

The Ascension of the Lord  
June 2, 2019

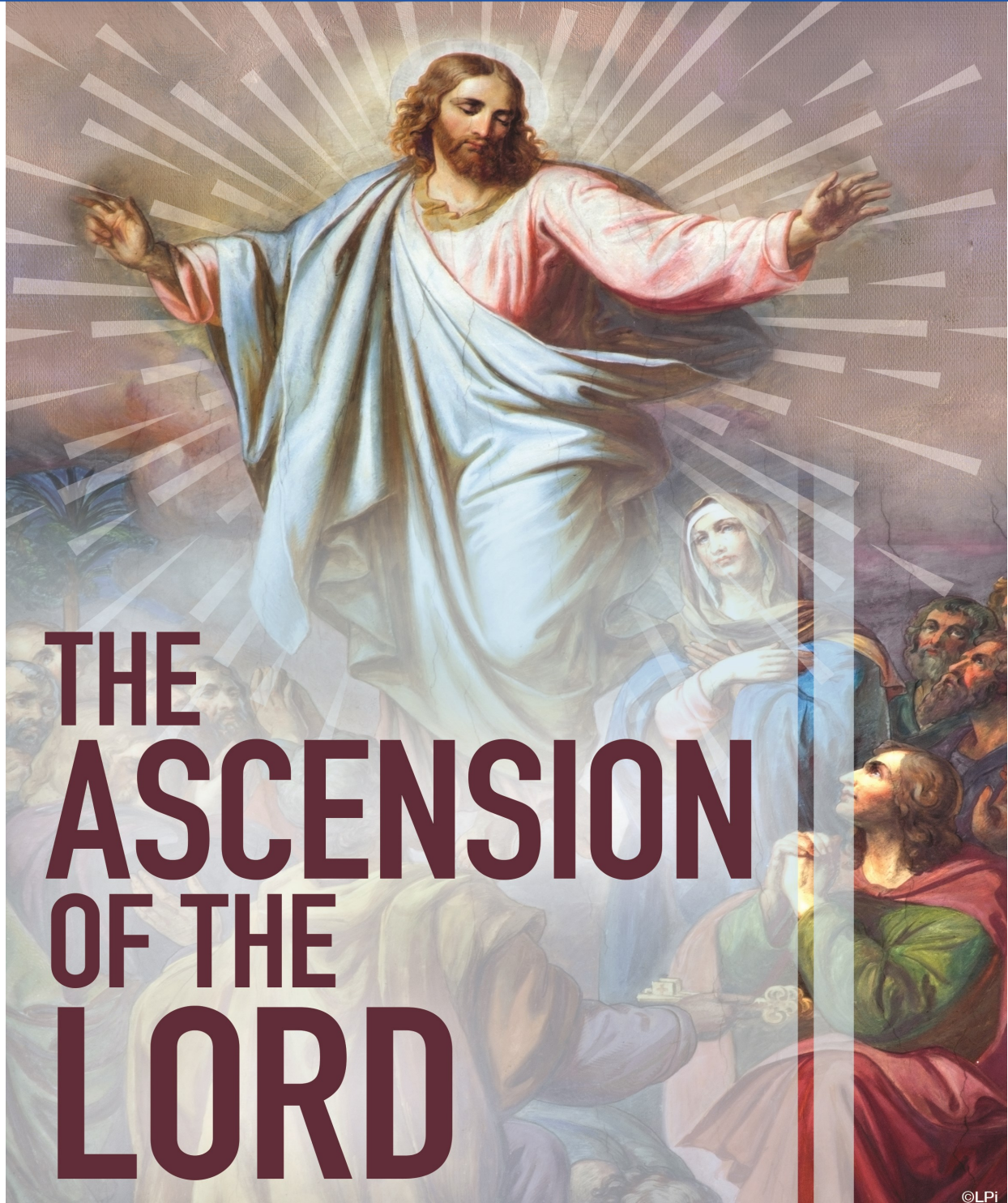


SAINTS CYRIL AND  
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOSŤ SVÄTÝCH  
CYRILA A METODA



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



# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

©LPI

41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314 • (586) 726-6911 • Fax: (586) 685-1070 • [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church)

## June 1, First Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM Bp For the Intentions of the Members of the Rosary Society  
 5:30PM JN In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For Paul & Mary Glantz (Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖For Christyann Bonsecour (B'Day)  
 ❖For Jeffrey Pawlowski  
 ❖†Anne Rzepka ❖†Agatha Mangano (Ann.)

