

Most Holy Trinity Sunday
June 16, 2019



SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST SVĚTÝCH
CYRILA A METODA



A Personal Parish Established To Serve The Slovak Catholic Community In The Archdiocese Of Detroit



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will
guide you to all truth." - Jn 16:13a



OMŠOVÝ PORIADOK

June 15, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM LM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Harry Doone Jr. (B'Day)
❖ For Nahla Sesi (B'Day)
❖ †Margaret & Joseph Swengros
- 5:30PM JN In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny
❖ For Paul & Julie Varchetti & Family
❖ For Matthew Margiewicz (B'Day) req. Parents
❖ For Mark Varchetti
❖ For Jeff Baker req. Parents
❖ †Bernard Ivin req. Mary Richards

June 16, Most Holy Trinity Sunday – Nedela

Father's Day

Prv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15 (166)

- 7:30AM JN For Elizabeth Desser (B'Day)
❖ For Emma Dzieciolowski (5th B'Day)
❖ For Jeri Berkowitz (B'Day)
❖ †For the Gammo & Gill Families
❖ †Josephine Davis
❖ †Jean Saari
- 9:30AM LM For the Intentions of all Fathers (Natural & Spiritual)
- 11:30AM JO (Slovak) Na úmysel všetkých otcov
- 1:30PM ML *Baptism: Daniel Sullivan Weil
In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny
❖ For Emma Dzieciolowski (5th B'Day)
❖ †Fr. Val Rykowski req. Shirley
❖ †Christopher Boertmann
❖ †Anne Rzepka
❖ †Elvidio Vennettilli
- 6:00PM PC (Latin) - Tridentine:
For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM PC For Tim & Victoria Roddey & Family
❖ For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family
❖ For Mark Varchetti ❖ †Isabel Cano
❖ †Paul & Geri Buss ❖ †Zygmunt Linowski

June 17, Monday – Pondelok

- 6:00AM LM For Jerin Mathew (B'Day)
- 9:00AM LM For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 12:00PM JN,d For Stephanie Hamama (B'Day)
❖ For Marie E. Laconi
❖ For Glen & Amy Varchetti & Family
❖ For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis

June 18, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM VP For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Nate & Theresa Robinson & Family
❖ For Amal & Bashar Sarraf & Family (36th Ann.)
❖ †Albert Tisch (B'Day)
- 9:00AM LM For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 12:00PM LM For Deacon Phil McCown

June 19, Wednesday – Streda

- 6:00AM PC For Carl & †Stephanie Varchetti & Family
- 9:00AM LM (Latin) For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 12:00PM LM For Desirae Eck req. Langlois Family
❖ For Benjamin Langlois req. Langlois Family
❖ For Angie & Families
❖ †Theodore Makarewycz req. Daughter

June 20, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM PC For Chaman Assfa (B'Day)
- 9:00AM LM For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 12:00PM LM For James & Grete Varchetti
❖ For Wayne & Chelsea Shelton & Family
❖ For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis
❖ †Judith Johnson
- 7:00PM VP For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Seminarian Patrick Blenman req. Grandparents
❖ †Don Warman ❖ †Jan Johnson

June 21, Friday – Piatok

- 6:00AM PC For Paul & Julie Varchetti & Family
- 9:00AM LM For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 12:00PM ML In Thanksgiving
❖ For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis
❖ †Sue Scarchilli
❖ †Lou & Michael Roy

- 4:00PM VP Wedding Mass: Kelly Sink & Edwin Feys

June 22, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM LM For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 1:00PM VP Wedding Mass: Jennifer Peirce & Stephen Manuszak
- 5:30PM ML For Violet Potemski (14th B'Day)
❖ For Ken Knop & Family
❖ For Paul & Julie Varchetti & Family
❖ †Anne Rzepka
❖ †Dennis Lents
❖ †Greg Manning
❖ †Robert Wallace req. Toruta Family

June 23, Corpus Christi Sunday – Nedela

Gn 14:18-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Lk 16:11b-17 (169)

