

Solemnity of Christ the King
November 22, 2020

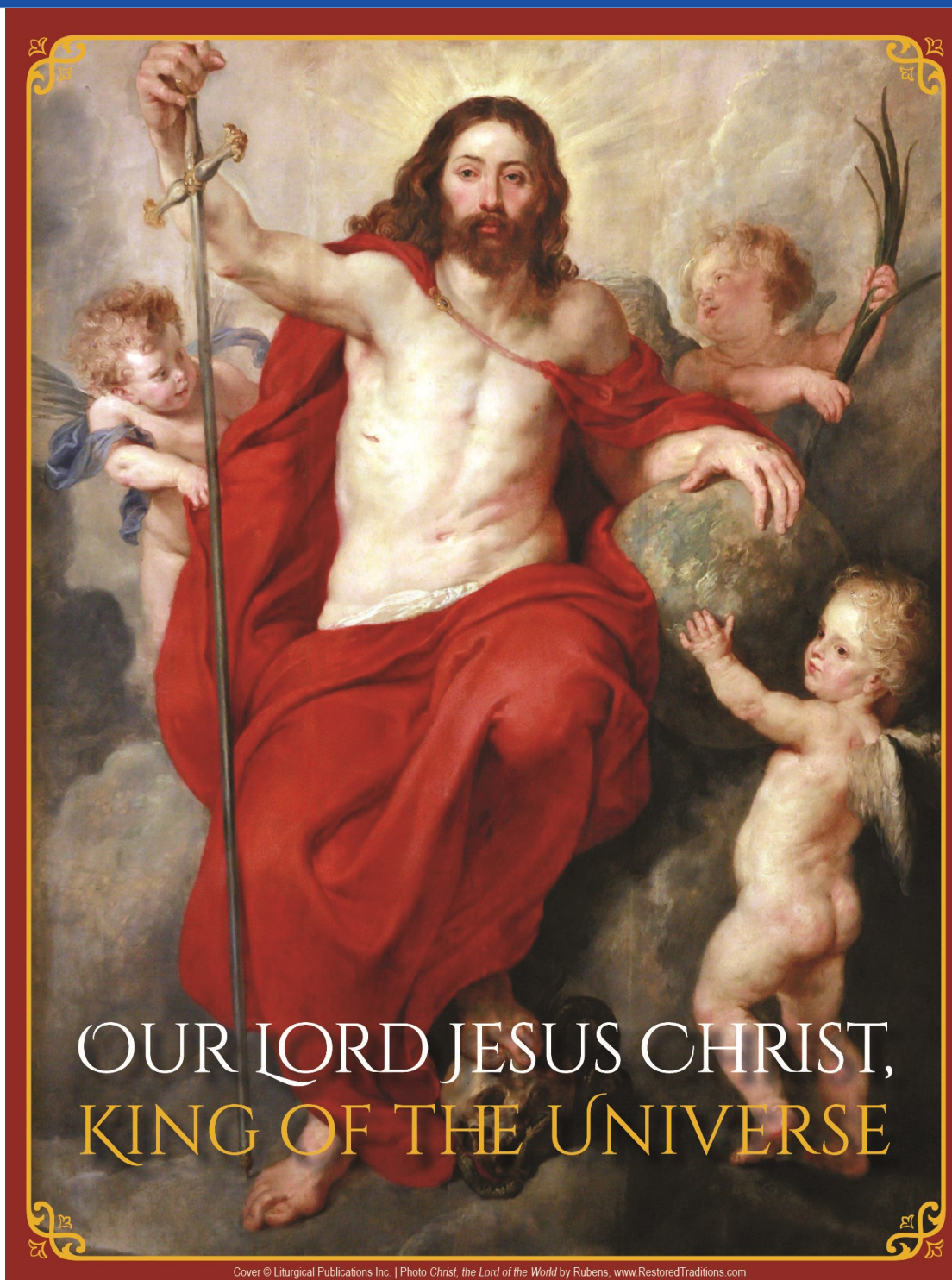


SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST' SVÄTÝCH
CYRILA A METODA



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



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

MASS Intentions

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November 21, Saturday - Sobota

9:00AM For Fr. Ben Kosnac (B'Day)
 ❖ For Emma & Grant, Michael & Joshua
 ❖ †Sue Scarchilli req family

