

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 30, 2020



SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST' SVÄTÝCH
CYRILA A METODA



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



22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

MASS Intentions

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August 29, Saturday – Sobota

9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**
For Rachel Funk req. Langlois Family
❖ †Henry & Irene Toenjes ❖ †Steven Timko

5:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
For Annette Rudzewicz
❖ For Pat Boniecki
❖ For Elianna Antonelli (3rd B'Day)
❖ For Molly Zwolinska (B'Day) ❖ For Mariam Aziz
❖ For the Gammo & Gill Families

August 30, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27 (124)

7:30AM **Mass Inside Church**
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gojcaj
❖ For President Trump ❖ For Kevin Aziz
❖ For Eric & Diane Kessler (40th Wed. Ann.) req. Mom
❖ †Richard Walczyk ❖ †Colleen Rolling
❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny

9:30AM **Outdoor Mass**
For the Festival Committee Members
❖ For Gary & Annette Rudzewicz (40th Wed. Ann.)
❖ For Catherine Hines (B'Day) ❖ For Andrew Melnyk
❖ For Brian & Lisa Koziol & Family
❖ For William & Theresa Melnyk
❖ For the Vitale & Monsu Families
❖ †Ralph J. Weil req. James D. Weil
❖ †Louis & Anna Zelenak & Family

11:30AM *(Slovak)* **Mass Inside Church**
For the Intentions of All Parishioners

6:00PM *(Tridentine)* **Mass Inside Church**
For Andy Kasneci

8:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
For Fictoria Hannakeachel & Family
❖ For Robert Punsalan req. Mother
❖ For Michaela req. Markaj Family
❖ For Anthony & Emmanuel Korkis
❖ For Sam & Linda Herfy & Family
❖ For Lenore Sako ❖ For the Meyou Sisters

August 31, Monday – Pondelok

12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Crosby Fayad (6th B'Day) ❖ For Brother Loc Vu
❖ For Julius Aziz ❖ For Diane Meyer
❖ †Gladys Langlois req. Langlois Family
❖ †Anthony & Lorraine Battaglia & Fam. req. children

September 1, Tuesday – Utorok

6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Mariam Aziz ❖ For Marna

12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ †Marion & Amelia Jankowski req. Son
❖ †Al & Douglas Connors

September 2, Wednesday – Streda

12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Joann Tocco ❖ For Ibrahim Aziz
❖ †Marilyn Paielli req. Vicki
❖ †Mary Klebans req. Family
❖ †Joe Basirico
❖ For the Deceased Members of the Denzin Family

September 3, Thursday – Štvrtok

6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**
For Kevin Aziz ❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj
❖ For the Vu Family ❖ For Ibtisam Gil
❖ †Lou, Michael & John Roy

12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Ibtisam, Patrick & Samantha
❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family
❖ For Vicki Babbie ❖ †Mary Klebans req. Family

September 4, First Friday – Piatok

6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**
For Taylor Drozdowski (B'Day) ❖ For Eddie Shango
❖ For Shatha Amseeh ❖ †Francoise Pepin
❖ †Cynthia Yanik req. Family
❖ †Fr. Vincent Capodanno req. Warman Family

12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
❖ For the Rosary Makers & their Families
❖ For Ibtisam Gill (B'Day) ❖ †Joe Basirico
❖ †John E Bazger req. Family ❖ †David Chupa

September 5, First Saturday – Sobota

9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**
For the Members of the Rosary Society
❖ For Ibrahim Aziz ❖ †Cristina Cambare

5:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family
❖ For Kevin Aziz ❖ For Nedhal Aziz
❖ For Joseph Morraye req. Sister, Mary
❖ †Gary Gasparski req. Family ❖ †Joe Basirico
❖ †Marie, Douglas, & Molly Obriecht

September 6, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Ex 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20 (127)

7:30AM **Mass Inside Church**
For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day) ❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj
❖ †Mary Surman & Family ❖ †Michelle Levell
❖ †Richard Walczyk ❖ †Eileen Rolling
❖ †Mazen Shango ❖ †Mark Shango ❖ †Gene Kucharek