- 7:30AM LM For Angie Smith & Baby ❖ For Mark Varchetti
❖ †Charles Shermetaro ❖ †Elvidio Vennettilli
❖ †Adelbert & Mildred Novatny req. Family
❖ †Joe Marine req. Acervo Family
- 10:00AM Bp, LM *Corpus Christi Mass:
For the Father's Day Novena Intentions
- 1:30PM ML For all Priests, Religious Deacons & Seminarians
❖ For the Intentions of the Members of the St. Monica Sodality ❖ For Christina, Dave, & Families
❖ For Sam & Amy Shamoon & Family
❖ For Brandon & Samantha Monsour & Family
❖ †James Zabowski
- 6:00PM PC (Latin) - Tridentine:
†Steve & Anita Fredal req. Family
- 8:30PM PC For the Intentions of All Parishioners

June 16, 2019 - Most Holy Trinity Sunday

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

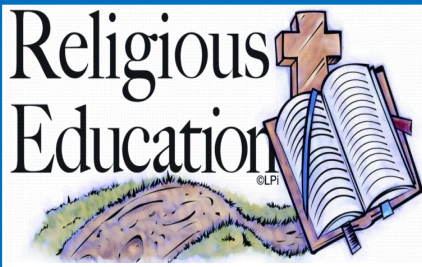
Fr. Libor Marek, Pastor • lmarek@saintcyrils.org
Fr. Juraj Nuota, Associate Pastor • jnuota@saintcyrils.org
Fr. Paul Czarnota, Priest in Residence • fr.czar@me.com
Deacon Phil McCown • wadephil@yahoo.com
Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell@gmail.com
Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrils.org

Mass Celebrant Legend:

Bp. Jan Orosh – Bp
Fr. Libor Marek – LM, Fr. Juraj Nuota – JN
Fr. Paul Czarnota – PC, Fr. Jozef Novák – JO
Fr. Michael Lenz, OFM-ML, Visiting Priest-VP, Deacon Preaching-d

Wedding Banns!

June 21, 2019: Kelly Sink & Edwin Feys
June 22, 2019: Jennifer Pierce & Stephen Manuszak



Catechism Update • Volunteer Opportunities for 2019/2020

Thank you to our retiring Catechists, Parking Lot & Security Volunteers for your dedication, faith, time and love that you shared with the children of our parish. You will be missed dearly, as we were blessed to have many of you with the program for twenty plus years.

As there are some pretty big shoes to fill, we pray, "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith", Matthew 21:22.

We are looking for volunteers who accept Jesus' challenge to go forth and teach. Your talent may be working with our parish children in a classroom setting, greeting them and their families in the hallways, or securing the parking lot so no harm comes to any of them. EVERY position is IMPORTANT.

You may say, "I am just in my twenties and have no children, they don't need someone like me." Trust me, the students love your energy and enthusiasm. You may think, "I am too old, what do I have to offer?" I would answer, how about a kind ear, a unique skill set and years of experience.

High School Students, we would love for you to come and work as assistants in the classrooms. Many of you are exploring professions or vocations; this experience may help you discern what God wants for you.

I can attest to the joy that comes from working with the children. My husband and I have been a part of this program for 25 years. Our youngest is 24 now, so we could have easily chosen to move on but we see what joy comes from the fruits of our labor. There is immeasurable pride when a child who doubted they could do it, successfully finishes all the requirements and makes his or her Confirmation. Tears flow when a First Communicant walks back to their seat with a look on their face of reverence and recognition that they have just received the Real Body and Blood of Jesus. The rewards outweigh the work, tenfold.

Please consider helping us to catechize the youth at our parish on Wednesday evenings from September through May. Volunteering has many benefits while giving good example to a new generation. It contributes to a longer life, combats stress, gives purpose and most importantly, "You will shine, not that others can see you, but so that through you, all children can see HIM." (Credit to C.S. Lewis)

Please contact us if you are interested in discussing a position with the Catechism Program,
Carroll and Paul Schuller, at p_schuller@yahoo.com or (586) 254-9212. Thank you.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED?

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED 1st HOLY COMMUNION?

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES?

If you have never been Baptized, Confirmed, received First Holy Communion, and want to;

or if you have, but just want to know more about what the Catholic Church teaches, now is your time to act!

Beginning **Thursday, September 5**, is the Ss. Cyril & Methodius RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*) course.

Classes will be held every **Thursday from 7:00—9:00PM.**

This course will teach you the Catholic Faith in order to prepare you for receiving these Sacraments which will be offered at the Easter Vigil, April 11, 2020.