## June 2, Ascension Sunday – Nedela

Acts 1:-11; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-131-2, 22-29;  
 Mk 13:15-20 (58)

- 7:30AM Bp For Kevin Collins ❖For the Gammo & Gill Families  
 ❖For the Menard & Daniel Families ❖†Marie Laird  
 ❖†Josephine Davis ❖†Elvidio Vennettilli  
 9:30AM ML In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For the Simoneau Family ❖For Hana Francis  
 ❖†Phyllis Tresh ❖†Susan Ruth ❖†Gary Gasparski  
 ❖†John & Barbara Plucinski req. Family  
 11:30AM JN (*Slovak*) For Lucia Pivovarnik req. Family  
 ❖For Pavol & Monika Pivovarnik req. Family  
 ❖For Liliana Bujnak re. Family  
 ❖†Za Zomrelého Andreja Prusaka  
 ❖†Jan Patlevic req. Prusak Family  
 ❖†Eva Fleck req. Prusak Family  
 1:30PM Bp For Amy Perugi ❖For Fadia Obushaker  
 ❖David Locke Sr. req. Joan Hartzell  
 ❖†Joe Basirico ❖†Craig Hilliker  
 ❖†Robert Stout Jr. req. Family  
 6:00PM PC (*Latin*) - Tridentine  
 For the Intentions of All Parishioners  
 8:30PM PC For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family  
 ❖For Tim & Victoria Roddey  
 ❖For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis  
 ❖†Marvin Hanna Shaina  
 ❖†Paul & Geri Buss ❖†Zygmunt Linowski

## June 3, Monday – Pondelok

- 6:00AM Bp †Peter Piatek  
 9:00AM Bp For Paul & Julie Varchetti & Family ❖For Amy Nguyen  
 ❖For Gungue & Philip †Schultheis  
 ❖†Christine Schlueter (4th Ann.) req. Sister  
 12:00PM JN,d In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny ❖For Paul & Family  
 ❖For Fadia Obushaker & Family  
 ❖†Norm Pollock req. Family

## June 4, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM JN For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 ❖For Jonathan Wilkins ❖†Mary Manning & Family  
 ❖†Illuminada Figueroa  
 9:00AM JN For Sophia & Family  
 12:00PM ML †Natale Mangano (Ann.)

## June 5, Wednesday – Streda

- 6:00AM PC For Steve & Donna Mazurkiewicz (Wed. Ann.)  
 9:00AM JN (*Latin*) For Frank & Marybeth Banks (Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖For Maria E. Laconi ❖For Mark Varchetti  
 ❖†Clemence & Agnes Mikowski req. Daughter

## June 2, 2019 - The Ascension of the Lord

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

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

- 12:00PM JN In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For Fr. Juraj req. Janet ❖For Fadia Obushaker &  
 Family ❖For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis

## June 6, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM PC †Andrew Lebioda req. Children  
 9:00AM PC For Paul & Julie Varchetti & Family  
 ❖For Amy Nguyen ❖†Tom Fritz ❖†Don Pisarski  
 12:00PM ML For Akhlas Gappy ❖For Paul & Trish Brady (21st Ann.)  
 ❖†Peggy Zwolinski (B'Day) ❖†John Seale  
 7:00PM VP In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis  
 ❖†Anna Sutherland ❖†Joseph Marine

## June 7, First Friday – Piatok

- 6:00AM PC For Fr. John Bustamante (16th Ann)  
 9:00AM JN For Larry & Mary Hines req. Dave & Patrice Tay  
 ❖For Shatha & Frank Hermiz & Family  
 ❖For Jeremy Langlois req. Langlois Family  
 ❖†Cynthia Yanik req. Family  
 12:00PM ML In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For the Rosary Makers & their Families  
 ❖†Nelida Sorilla ❖†Joe Basirico  
 7:00PM JN \*Healing Mass:  
 For Marie Antonina Cusumano req. Marinello Family  
 ❖For the Lydia Bazger Family  
 ❖For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis  
 ❖For the Kanona Family