9:30AM **Outdoor Mass**
For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day) ❖ For Andrew Melnyk
❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj ❖ For James Wilkins (B'Day)
❖ For Brian & Lisa Koziol & Family
❖ For William & Theresa Melnyk ❖ †Anna Sutherland
❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny
❖ For the Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus St. Nicholas Council & their Families

11:30AM *(Slovak)* **Mass Inside Church**
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gjočaj
❖ For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day)
❖ For Lamia, Vera, and Bearg Deza
❖ †Julia Mary Gulas ❖ †Albert Balaz

6:00PM *(Tridentine)* **Mass Inside Church**
For the Intentions of All Parishioners

8:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
In Thanksgiving req. Marie Kerry
❖ For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day)
❖ For Patrick, Stephanie & Emmanuel Korkis
❖ For Ho's Family req. Kim Nguyen ❖ †Eleanor Bobola
❖ †Claire Kuza ❖ †Sana Shamas ❖ †Anansa Bakko
❖ †Luce Grishi & Family

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 30, 2020

Welcome

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

Fr. Libor Marek, Pastor • lmarek@saintcyrils.church

Fr. Juraj Nuota, Associate Pastor • jnuota@saintcyrils.church

Deacon Phil McCown • wadephill@yahoo.com

Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell@gmail.com

Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrils.church

WEEKEND HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY HOLY MASS: 5:30PM (Vigil) – OUTDOOR

SUNDAY HOLY MASSES: 7:30AM, 11:30 (Slovak) & 6:00 (*Latin Tridentine*) - INDOOR

9:30AM & 8:30PM - OUTDOOR

WEEKDAY HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 12:00PM – INDOOR

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 6:00AM - OUTDOOR

SATURDAY: 9:00AM - INDOOR

† For Indoor Holy Masses: Please continue to wear face masks and, if possible, bring hand sanitizer.

† For Outdoor Holy Masses: Please bring a folding chair and dress appropriately in case of inclement weather.

† Always check the website before you come to Mass for any last-minutes changes or cancellations.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE: (Registration Required)

Registration Forms for Confession are Available on the Parish Website: www.saintcyrils.church

Confessions are outdoors by the Slovak cross and behind the church building. Please wear a face mask.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

EVERY THURSDAY: 1:00PM - 7:00PM (in the Church)

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY: 11:00AM - 12:00PM & 1:00PM - 2:00PM

THURSDAY: 11:00AM - 12:00PM & 1:00PM - 5:00PM

CHAPEL HOURS:

DAILY: 1:00PM - 10:00PM

Holy Mass & Benediction of the Anniversary Cross • Sunday, September 13 † 10:00AM



2018 marked 100 years of the existence of our Parish. Expressing gratitude to God and remembering our Slovak heritage, a traditional wooden carved commemoration cross was designed and built on the parish grounds. We desire that it will remain a constant testimony to our roots and a place for drawing spiritual strength for all people.

A Solemn Benediction of the Commemoration Cross will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2020. The event will begin at 10:00AM with an outdoor Holy Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Robert J. Fisher, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, followed by the Solemn Benediction of the Commemoration Cross. (The 9:30AM & 11:30AM (Slovak) Holy Masses will be combined on this day.) Please bring a folding chair.

There will be a small outdoor Social after the 10:00AM Holy Mass.

Please bring individually-wrapped cookies or brownies before 9:00AM on Sunday, September 13.



30TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported our Festival Raffle this year, both in their monetary efforts and their prayers for our parish. We know that many are enduring hardships during this unprecedented time. We pray that we will all be able to see each other next year at our 31st Annual Festival!

Thank you for your support of our Parish! *Karen Bove*, 2020 Festival Raffle Chairperson

Below are the winners of the final Raffle drawing held on Sunday, August 23, 2020:

1st Place - \$5,000: Ticket No. 019282 - **Louis Kovacs**

2nd Place - \$1,000: Ticket No. 025057 - **Christina Mayer**

3rd Place - \$500: Ticket No. 009601 - **Mary Douglas**

4th Place - \$300: Ticket No. 019296 - **Louis Kovacs**

5th Place - \$100: Ticket No. 030866 - **Abbie Persichetti**

Daily Public Rosary for our Country

Together We Pray, United We Stand

There are only 64 days until the Presidential Election. Our country needs prayers so please come as often as you can to support each other in this peaceful prayer event for our country. The daily public Rosary for our Country is prayed daily, outdoors, and will continue until the Presidential election on Tuesday, November 3.