For more information or to sign up, please contact:

Steven Piskorowski, (586) 883-3093



Welcome

Welcome to Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church

If you would like general information on:

♦ Sacraments (Baptisms & Weddings)

♦ Joining the Parish

Contact the Parish Office: 586-726-6911

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Youth Ministry

Life Teen is Ss. Cyril's high school youth group and EDGE is Ss. Cyril's middle school youth group. Life Teen and Edge are open to all teens, from any parish. Our goal is to create a friendly Catholic community where teens can encounter Christ.

If you have any questions/ to be put on the mailing list, contact the youth minister, *Alexandria Lewis*, (586) 641-7672, Lifeteencyril912@gmail.com or Edgecyril678@gmail.com



Parents—register your high school teen for the fall 2019-2020 at:
<https://tinyurl.com/cyrilparent>
Life Teen Summer Events

(open to incoming freshmen and outgoing seniors) include:

July 15th & 22nd: Rosary and Game Social Nights

July 13th: TRUE-Girls' Day Retreat about being a daughter of God

July 27th - Guys' Canoe/Kayak Day

Please turn in signed registration forms for the Girls' Retreat and Canoe Day ASAP. You can request them via email.



EDGE Middle School Ministry

Registration for the 2019-2020 year is OPEN. We will be registering new teens and incoming 6th graders all year, but we would like to have as many teens as possible registered over the summer. You can register online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/cyrilparent>.

Encourage your incoming 6th grader's friends to sign up for next year!

Edge Summer Park Nights (open to registered incoming 6th graders and new teens):

July 18th and July 25th: Join us for popsicles, games, and prayer!

Candy Bars for Father's Day • June 16

Father's Day is this weekend! This is such a wonderful holiday where we can really show the father or father figures in our lives how much they mean to us, as well as thank them for LIFE! Right to Life-LIFESPAN is hosting their annual Father's Day Candy Bar Project after Holy Masses this weekend. They have multiple different flavors, such as: almond, peanut butter, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and caramel! Donations are appreciated! And in supporting LIFESPAN, you are directly helping them teach students about the sanctity of life, from Conception to Natural Death, as well as motivate the students and give them more opportunities to be active in the pro-life movement. So please be sure to support this wonderful organization by gifting your father or father figure with a delicious chocolate bar!

God bless you, and thank you for your help in defending LIFE!

Maria C. Vitale, L.I.F.E. Ministry of Ss. Cyril and Methodius

Father's Day Novena

Father's Day is Sunday, June 16, and our Father's Day Novena will begin this Monday, June 17. Novena Mass cards are available after all Holy Masses this weekend.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest gift anyone can receive.



St. Monica Sodality Mass * Sunday, June 23

The next St. Monica Sodality Holy Mass takes place on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi - Sunday, June 23, at 1:30PM. May the Holy Eucharist bind us and those we pray for closer to Our Lord. Please join us for Mass and prayers.

Note - Prayer petitions placed in the St. Monica box from May 2018 to April 2019 have been forwarded to Rome.

Mobile App

We have launched a Church App to be used on mobile devices. You will be able to access things like daily readings for Mass, a digital Bible, weekly bulletins and our electronic giving page. As we continue to work to add to the app we hope to include access to event information, homilies and other recorded talks and more.

To download the app, you can either text "SSCyrilApp" to 77977 to receive a text with a link to the app or you can go to your Mobile App Store and download the "My Church by Pushpay" app and search for SSCyrilApp or you can select "Find my church by name" and search for SS Cyril.

Online Giving

To give using your mobile device simply text SSCYRIL to 77977 and a link to the giving page will be sent to you.

To give online you can simply go to our website

www.saintcyrils.church and select "GIVE" on the homepage.

**If you decide to use online giving and no longer need your envelopes, please send an email to business@saintcyrils.org requesting they be canceled.

Catholic Services Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CSA. Please allow six weeks for processing your payment by the Archdiocese. Please remember that any shortfall will come from our parish funds. Don't forget you can choose either nine monthly or quarterly payments if you prefer.

CSA GOAL: \$192,212

PLEDGED-TO-DATE: \$70,974

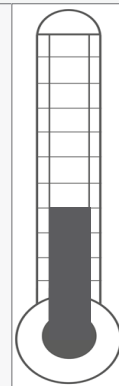
SHORTFALL: \$121,238

NUMBER OF PLEDGES RECEIVED: 225

GOAL
\$ 192,212

PLEDGED TO-DATE
\$ 70,974

SHORTFALL
\$ 121,238



If you have not contributed, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Even if you are only able to contribute a small amount, every bit helps.