## June 8, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM VP For the Members of O. L. Mother of Mercy Secular  
 Discalced Carmelites  
 ❖For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 ❖†Rev. Kieran Kavanaugh O.C.D req. Carmelites  
 ❖†David Chupa req. Family  
 \* \* \* \* NO 5:30PM VIGIL HOLY MASS \* \* \* \*  
 7:00PM JN \*Vespers & Pentecost Vigil Holy Mass  
 In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For Jon & Lindsay ❖For Rob & Alicia Lavisky  
 ❖†Esther & Arcadio Bustillo ❖†Charles & Theresa  
 MacDonald ❖†Louis Zaidan req. Bazger Family

## June 9, Pentecost Sunday – Nedela

- Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17;  
 Jn 14:15-16,23b-26 or Jn 20:19-23 (63)  
 7:30AM LM For Glen & Amy Varchetti & Fam  
 ❖For Jonathan Wilkins❖†Kevin Schanze  
 ❖†Joan Laabs ❖†Josephine Davis  
 ❖†Joe Marine req. Acervo Family ❖†Anne Rzepka  
 9:30AM JN \*High Graduation Holy Mass  
 For all High School Graduates  
 11:30AM VP (*Slovak*) For the Intentions of all Parishioners  
 1:30PM ML \*Baptism: Malachy James Thompson  
 In Thanksgiving req. Cindy Zitny  
 ❖For President Trump & Our Country  
 ❖For Sam & Amy Shamoon  
 ❖For Brandon & Samantha Monsour & Family  
 ❖†Gene Kucharek req. Wife ❖†Elvidio Vennettilli  
 6:00PM PC (*Latin*) - Tridentine  
 †Joe Basirico  
 8:30PM PC For Sarmad, Azuz, Rital, & Janan ❖For Kola Gojcaj  
 ❖For Gungue & †Philip Schultheis  
 ❖†Fr. James V. Schall S.J.  
 ❖†Paul & Geri Buss  
 ❖†Zygmunt Linowski

### Mass Celebrant Legend:

Bishop Ludovick Minde – Bp, Fr. Libor Marek – LM  
 Fr. Juraj Nuota – JN, Fr. Paul Czarnota – PC  
 Fr. Michael Lenz, OFM-ML, Visiting Priest-VP, Deacon Preaching-d

## Come Holy Spirit

### **Pentecost Vigil Holy Mass Begins with Evening Prayer (Vespers) Saturday, June 8, 7:00PM**

Similar to the Easter Vigil, the Vigil of Pentecost can be celebrated in a way that preserves its rich traditions.

Fifty days after the high feast of Easter, the Church comes together to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is one of the

principal feasts of the year and marks the end of the Easter season. Historically the feast of Pentecost was given a greater emphasis and its vigil the day before was connected to the Easter Vigil in many ways.

In recognition of the ancient tradition, the current Roman Missal has revived this extended vigil.

**Evening Prayer**—Prior to the start of Mass, it is an option to begin the celebration with the recitation of Evening Prayer (Vespers). This includes three Psalms and ends right before the Liturgy of the Word during Mass.

**Liturgy of the Word**—Similar to the Easter Vigil, there are four readings from the Old Testament that are read. The priest will pray before these readings, which summarizes the overall “spirit” of the Pentecost Vigil.

The readings reflect various prefigurements of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost starting in Genesis, and ending in the book of Joel. Each reading has its own proper prayer, which brings out the truths revealed in the ancient texts.

After the fourth reading and its Psalm is completed, the Gloria is sung with great jubilation. Then a reading from Romans is recited, which recalls how the Holy Spirit helps us in our need.

The Gospel is then proclaimed and Mass continues as usual.

After the Gospel, the homily is recited and the Vigil continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Magnificat from the Vespers will continue after distribution of Holy Communion.

Mass is concluded with the solemn dismissal, “Go forth, the Mass is ended, Alleluia, Alleluia.” Pentecost marks the last use of the Easter season double Alleluia.