Prayers take place on:

- ◆ Weekdays at 5:30PM and
- ◆ Weekends at 8:30AM

Bring a chair and do not park in front of the Slovak Cross in order to keep the area around the cross open for those participating. Please practice social distancing.

*"I pray that they may be [one] in Us,
that the world may believe that You sent Me."* –John 17:21

Get Ready to VOTE!!

YOU can change our country's future!

Registration Drive • This Weekend

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

These profound words were said by Edmund Burke, who also stated, *"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little."* It is our patriotic duty and privilege to vote. If you are 18 years or older, you must be registered in order to vote.

Registrations will be available after all Holy Masses this weekend and also at a future date to be announced.

You may also register on-line at [SOSMichiganVote](https://SOSMichiganVote.com)

Knights of Columbus • Empty Baby Bottles

Please return any empty baby bottles that were passed out by the Knights of Columbus earlier this year. You may return your empty bottles to the box located in the vestibule on weekdays (11:00AM - 2:00PM) and on weekends (when the church is open). Thank you!

Ken Pullis, Right to Life Chair for Council 7011

Questions, please call: (586) 939-8525



Northland Family Planning Prayer News • September 5

In September the Church celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May we always give thanks to God for Mary, the most precious of mothers, and may she protect and guide us always!

Please join us for Pro-Life prayer outside the Northland Family Planning Clinic on Saturday, September 5, from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. The clinic is located at 3810 17 Mile (just west of Ryan Road). Please bring your rosary, mask, water, hat or umbrella. We will observe social distancing guidelines or you may pray nearby from your car.

Also, the 40 Days for Life campaign begins on Wednesday, September 23. More details to follow.

Questions, please contact: *Anne Marie*, (586) 873-2004

Life Teen & EDGE Youth Ministries • September 21

Life Teen and EDGE Nights will hopefully begin on September 21st, in person, outside: (in the grassy area behind the main church building.) Stay tuned for more information through our email updates. If you currently don't receive them, please email: lifeteen@saintcyrils.church or edge@saintcyrils.church to ask to be put on the mailing list.

Parents, please register new AND returning teens at tinyurl.com/edgelifeteen. Teens should be registered every year. Thanks!

We are looking for Life Teen Cor volunteers and parent "hall" monitors to mentor teens and help with the outdoor or virtual Life and Edge Nights this fall. We are in need of at least four more volunteers to make these Nights happen.

If you have questions about volunteering, please contact:

Alexandria Lewis: (586)641-7672 lifeteen@saintcyrils.church

Red Cross Blood Drive • September 22 • 1:00 - 6:45PM

As you know, donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. If you donated whole blood at our Blood Drive in July, you are eligible to donate at our upcoming Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 22. All blood, platelet and plasma donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies.

Questions: 1-800-RED-CROSS

To donate:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

For more information, visit:

<http://www.redcross.org> or



Drop-off Food Drive & Flag Retirement Drive

Saturday, September 19 • 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Help stock the shelves at St. Christine's Food Bank

More and more families are not able to make ends meet and are coming to St. Christine's Community Services food bank for groceries. The food bank currently helps 195 families each week; a 35% increase since last fall. The need for food to feed these families is great. To help

stock the food bank, St. Cyril's will be sponsoring a non-perishable food drive at the Activity Center on Saturday, September 19, from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. The foods that are most needed are canned meats or tuna, cereal, salad dressings, and taco or pizza making kits but donations of any canned or packaged foods (no glass jars, please!) will be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donation in a sturdy cardboard box or a bag ready to be transported.

Because of current restrictions, this will be a drop-off food collection. What does that mean? It will be a lot like the drop off for Catechism. You will enter the Activity Center parking lot from 18 Mile Road and drive to the back of the building.

