revitalised by students in 1937*. The model of St. Casimir, symbolic „Kaziukas hearts“ and Vilnius palms - *verbos* were introduced in 1938 for the first time.
- Humour and literature shows were performed *by the city theater actors*.
- The Fair didn't take place several years after the WW2. It gradually revived in 70-ies in a remote Kalvariju Market where farmers, folk artists and students sold their handmade items.
- Guests from the entire country and Grodno, Minsk, Moscow, Sant Petersburg and Riga took part in the Fair in 80-ies. *The Fair became more festive and attractive* after the city officials, students, musicians and artists became an active participants of the event.
- *The Fair returned to the historic city centre's squares and streets* after recreation of Lithuanian statehood in 1990.
- 5907 boys got the name of *Kazys and* 6250 boys – *Kazimieras (Casimir)*, 2336 girls – *Kazimiera (Casimira)* and 803 girls - *Kazė* in 1900 – 1990 period.





Crowdy fair in 1900 – 1910 at the Cathedral square

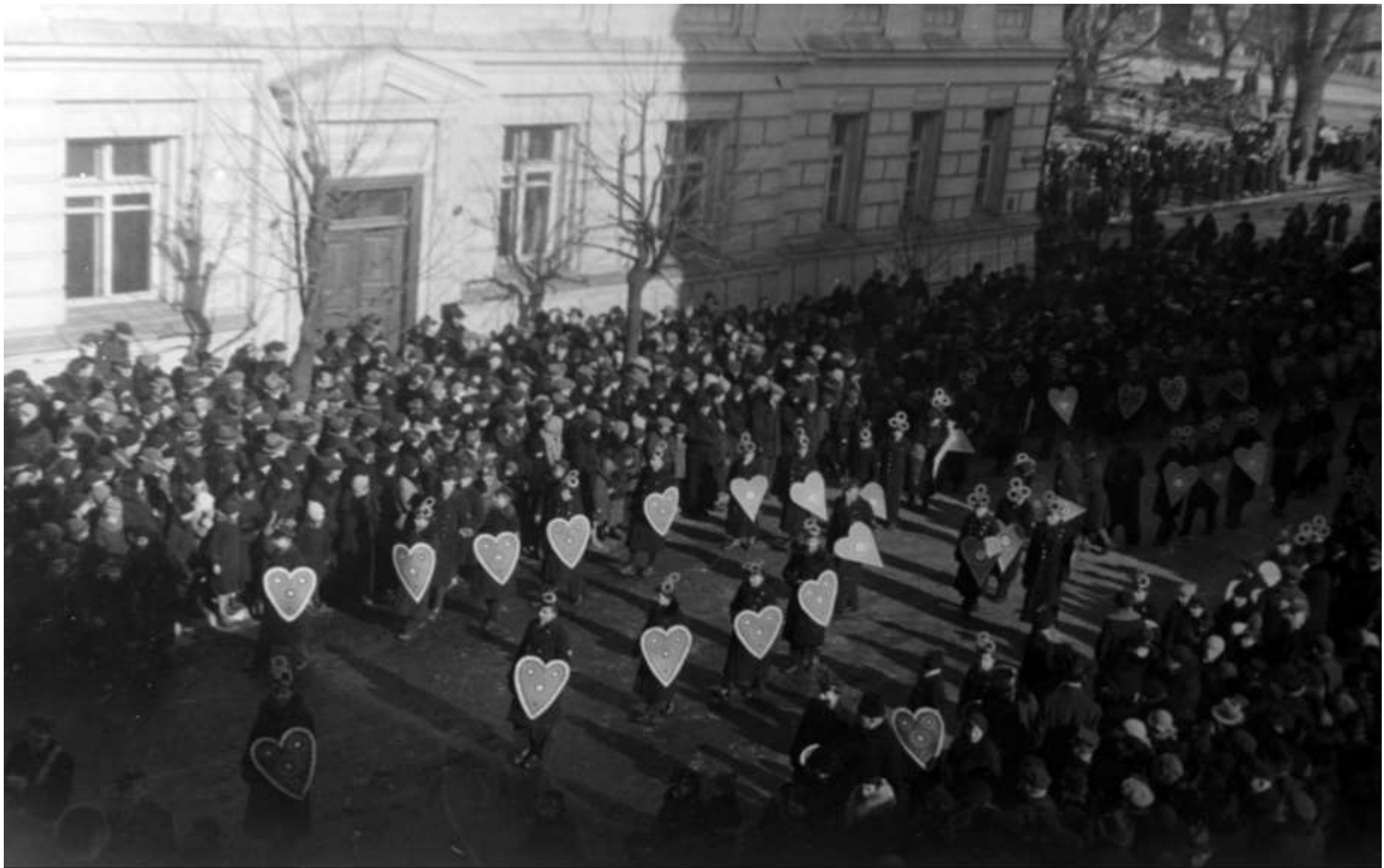
# The Fair at the Cathedral square in 1937: processions symbolysing cold and flu





Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

Festive procession in 1938. Noblemen and Prince Casimir



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

. Honeyed „Hearts of Casimir“ in 1938





Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

Handmade production of country craftsmen and farmers, 1938



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

1938



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

Nearly 2400 carriages on Neris river bank, 1938





Joy for children:  
coloured balloons  
and wooden  
toys, 1938





## Fairing of Kaziukas



Best bagels were from Smurgainiai, Belarus.  
Sweet and colorful „Kaziukas hearts“: brown - with honey, white –  
with mints, rose – with cranberries, 1932



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe



Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

Various utensils: vats, baskets, wooden spoons, shoes, etc. 1938





Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe

1938



Kaziukas Fair returned to Pilies St. in the Old Town in 1989



## Fairs in 1991 – 2020

- It was allowed to organise the fair in city centre squares and streets in 1991. The row of shopping stoves and tents reached up to 2 km long. Later the rows developed even up to 17 km in 2019.
- Demonstration of crafting processes in an open air: blacksmiths, ceramics, basket weaving, wood carving, coin minting started in 2004.
- There were 1300 fair participants (who sold their products or made some entertainments) in 2010, 1700 in 2019. More than 150 craftsmen and food producers came from Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.
- 700 thousands of visitors came to the fair in 2019. Guests from foreign countries came by buses, trains and planes.
- Traditional and new entertainments are organised for the joy of visitors.
- The special newspaper „Kaziuko laikraštis“ was issued since 2003 several times.
- The modern Kaziukas Fair is a joyful and noisy spring festival of Lithuanian craftsmen, folk artists and producers of a good food.
- The Fair moved to the e-space due to pandemia in 2020.



Su parrasario  
Svente  
Sveikina  
Karys  
Jave!