After Pentecost, the Easter season officially concludes.

By Philip Kosloski, Aleteia

**The Pentecost Vigil will take place on Saturday, June 8, at 7:00PM.  
There will not be a 5:30PM Holy Mass on Saturday, June 8.**



### **30th ANNIVERSARY of the Dedication of the Church • Tuesday, June 11, 7:00PM**

In 1988, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish moved from Detroit to Sterling Heights. Our present Church building was dedicated the following year on June 11, 1989. Now, 30 years later, we continue to praise and honor the Lord in our expanded House of worship and are forever grateful for the blessings He has bestowed upon us over these past three decades.

Come celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church beginning with Holy Mass at 7:00PM on Tuesday, June 11, followed by a Social in the Fr. Mikuš Parish Hall.



### Fellowship w/Bp. Minde • June 2

Meet and greet Bishop Ludovick Minde, Bishop of Holy Family Parish, our Sister Parish, in Kagonga, Tanzania.

Join Bishop Minde for Fellowship in the Fr. Mikus Hall this Sunday, June 2, after the 9:30AM Holy Mass.

Bishop Minde will return to Tanzania on Monday, June 3. Please keep Bishop Minde, and all of our brothers and sister in Africa, in your prayers.



### Life Teen High School Youth Group

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

Life Nights are now concluded for the 2018-2019 year, but registration for the fall 2019-2020 year is OPEN. Parents can register teens through the link [tinyurl.com/cyrilparent](http://tinyurl.com/cyrilparent) or request a paper registration via email.

Life Teen Summer events open to incoming freshmen and outgoing seniors include:

Saturday, June 15th:

Service Opportunity - Join Cor to help serve those in our community by helping box and deliver food through Focus Hope.

Monday, July 8th, 15th, or 22nd:

Potential Rosary and Game Nights in the hall

Saturday, July 13th:

TRUE - Girls' Day Retreat - Join the Cor ladies and fellow teens for a retreat about being a woman of God.

Saturday, July 27th:

Guys' Day - Join Cor guys and fellow teens for a day of kayaking and canoeing.

For registration forms for these events (only hard paper copies available) request them via email.

Questions: Alexandria Lewis, Youth Minister  
[lifeteencyril912@gmail.com](mailto:lifeteencyril912@gmail.com) or (586) 641-7672



### EDGE Middle School Ministry

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

Edge is now concluded for the 2018-2019 school year but Registration for the 2019-2020 year is now open. Register at [tinyurl.com/cyrilparent](http://tinyurl.com/cyrilparent). Encourage your incoming 6th grade friends to sign up for next year! Edge is a great way to evangelize! Stay tuned for summer park night events!

Questions: Alexandria Lewis, Youth Minister  
[edgecyril678@gmail.com](mailto:edgecyril678@gmail.com) or (586) 641-7672

### Catholic Services Appeal - 2019



Our 2019 CSA goal is set at \$192,212 and cannot be met without your generous support no matter how large or small. If you are looking for the best way to support the parish and keep as much of your donation in the parish as possible, giving to CSA is the answer. Every dollar you contribute to the CSA campaign goes 100% to meeting our goal. If we do not meet our goal, money that has already been assessed the 7% tax from the AOD must be used to make up the difference.

Last year we finished our CSA campaign with a shortfall of \$29,446 which meant we had to pay that amount out of our weekly collections (as well as pay the additional 7% assessment on those monies). In addition, any amount collected that exceeds our CSA goal is returned to the parish without being subject to the 7% tax. Contributing to the CSA and helping us meet or even exceed our goal is like getting a guaranteed 7% bonus on each dollar you donate. Lastly, any amount returned to the parish in excess of our goal is not included in the calculation for next years CSA target, unlike your weekly contributions.

Please pick up your pledge card by the bulletin board and prayerfully consider how you can help us meet our goal. You can return your pledge card and/or CSA envelope in the collection basket on weekends or by taking it to the parish office during the week. To give online you can visit our website [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church), follow the "GIVE" link and select "Catholic Services Appeal 2019" as the fund.