Please have your donations in your trunk (preferably) or back seat. Volunteers will direct you to place your donation in the back of the delivery truck or will do this for you while practicing social distancing. You will then continue around the Activity Center and exit to 18 Mile Road. To make the drop-off run smoothly and quickly,

If you are attending the 9:00AM Holy Mass, please park in the church's main lot.



If you are a parishioner and in need of food, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr. Libor or Fr. Juraj after Mass.

Knights of Columbus FLAG RETIREMENT Drive

Also on Saturday, September 19, from 9:30AM to 11:30AM, the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Blessed Virgin Mary Assembly 1839 will collect unserviceable U.S. Flags. Please enter the Activity Center parking lot from 18 Mile Road and drive to the back of the building and a member of the Knights of Columbus will respectfully collect your old, unserviceable U.S. flags.

These flags will be delivered to the proper location to be retired in a dignified and solemn ceremony.

Mosaic Renderings on Display through September

Last October, Fr. Kamil Drab, CSSR, master mosaic artist known as the "Michelangelo of Slovakia", visited our church to share his deep knowledge of, and devotion to, the Mosaic artform and to determine how Mosaic artwork could enhance our worship space. Father Drab returned to Slovakia eager to create renderings for our consideration to include this form of sacred artwork in our church.

Recently, we received Fr. Drab's proposals and they will be on display in the Fr. Mikus (North) Hall through September. As Father Drab discussed when he visited us, there is much symbolism in the design of our church, as there is in all churches. He expressed that the original architect of Ss. Cyril & Methodius designed three hexagon-shaped skylights: one in the vestibule, one above the baptismal font and one above the altar. It was designed like this to represent the way of Christian initiation: one begins in the vestibule outside the sanctuary, then travels to the baptismal font where one becomes a member of the Catholic Church and then to the altar where one receives Christ in the Eucharist. There are ledges that form a line connecting the skylights. Father Drab is recommending that these "lines" be adorned by touches of gold artwork.

The Mosaic artwork would begin in the entryway of the church, above the baptismal font. Representations of the Old Testament would adorn the upper left walls that lead to the sanctuary, while the New Testament would adorn the upper right walls that lead to the sanctuary. The two triangular walls that are positioned on the outside of the crucifix would feature our patrons, Ss. Cyril & Methodius, as well as the two original Ss. Cyril & Methodius churches.

The Old Testament representations on the left-hand side of the church would begin with the Story of Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph (coat of many colors), Moses and the Red Sea/Ten Commandments). The New Testament representations on the right-hand side of the church would begin with the Annunciation, followed by the: Birth of Jesus, Baptism in the Jordan, Wedding Feast at Cana, Parable of the Sower, Prodigal Son, Healing the Blind Man, Our Lady of Sorrows, Last Supper, Resurrection and Pentecost.

Our beautiful Crucifix would remain as-is, with the back marble wall enhanced with gold-leaf detailing to tie all the beautiful Mosaic artwork together.

See Father Drab's Mosaic sketches/renderings in the Father Mikus Hall through September:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday from 11:00AM - 2:00PM or Thursdays from 11:00AM - 7:00PM

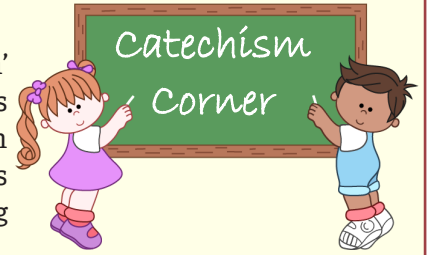
Weekends: After All Holy Masses

***PLEASE wear a face mask and keep 6' social distancing**

This project is on hold at this time. Before making any decisions, your input is encouraged. Email: lmarek@saintcyriels.church. Fr. Libor will evaluate where we stand with finances in a few months in order to make the most prudent decision.

Catechism Classes Begin • September 16

After prayer, research and much discussion, we have decided to do an 'in person' Catechism Program this school year. The number of students enrolled in the Religious Education Program is about 65 percent of what it has been in years past and although it is a little disappointing, it is understandable and we want to look at the positive as we appreciate that this will allow us to implement enhanced safety and cleaning procedures outlined by the Archdiocese and issued by the State of Michigan.