Thank you! Questions, please contact:

Rob Avery, ravery@saintcyrils.org, (586) 726-6911



Corpus Christi Holy Mass • NEXT Sunday, June 23

Mass Schedule Change

For Corpus Christi next Sunday, June 23, the 9:30AM & 11:30AM Holy Masses will be combined and begin at 10:00AM.

Special Guest Celebrant

Archbishop Jan Orosch, from the Archdiocese of Trnava, Slovakia, will celebrate our Corpus Christi Holy Mass. The Mass will be followed by a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction.

Flower Petals for Procession

Flower petals are needed for the Procession that follows that 10:00AM Holy Mass. Please bring your flower petals to the coatroom off the vestibule prior to the Holy Mass.

Reception After the 10:00AM Holy Mass

Our Corpus Christi Reception will follow the 10:00AM Holy Mass. Please bring finger-food desserts (on disposable platters) to the Parish Hall prior to the Holy Mass.



ARCHBISHOP JAN OROSH



Mass of Thanksgiving by Fr. John McKenzie • June 24

We are blessed to have Father John McKenzie come to our parish on Monday, June 24, at 9:00AM to celebrate a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving. He will also give his new priestly blessing to all the faithful present.

Deacon McKenzie will be ordained to the priesthood this weekend, on Saturday, June 8, in the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. His first priestly assignment will begin on July 1 at the Shrine of the Little Flower.

VBS Registration Closed

Donations are still needed for VBS. Check out the donation board in the vestibule (under the clock) and return your items as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration! The final planning meeting is this Wednesday, June 19, beginning at 7:00PM.

Questions: Moe Jones, (586) 219-6678/ moeprays@gmail.com

Emergency Food Collection • June 24-30

The food pantry shelves at St. Dominic's Outreach Center in Detroit are nearly empty! To help fill those shelves and feed the 100 parents and seniors who depend on St. Dominic's, the VBS children and their families are collecting basic, non-perishable food items. If you would like to contribute to this important project, the VBS families and St. Dominic's would really appreciate your help! Just bring one or more of the requested foods to church any day from June 24-30. On weekdays, please give your donation to the VBS volunteers in the gallery from 10:00AM-Noon. On the weekend, volunteers will be collecting food donations before all Holy Masses. Thank-you for helping this VBS service project and especially for helping the volunteers at St. Dominic's feed their hungry neighbors.

Requested Food Items: *Cans of tuna, corn, and peas *Peanut butter and jelly *Ritz crackers *Saltine crackers (low salt or no salt, as well as regular) *Sweetened cereals *Macaroni and cheese *Canned sloppy joe meat *Baked beans *Pork and beans *Drink mixes (lemonade, or kool-aid)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast Day Friday, June 28

Fr. Marko Djonovic, Chaplain of the Men of the Sacred Hearts, will celebrate a 7:00PM Holy Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, on Friday, June 28, at Ss. Cyril & Methodius. Adoration will follow the Holy Mass.



Parish Festival Raffle

* Please remember to turn in your money and sold ticket stubs by 5:00PM Friday, June 28, to be eligible for the First Early Bird drawing to be held on Sunday, June 30. \$250 is the winning prize! (Remember: If you win, your winning ticket stub goes back into the drum for the July early bird drawing and for the final drawing on Sunday of the festival weekend.)

* All parishioners should now have their festival raffle tickets in hand, whether you picked them up in the Gallery or received them via regular mail. If you need additional tickets to sell or buy, please stop by the parish office.

* Please contact Karen Bove (248-709-9055 or kbove1@msn.com) with any questions or if you have not received your festival raffle tickets.

Thank you for your support. It is our parish's largest fundraiser because of you! Karen Bove, Raffle Ticket Chairperson

Tools for Growing in Faith * FORMED

As a community, we all now have UNLIMITED access to the best Catholic faith formation materials on the market, all in one easy location: www.FORMED.org. FORMED has resources for all ages. There are in-depth faith formation programs, Bible study programs, Lighthouse Catholic Media audio talks, full length movies, children's audio programs and e-books! All you have to do to gain access is log onto: www.FORMED.org. Scroll down and enter our parish code: 90c575. You will then be prompted to set up your own personal account so that you can have full access to all of the amazing faith formation materials available through FORMED.