Questions, please contact:

Rob Avery, [business@saintcyrils.org](mailto:business@saintcyrils.org) or (586) 726-6911

\*If you are unable to give to CSA this year please still collect your card from the box. This will help save the church the cost of mailing your card to you.

### 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](http://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](mailto:business@saintcyrils.org) requesting they be canceled.

### What If I Already Give Using The Old System

We discontinued the ACH giving system. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Avery, [business@saintcyrils.org](mailto:business@saintcyrils.org) or (586-726-6911

### VBS Summer 2019 Meeting: Wednesday, June 5

The dates for VBS are June 24—28. This year's theme is "Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive." Registration has begun.

Planning remaining meetings will be on June 5, 12 and 19. All meetings will begin at 7:00PM and run until 9:00PM. To register: <https://form.jotform.com/sscyrilVBS/vbs-registration>

Questions: *Moe Jones*, (586) 219-6678 or [moeprays@gmail.com](mailto:moeprays@gmail.com)

### Our Lady's Rosary Makers • Friday, June 7

The Rosary Makers will meet this Friday, June 7, from 1:00-3:00PM in Room #113. We welcome newcomers and meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

For more information, please call:

*Jo Ann*, (586) 979-1078 or *Helen*, (586) 469-3181

### Graduating Seniors of 2019 Holy Mass • June 9

You are invited to participate in the Holy Mass being celebrated for all graduating seniors from public school, private school, and home school! Please join us on Sunday, June 9, at the 9:30AM Holy Mass. Please meet in the vestibule at 9:00AM to begin lining up for the entrance procession. Please wear your high school cap and gown and all cords/medals of honor from your respective schools. Seating will be reserved for all graduates.

Questions: *Heidi Wiegand*, [wiegand.gang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wiegand.gang@sbcglobal.net)

### Monthly Bilingual Rosary • June 14

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018! In honor, appreciation and service to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother, we welcome all parishioners and guests to pray one Rosary in two languages--Slovak and English. Prayer intentions for these Rosaries will focus on our parish and respective countries. We also ask that you send us special prayer requests which will be lifted up during each Rosary. Prayer requests may be sent either by emailing [100rosary@gmail.com](mailto:100rosary@gmail.com) or calling or texting (586) 413-4050.

We will pray this centennial Rosary in the Church at 7:00PM on the following days: June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13.

As an additional treat, we will have a social after each Monthly Bilingual Rosary in the Slovak Heritage room. Bring a snack to share if you wish.

Organized by:

*Maria Lamerova and Cindy & Dennis Zitny*



### Father's Day Novena • June 17

Father's Day is Sunday, June 16, and our Father's Day Novena will begin on Monday, June 17. Novena Mass cards are available after all Holy Masses on weekends and in the Parish Office on weekdays (from 10AM-5PM).

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

### Candy Bars for Father's Day • June 16

Father's Day is nearly here! 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! Where would we be without their love, support, strength, and example? We all have our little ways of thanking them each year for all they do for us, but why not compliment that gift by giving them their favorite flavor candy bar? Right to Life-LIFESPAN is hosting their annual Father's Day Candy Bar Project after the weekend Holy Masses on June 15 and 16. 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! Volunteer opportunities for this fundraiser are available, too! Just call the LIFESPAN office for details or email them: (248) 816-1546 or [oakmac@rt-lifespan.org](mailto:oakmac@rt-lifespan.org) 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

### Corpus Christi Holy Mass • June 23

Archbishop Jan Orosz, from the Archdiocese of Trnava, Slovakia, will celebrate our Corpus Christi Holy Mass that begins at 10:00AM on Sunday, June 23. The 9:30AM & 11:30AM Holy Masses will be combined on that day. The Mass will be followed by a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. Flower petals are needed for the Procession and finger-food desserts on disposable platters) are needed for the Reception that takes place in the Parish Hall after the Holy Mass, Procession and Benediction.

### Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast Day • 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.

### 29th Annual Slovak Festival Planning

Attention Parishioners: It is that time of year when planning begins for the parish's 29th Annual Slovak Festival. The festival takes place on the church grounds August 23, 24, and 25. Mark your calendars!