Classes begin Wednesday, September 16, at 6:15PM. Guidelines and a calendar were mailed to all families of registered students. Please let us know if you did not receive your envelope. Homeschool Students receiving a Sacrament this school year should receive a packet with testing information by the end of September.

If you have not registered your child because of your concerns regarding in-person Catechism classes, please call us and perhaps we can answer those concerns and possibly ease your mind with an alternate plan to in-person class.

We are truly grateful, that in these unusual times, our fervent volunteers, have once again given of their time and talent to assist the parents of our parish in teaching their children to encounter, grow, and witness the faith. Please keep them and all our families in your prayers.

Thank you, *Paul & Carroll Schuller*, cschuller@saintcyrils.church, (586) 726-6911 parish, or (586) 254-9212.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

Adult Catholic Catechism Classes Begin September

Do you know anyone who ...

- ◆ Is interested in becoming Catholic?
- ◆ Was never baptized or received First Holy Communion or Confirmation?
- ◆ Is interested in learning what the Catholic Church teaches?

This Fall, join a group of passionate Catholics as they teach and explore the treasures and riches of the Roman Catholic Faith. Together, we will discuss topics like: *Faith & Reason *The Bible and Sacred Tradition *The Pope & Church Authority *Purgatory *The Blessed Virgin Mary *Angels & Saints *The Sacraments *and so much more...

If you, or someone you know, has never been Baptized, Confirmed, or received First Holy Communion, and would like to; or if you have, but just want to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches, now is your time to act!

This course will help you learn the Catholic Faith, prepare you to receive the Sacraments, and/or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on April 3, 2021.

The Ss. Cyril & Methodius RCIA meetings will begin in September and will be held on Thursday evenings. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the class (in person or online) and exact time of the meetings will be determined at a later date.

If you have any questions, would like more information, or to sign up, please contact:

Ron Potemski, (586) 879-3385

St. Cyril - School Beginnings • Church History Continued

In 1918, the first church that was build on the corner of Heintz & Foster Streets near Mt. Elliott and Harper on the east side of Detroit began with great hope. It was a plain brick building and poorly furnished. When Father Joseph Zalibera arrived at the church, he was faced with this small building and less than 100 parish families. He was appointed as pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius on March 22, 1922, and began his work with tremendous energy as he foresaw the gigantic tasks that lay ahead. Father's dynamic personality and enthusiasm attracted many new people to join the church. Because of the rapid growth in the number of parishioners, the need to build a larger church became apparent, so a year later on April 19, 1923, property was purchased on Centerline and Marcus Avenues for \$34,500 (2020 value = \$522,748). An old farm house located on the new property site was remodeled by the men of the parish and served as the parish rectory.

(Continued on Page 7)

St. Cyril - School Beginnings • Church History Continued (from Page 6)

(Continued from Page 6) Also, as new pastor of the church on Heintz Street, Father Zalibera recognized the need to start a grade school, because many of the children, whose parents recently arrived from Europe, spoke only Slovak. At that time no Slovak-speaking community of nuns existed in the Detroit area. The necessity for a school was becoming more apparent, but Father also needed to find a community of sisters who would understand his people and dedicate themselves to this important task.

A small group of sisters who came from Slovakia in 1913 lived in Windber, Pennsylvania and taught school in that area. In July, 1923, the pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius in Windber asked the sisters to pay rent during the summer months. Because they had no money and no way to earn it, the decision was made to beg for money. Two Dominican sisters from Pennsylvania, Sister Mary Salesia (De Sales) Zavodnik and Sister Mary Joseph Gazda set out to solicit financial assistance. A sister in their community had a relative in Detroit and they were told they would be welcome to stay here, so they decided to come to the city. Shortly after their arrival in Detroit, having no knowledge of the area, the two sisters began to beg, somehow finding their way to Hastings Street, a section of Detroit that was historically an isolated and segregated African American community. Later that day they returned to their lodging place with contributions of \$80.00, a considerable amount of money in 1923 (2020 value = \$1,212). Their next effort was to approach the Czech church, where they hoped to find support. The pastor, Father Janecek, said he could not help them, but directed them to the Slovak parish. The next day the two sisters walked for three hours trying to locate Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church and its pastor, Father Joseph Zalibera. When they arrived, they greeted him in Slovak and were graciously received by Father, who was surprised and delighted to learn that a community of Slovak sisters existed, saying, "I did not know there were such Slovak speaking sisters."