5:30PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Fr. Ben Kosnac (B'Day) ❖ For Sam & Ibtisam Gill
 ❖ For Randy & Chanel Gammo ❖ For Suzanne Navarre
 ❖ †Peter Dubon (B'Day) req. Family
 ❖ For the Deceased Members of Gasparski & McMurdie Family

November 22, Solemnity of Christ the King - Nedela

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15 (157)

7:30AM For the Intentions of the Members of the St. Monica Sodality
 ❖ For Cordelia Pinnock ❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj
 ❖ For the Drensek Family
 ❖ For the Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
 ❖ †Richard & Esther Baginski
 ❖ †Richard Walczyk
 ❖ †George, Azzat, & Imad Sorisho
 ❖ †Luigi Pepaj

9:30AM For Sylvester Wilkins
 ❖ For Kevin Shubnell
 ❖ For the Vitale & Monsu Families
 ❖ For the Makarewicz Family
 ❖ †Benedict Evola req. Shermetaro's
 ❖ †Monica Nido req. Husband ❖ †Mary Reilly
 ❖ †James Zabawski req. Wife ❖ †William Mumby

11:30AM (Slovak) For Daniel Liptak ❖ For John & Simon Gojcaj
 ❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj ❖ †Sharon Richards
 ❖ †Anna & Jan Badowski ❖ †Marge Wagner
 ❖ †Rochelle Huly & Daughters

6:00PM (Tridentine)
 For the Intentions of All Parishioners

8:30PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ Fr. Ben & All Priests
 ❖ For the People of Our Nation & Whole World
 ❖ For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family
 ❖ For Renee Numan ❖ For Luke Laconi
 ❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family ❖ †Joe Basirico
 ❖ †Brian Czach req. Rita ❖ †Christopher Orlando

November 23, Monday - Pondelok

9:00AM For Paul Halabu (B'Day)
 ❖ For Teresa K.
 ❖ For Walter req. DiCicco Family

12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Gerry Hand (B'Day) req. Mother
 ❖ †Michael Foley

November 24, Tuesday - Utorok

6:00AM In Thanksgiving req. Hines Family
 ❖ For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ †Mr. & Mrs. John Slemmer

12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ †Cynthia Yanik req. Family ❖ †Michael Foley

November 25, Wednesday - Streda

9:00AM (Latin) For Myah Pablo ❖ For Marie Huminiuk
 ❖ For Sr. Elizabeth Finn

12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Robert Lulgjuraj req. Mom ❖ †Michael Foley

November 26, Thursday - Štvrtok

* * * **Thanksgiving Day** * * *

* * * **NO Adoration or Confessions Today** * * *

6:00AM For Fr. John Simoneau ❖ For Michael Hines (B'Day)
 ❖ †Paul Szwarc

12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Jim, Melissa & Family
 ❖ †Fr. Francis Budovic (B'Day)

* * * **No 7:00PM HOLY MASS** * * *

November 27, Friday - Piatok

* * * **No Confessions Today** * * *

* * * **NO 6:00AM HOLY MASS** * * *

12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Greg Arkwright (B'Day)
 ❖ For Joseph Antonelli (1st B'Day)
 ❖ For Mike Rolling (B'Day)
 ❖ †Matthew Margiewicz ❖ †Peter MacDonald

November 28, Saturday - Sobota

9:00AM For the Krahala Family & Friends
 ❖ †Olga Truchan ❖ †Barbara Manuel

5:30PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Samantha Kizy Gammo (B'Day) & Family
 ❖ For Laura Slongo req. Family
 ❖ For Gary and Teresa Schmid
 ❖ For the Gammo & Gill Families
 ❖ For the Schuller Family ❖ For the Boyd Family

November 29, First Sunday of Advent - Nedela

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37 (2)

7:30AM For a Special Intention
 ❖ For President Trump ❖ For Fr. Eduard Perrone
 ❖ †Richard Walczyk ❖ †Jo Davis
 ❖ †Barbara Manuel req Michelle Gietzen
 ❖ †Amy Laus ❖ †Peter Paret
 ❖ †Fred & Shirley Ross

9:30AM In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gojcaj
 ❖ For Nick Rolling (B'Day) ❖ For Julia Russo
 ❖ †Joan Weil req. James D. Weil ❖ †Margarete Charen
 ❖ †Benedict Evola req. Shermetaro's
 ❖ †Alexander Gorman req. the Abbott Family