ADORERS NEEDED

Monday
3-4AM

Wednesday
1-2AM, 2-3AM

Tuesday
1-2AM

Thursday
12-1AM, 4-5AM

Questions, please contact: **Jenn Dopke**
586-530-3674, jdopke13@gmail.com

First Holy Communion • Saturday, May 11, 2019

Ella Bailey, Christopher Baltrinic, John Beck, Sophia Blaski, Julius Boisvert, Elijah Botwinis, Vincent Brancalone
 Alaina Brannigan, Chloe Bui, Cassie Cabrera (2nd), Maria Camaj, Michael Camaj, Alan Camargo, Gabriella Dailey
 Lillyanna Doerflinger, Elijah Dolinshek, Elizabeth Durkee, Xander Dushaj, William Eastburn, Michael Evans
 Angelina Gielegheem, Rianna Hana, Holly Haynes, David Honce, Victoria Hopkins, Adam Ivezaj, Joshua Kanan
 Angelina Kehrig, Brayden Koziol, Avila Kramer, Augustine Lamerson, Kateri Langbeen, Michael Manni, Thomas Manni
 Zoe McCloskey, Darci Anne Niksa, Nolan O'Brien, Isabel O'Neal, Vito Oddo, Dominic Pearson, Diana Potter
 Clare Propson, Nora Robinson, Isabella Sa'Pereira, Penelope Schlaud, Thaddeus (Max) Schlaud, Jenna Faith Schmidt
 Larissa Stec, Julianna Stewart, Emeric Szczerba, Garrette Teeter, Josephine Teslak, and Nic Varchetti



*Thank you Laurie Dushaj!
 Deo Gratias Images*



Jar 1917 – jedna zlá správa za druhou

Uplynul už viac ako rok od kedy sa malá hŕstka Slovákov rozhodla postaviť si slovenský katolícky kostol, aby mohli počuť slovo Božie v ich materinskom jazyku. Hoci sa borili s mnohými problémami, za krátku dobu dosiahli dosť. Získali povolenie od biskupa na založenie komunity, zapísali veľa Slovákov a nazbierali, či požičali si peniaze na zakúpenie pozemku pre kostol. A splnila sa im aj ich najväčšia túžba, keď získali slovenského kňaza. Táto nádejná situácia však bola narušená prvými mrakmi na obzore. Medzi ľuďmi sa vyskytli nedorozumenia i podozrievanie zo sprenevery peňazí, čo viedlo k rezignácii niektorých členov zodpovedných za zbieranie finančných prostriedkov. Jedným z príkladov svárov je i debata o pláci za hranie počas krížovej cesty. Organista Tomáš J. Grigliak nebol spokojný s ponúknutou sumou 50 centov a svoju nevôľu vyjadril slovami, “že on za tie peniaze ani nohu z havzu nevytiahne”. Konečný kompromis bol 1.00 dolár.

Začiatkom marca po nedeľnej omši (v prenajatých priestoroch Poľského kostola) sa Slováci museli popasovať s novou výzvou. Všetky kontrakty a zmluvy o zakúpených pozemkoch bolo treba odovzdať diecéze. Pochopiteľne, zo strany ľudí sa táto požiadavka stretla so silnou nevôľou a viacerí vyjadrovali nespokojnosť a obavy, že im biskup tento pozemok odoberie. Netreba sa čudovať ich zmýšľaniu: Pozemok na kostol nadobudnutý za cenu veľkých osobných obetí chápali ako svoje vlastníctvo a neuvedomovali si, že (vtedy, tak ako aj dnes) diecéza je legálnym vlastníkom pozemkov a majetku všetkých farností. Hoci sa naň poskladajú veriaci a majetok je spravidla v správe danej farnosti, legálnym vlastníkom je vždy diecéza. Obavy Slovákov sa snažili rozptýliť (viac či menej úspešne) i Rev. Janeček (český kňaz) a Rev. Gdzela (poľský kňaz), ktorí poukazovali na fakt, že všetky farnosti a katolícke kostoly sú v rovnakej situácii.