The Slovak Festival Program Booklet Committee is now accepting ads in PDF format for the festival four-color booklet. Ads may be full-page, half-page, or quarter-page. Prices vary depending if one wishes to purchase a 4 foot x 6 foot banner with the booklet ad.

The Committee invites those parishioners with businesses to support an ad in the program booklet. Let's have some fun also by having families or individuals purchase ads and/or banners! Time to get creative — maybe an ad or banner from ministries within the parish? The Committee will help you consider all ideas or possibilities.

The Committee will also accept donations toward the costs to produce the program booklet. Just be sure to let the Committee know how you wish your name to be acknowledged in the booklet.

DEADLINE FOR PDFs is July 30!

If you have questions or want to place an ad:

*Tom Starynychak*, Committee Chair, (586) 489-8661,

[tstarynychak@gmail.com](mailto:tstarynychak@gmail.com) or

**Welcome Spring!  
Help Keep Our Church Beautiful**



Hello ALL! Are you, or your Church Ministry Group, interested in "adopting" one of our beautiful outdoor gardens at Ss. Cyril & Methodius? If so, this would include the initial clean-up, adding plants/watering/weeding when needed and clean-up of your garden in the Fall. Some of our gardens have been adopted but we need more help. You can adopt a small garden by yourself or you can recruit your group to help. Perhaps different members or families can take turns maintaining the flowers and weeding throughout the summer months. If you are a smaller Ministry or would like to pitch in with just weeding or watering of some of the gardens, we need you too! Whatever works out for you or your particular group is helpful. Help keep Ss. Cyril & Methodius beautiful on the inside and outside!

Please prayerfully consider this wonderful way to give back to the church!  
Please call the Parish Office, (586) 726-6911, if you are interested. *Thank you and God bless you!*

**ADORATION 101 • With a Heavy Heart**



To begin with, I would like to offer my most sincere apologies for not writing my columns as often as I used to. I am aware that many of you look forward to them and I want to give you an explanation as to why this is. It truly warms my heart knowing that what I write makes a difference in your lives, and I do not intend to stop. However, we know as an article of our faith that being a follower of Christ means denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily (Luke 9:23). That has been precisely what I have been enduring.



I would like to open up with all of you about my situation in hopes that perhaps it can shed some light on certain crosses which you might be bearing. You see, last August my father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It was something we saw coming once dementia began to show itself, but we never expected what was to come next. After the initial diagnosis, he tried to take his own life. The memory of that event will haunt me until only God knows when. Since that time my family and I have been trying to do all that we can to maintain his comfortability, and take care of him; on top of working our jobs and taking care of everyday responsibilities. Needless to say, it has been time consuming and difficult on us.

Nursing homes and care givers are not an option for us due to financial reasons, so I have taken it upon myself to help my mom take care of him at home. It is a full-time job in and of itself, and I simply haven't had the time, the mental capacity or the energy to keep up with my articles. I pray that you can understand.

However, through this cross our Lord has been teaching me many things: the virtues of patience, prudence, long-suffering, charity, faith and many others. I know it is His Divine Providence which allowed this to occur just like He may be allowing certain heavy events and crosses to happen in your life as well. Just know that we're not alone. I cannot thank Christ enough for the friends who have giving me so much support, encouragement and most especially their prayers. Without them I would be truly lost.

I plan on writing every other week. I pray for your patience as this, too, may not even be possible in certain weeks. Writing is my passion and I truly desire to do it, however taking care of myself and my family always comes first. I consider all of you as my family as well; everyone at St. Cyril's IS my family, and I want all of you to know I will be there for you as well! Please pray for my family and I, and please know that all of you are in my prayers as well. – Paul A. Ray

**REGULAR ADORATION HOURS: Sunday, 10:00PM - Saturday, 9:00AM**

**~ WE ARE IN NEED OF ADORERS, ESPECIALLY:**

**Thursdays: Midnight-1AM** (we do not have a committed Adorer at this time) **& 4-5AM**

**Mondays: 1-2AM, 2-3AM & 3-4AM ~ Tuesdays: 1-2AM ~ Wednesdays: 1-2AM & 2-3AM ~ Saturdays: 1-2AM**

If you can commit to one hour or have questions, please contact:

*Jenn Dopke: jdopke13@gmail.com or (586) 530-3674*



## Welcome to Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church

If you would like general information on:

- ◆ Sacraments (Baptisms & Weddings)
  - ◆ Catechism
  - ◆ Joining the Parish

Contact the Parish Office: 586-726-6911

### Working Towards the Church, Community, and a Slovak Priest

An important step before beginning the construction of the church was to pay off the balance on the property and gain legal ownership. Since the Slovaks had no one in their group who was well versed in legal issues, they accepted the help of Mr. Pokorny, the lawyer from the Czech church. Assured of the legal correctness of the contracts and transactions, the parish council made a payment of **\*\$900 (\$21,100)** for lots 67 – 72, with the remaining **\*\$2,100 (\$49,234)** to be paid off within 4 months at 6% interest along with \$900 for lots 64 – 66, with the rest to be paid off within 1 year at 6% interest. Thus, the property was registered to “Slovak congregation of the church named Ss. Cyril & Method” as the legal owner. Although the sum seems relatively small from today’s perspective, in order to make the **\*\$1,800 (42,201)** payment the Slovaks had to take a private loan of **\*\$770 (\$18,052)** at 5% interest from Stefan Cenkner, who was a member of the group. Once the property had been purchased, all members of the community had to be updated at the public assembly on August 20, 1916. The task of reading the legal documents in English and then translating them to Slovak was assumed by Josef Majercak.

The healthy functioning of a parish requires not only financial means, but social contacts and solidarity as well. Therefore, the Slovaks organized their first party on September 10, 1916, in Arbeiter Hall on the corner of Russell and Catherine streets. This event was successful, not only in bringing many people together, but by raising **\*\$451.55 (\$10,586)**. These funds were used to make the final payment for the property, along with loans from Jednota, Branch 615 (**\*\$300 (\$7,033)** with 3% interest) and Catholic Sokol, Branch 36 (**\*\$200 (\$4,689)** without interest and a **\*\$100 (\$2,344)** gift). Lastly, Frantisek Bugan volunteered to procure all that was left outstanding.

Besides overseeing finances, property, and community, the people still desired and sought a Slovak priest. This dream came true on November 7, 1916, in the person of Rev. G.A. Bendick. The circumstances of his arrival to Detroit, as well as his origin remain something of a mystery. Presumably, he learned about the Slovaks in Detroit who were looking for a Slovak priest from the Slovak Jednota newspaper. Their personal encounter swiftly led to a deal and the Slovaks accepted his conditions:

1. Monthly salary: **\*\$60 (\$1,407)**
2. Christmas and Easter collections belong to the priest
3. Weddings including Mass: **\*\$15 (\$352)**
4. Weddings without Mass: **\*\$10 (\$234)**
5. Funerals where the priest goes to the home, followed by Mass, and cemetery services: **\*\$25 (\$586)**
6. The organist receives **\*\$6 (\$141)** for high Mass

Although the contract between the Slovaks and Rev. Bendick might have been a win-win, it is remarkable that they neglected the local bishop, who normally assigns priests to parishes. They transgressed Canon Law, but especially jeopardized the unity of the church, which is to be united with the bishop. It is hard to blame these people who had no familiarity with canonical and theological issues. They presumably acted in good faith and with the best of intentions, and perhaps even planned on legitimizing this preliminary decision after the fact. The truth, too, is that the parish had not even been officially established yet. Thus, the first Slovak holy Mass took place on November 26, 1916, at 10:30AM in the basement of St. Stanislav (Polish) Church. This facility was rented for \$15 per Mass.

Rev. Bendick himself lived in a rented house at 1612 Helen Avenue and the parishioners purchased all the house equipment (kitchenware, furniture, bedsheets, beds...), for **\*\$406 (\$9,519)**, paying **\*\$20 (\$469)** per month.

Their sacrifice in spending so much money for an unknown person proves their desire to have a Slovak priest. They were excited about hearing the Word of God in their mother tongue and offering their children religious education. No matter what the price was, it was worthy to bring this sacrifice.

**\*VALUE IN 1916 / (VALUE IN 2019)** (Reference: US Inflation Calculator)