He immediately shared his plan to them for starting a school that fall. Father's proposal was to have the two sisters teach the first four grades, and the church would be used as a temporary school. Abandoning their begging efforts, the two sisters returned to Windber to prepare for this new assignment. When they returned from Pennsylvania on August 15, they were stunned to find that instead of four grades, eight grades of children had been enrolled. Their grueling experience of founding a school began with no school building, no teachers, no money and little food.

On September 8, 1923 the temporary school was opened. The church building served as a school for eight grades during the day, citizenship classes in the evenings and Masses on Sundays. The classrooms would be instant makeovers. No sooner would morning Mass be over than somebody would draw the large canvas curtains which served as partitions. Suspended from galvanized pipes, these curtains formed four long, narrow classrooms. There were two grades per room and one small, portable blackboard. The pupils would be sitting in the church pews, and right after the Mass ended they would all lift up their "desks"--long narrow boards with a groove at the top for pencils. These were attached to the front of each pew with hinges to hold up and pull down as needed. Two rows of pews were removed from the middle of the church to make a passage between the four rooms. A huge canvas curtain separated the sanctuary from the classrooms. It was drawn right after Mass and the Blessed Sacrament was taken to the sacristy. The two sisters and two lay teachers were entrusted with the giant task of teaching 260 children. Two small toilet rooms in the basement were shared by the children and adults. Teaching was difficult due to the chatter from other classes, and the windows were hard to open, so little fresh air came into the rooms.

Because enrollment continued to increase, more sisters were added to the staff the following year. Classes were once again conducted in the partitioned church, but the assurance by Father Zalibera that there would be a new school made the teaching hardships easier to endure. Living conditions were not easy for the sisters. Their home was the old rectory on Heintz Street and was described as living in a "pill box". In 1924, Reverend Victor Klimko became the first Assistant Pastor and undertook the duties of teaching religion and preparing the students for their First Holy Communion.

On April 19, 1925 ground was broken for the erection of a new combination terracotta building consisting of church, school and auditorium. At a parish meeting, it was decided that each family donate a given sum of money in order to finance the church/school building project. The parishioners responded by doubling, and in some instances, tripling their contributions. Confident in the generosity and reliability of the Slovak people, Bishop Michael Gallagher blessed the cornerstone on November 29, 1925. On May 9, 1926 the auditorium was opened and was the first completed unit of the new parish building.

At the beginning of October, 1926 it was announced to the sisters that part of the new school complex was completed, making it possible for them to get settled into their convent and get classrooms organized. The sisters moved into their new quarters on the second floor of the school building. The "convent" consisted of five (proposed) classrooms, converted into dormitory style rooms with seven sisters sharing one classroom. The first Mass in the new auditorium was held on November 1, 1926 in what later served as the school cafeteria. The following day, with an enrollment of well over 300 students, eight elementary school classrooms were opened.

As the community of sisters continued to grow, Sister DeSales asked Bishop Michael Gallagher for permission to establish the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters in the United States. Permission was granted and Father Zalibera was appointed as an Advisor and Spiritual Director. He took this position given to him very conscientiously. Father then proceeded to acquire property on Van Dyke and 13 Mile Road in Warren, Michigan to build a Motherhouse for the Slovak Dominican Sisters. Through Father's skilled negotiations he succeeded in obtaining this land as a donation to the sisters. Groundbreaking for the first Motherhouse was held in May, 1927.

Construction continued on the massive complex and the first Mass in the Church proper was held on Christmas Eve, 1929. Unfortunately, the Great Depression halted further progress and brought all expansion of the building to an abrupt standstill for several years.