Daná situácia neuspokojila viacerých členov zodpovedných za financie, ktorí sa snád i v dôsledku osobných sporov vzdali funkcie. Väčším problémom však bola všeobecná nespokojnosť, nedôvera a oslabenie zaangažovanosti. Viacerí jednotlivci, ktorí požičali peniaze do spoločného fondu požiadali o ich vrátenie a to isté spravil i 36. Zbor katolíckych sokolov. Našli sa však aj obetaví ľudia, ktorí veľkodušne ponúkli ďalšie peniaze ako náhradu za tie, ktoré museli byť vrátené.

Okrem problémov s financiami mohla byť plánovaná výstavba kostola ohrozená i novým poľským kostolom, ktorý sa údajne mal začať stavať v tej istej lokalite. Z hľadiska daných národnostných skupín existencia viacerých kostolov v prílišnej blízkosti nepredstavovala problém. Pravdou však je, že z pohľadu diecézy by to bolo nie najlepšie strategické rozhodnutie, ktorému sa aj v iných prípadoch radšej vyhýbali.

Popri týchto nie malých problémoch sa Slováci museli dozvedieť ďalšiu zlú správu. Reverend Bendick narýchlo zvolal všetkých členov výboru a oznámil im, že na základe nariadenia biskupa nesmie viac slúžiť Slovákom a musí okamžite odísť k svojmu biskupovi (stále nevieme, odkiaľ vlastne prišiel). Pre Slovákov to bola trpká rana: V Rev. Bendickovi videli obetavého kňaza, ktorý pracoval pre ich novú komunitu a veľmi sa ich dotklo, že by mal odísť práve pred Veľkou nocou. Preto sa rozhodli poslať delegáciu za biskupom so snahou dosiahnuť zmenu daného rozhodnutia, alebo aspoň lepšie pochopiť situáciu. Ako to všetko dopadlo sa dozvieme v budúcom čísle bulletinu.

Spring, 1917 - Bad News

More than one year had passed since the first group of Slovaks decided to build a church where they could hear the Word of God in their mother tongue. Despite many challenges, during this first year they had obtained permission from the bishop to start a community, registered many Slovaks, as well as having collected funds for the purchase of property for the new church. And their biggest dream had come true in the person of Rev. Bendick, a Slovak priest. However, some initial disturbances began to appear as well. Personal conflicts, a lack of trust and suspicion led to the resignation of some members who had been responsible for collecting funds. An example of this situation was provided in notes regarding a debate about the wage paid for playing the organ during the Stations of the Cross. Organist Tomas J. Grigliak was not happy with the proposed 50 cents and he expressed his discontent with the words, “I won’t even step out of my house for this amount of money”. The final compromise was one dollar (**approximately \$22 today**).

In the beginning of March, 1917, after a Sunday Mass (in rented space at the Polish church), the Slovaks faced a new challenge. All contracts regarding the purchased property were to be submitted to the diocese. Obviously, this requirement met little or no approval among the people and many expressed their discontent and concern that the bishop would take away their property. Their thinking is understandable: they considered the property for their Church, obtained through many sacrifices, as their personal property and they failed to understand that – as is true today – the diocese is the legal owner of all Church parish properties. Although many people contribute towards these properties, and they are normally administered by the parish, the diocese remains the legal owner. Even Rev. Janecek, the Czech priest, and Rev. Gdzela, the Polish priest, tried to explain the situation to the Slovaks and pointed out that all other parishes are in the same situation.

Several members responsible for the group’s finances became dissatisfied and resigned their positions. The more serious result was a general lack of confidence and decreased involvement in the project. Several individuals even requested a refund of their contributions toward the building fund.

While they were dealing with these financial problems, the construction of the church was also potentially jeopardized by the supposed construction of a new Polish church in the same neighborhood. From the perspective of these ethnic groups, the existence of several churches in close proximity to one another did not pose a problem. The truth is, however, that the diocese regularly avoided this kind of strategically imprudent decision.

Aside from these problems, the Slovaks received more bad news. Reverend Bendick suddenly summoned all of the group’s representatives and shared with them the decision of the bishop: that he must leave Detroit at once. This was a bitter pill to swallow: The Slovaks regarded Rev. Bendick as a fervent priest who worked for their new community and they were also hurt because the timing of the decision was just before Easter. They decided to send representatives to the bishop, hoping to reverse the decision, or at least to better understand his decision.

To Be Continued...