Dream for lazybones – the driving stove





The Fair awakes the city, 2007





The Fair in the revived historic Tymas Quarter, 2007





2014





2018





2019

# Pottery and Sights



2010





2003



2016





2015





2015





2015





2015



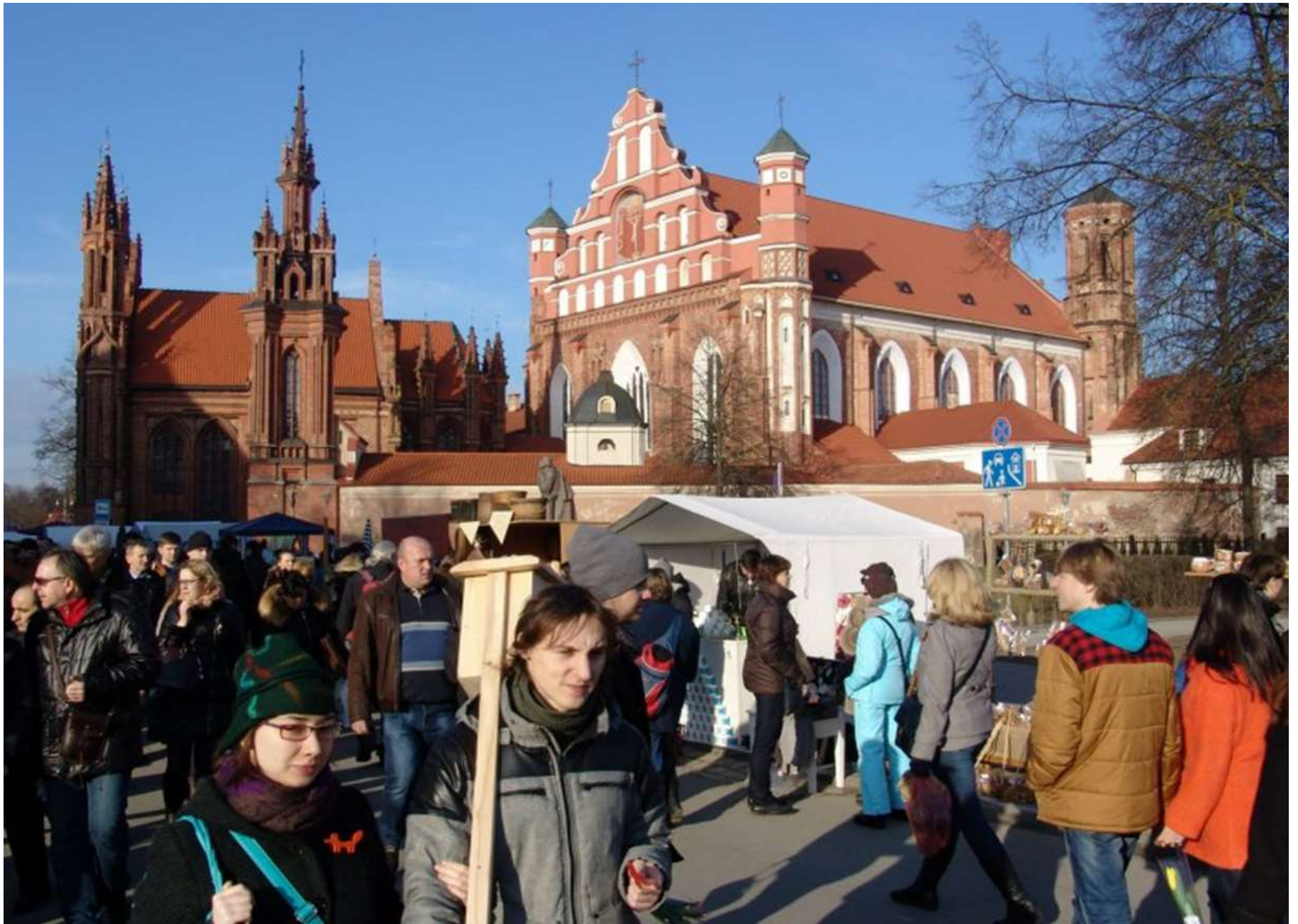
2015





2015





2016





2016





2016





Welcome to Kaziukas Fair! 2016





2015-2016





The largest clogs, 2017





A participant guest from Norway, 2017



2007, 2016





2017

# Recreated procession of St. Casimir



Šventinė eisena

2007





2007





2008





2008



2008





2009





2009



# Recreated historic guilds' flags, 2010







2012





2016



2015





2017





2018





2019





2019





2019





2019





The 4 m bridge over Gediminas Avenue, 2019

# Vilnius Craftsmen



Participants of Vilnius Crafts Program demonstrate their crafts, 2005





2009





2014





2015



2015





2016





2016





2016





2016





2017



2018





2019



# Leaders and celebrities



The Mayor Arturas Zuokas with his wife, 2004, 2007





Famous ethnologist Libertas Klimka, 2004



The Minister of Agriculture Kazimiera Prunskiene and the Fair's lead organiser Vytenis Urba, 2006





Expresidents Dalia Grybauskaitė and Valdas Adamkus with his wife and, 2007



The Mayor Juozas Imbrasas and the blacksmith, 2008





The Minister of Agriculture Kazimieras Starkevičius  
and Mayor of Vilnius Raimundas Alekna, 2011



The Mayor Remigijus Šimašius, 2014, 2017





Culinaric temptations, 2015





2011





Red glover beer , 2013





Lots of bagels, 2015





2015





Production of beekeepers for body and soul, 2016





„Kaziukas hearts“

[www.vsaa.lt](http://www.vsaa.lt)