(Slovak) For the Intentions of All Parishioners

11:30AM (Tridentine)
 For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

6:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Marvin, Yousif, & Meriam Shaina
 ❖ For the Pepaj Family ❖ For Renee Numan
 ❖ For Vince Laconi ❖ For May Batou req. Vicki



Wedding Banns



December 12, 2020: Lindsay Schuller & Jordan Henning

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE UPDATE

Thursday, November 26 - 6:00AM & 12:00PM Holy Masses

(NO 7:00PM Holy Mass on Thursday, November 26)

Friday, November 27 - 12:00PM Holy Mass

(NO 6:00AM Holy Mass on Friday, November 27)

NO CONFESSIONS on Thursday or Friday, November 26 & 27



Solemnity of Christ the King • November 22, 2020

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

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

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

Deacon Phil McCown • wadephil@yahoo.com

Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell@gmail.com

Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrls.church

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

*All Holy Masses are INDOORS.

SATURDAY: 9:00AM & 5:30PM (Vigil Mass)

SUNDAY: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak), 6:00PM (*Latin Tridentine*) & 8:30PM

MONDAY: 9:00AM & 12:00PM

TUESDAY: 6:00AM & 12:00PM

WEDNESDAY: 9:00AM (*Latin*) & 12:00PM

THURSDAY: 6:00AM, 12:00PM & 7:00PM

FRIDAY: 6:00AM & 12:00PM (First Fridays: 6:00AM, 12:00PM & 7:00PM)

Facemasks must be worn at all times inside the Church building.

Please keep 6' social distancing.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE: (Registration Required)

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

Confessions are inside the Cry Room and in the Church. Please wait in the back pew in the Church and wear a mask.

Please wear a face mask.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM and Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

EVERY THURSDAY: 1:00PM - 7:00PM (in the Church) - NO ADORATION ON THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 26

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: *10:00AM - 2:00PM

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS: *11:00AM - 2:00PM

THURSDAYS: 11:00AM - *5:00PM

*Parish Office closed during 12:00PM Holy Mass

****CHURCH & CHAPEL OPENED UNTIL 10:00PM DAILY****



CSA 2020

Dear Parishioners: "Rise up and be not afraid". These are the words of Jesus, when his disciples fail to understand that suffering leads to glory. These words also encourage the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit during this year when we have been hit by the pandemic. All the struggles – personal and economic – can never extinguish faith. On the contrary, the true faith will shine even more. The current situation has not only restricted the available resources, but it has also increased the needs of many people. Thus, more than before it is important to be good stewards of the resources each of us has been blessed with.

As in every year, the Archdiocese of Detroit has organized the Catholic Services Appeal to collect funds for numerous ministries that assist all Catholic Parishes and countless people in Southeast Michigan, within and beyond the boundaries of the Church (formations of seminarians and priests, Diocesan Tribunal, hospital chaplains, missionary outreach, pro-life ministries, Catholic Schools and more). Many of you have already made your contribution to the CSA collection and helped us to reach \$97,792 so far, which is 62% of our goal for 2020 (\$156,616). Many thanks for your generosity and sacrifices. If you have not made your contribution yet, please, consider doing so. Every contribution, whether big or small, counts and brings us one step closer to the common goal.

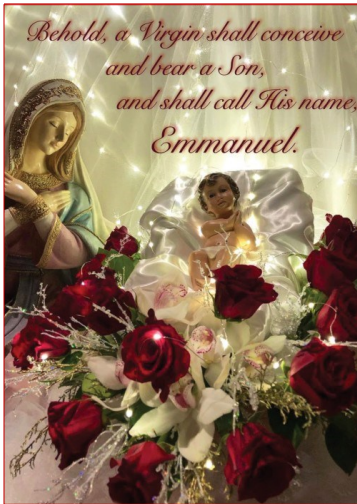
By contributing to the CSA collection, you allow the whole Church to "share in joys and sufferings". Contributing to the CSA collection also has an extra financial benefit for our Parish, saving us the 7% diocesan assessment (tax), that otherwise is taken from every other contribution made directly to the Parish. All CSA donations count 100% on behalf of our Parish, while general donations to the Parish only count 93%. Please, keep in mind that the best way our parish can benefit from your donations is by giving them to CSA.

Contributions on behalf of our Parish can be made at www.givecsa.org (select SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in the drop-down menu). If you do not have a computer and would like to make a contribution to CSA, please call (888) 331-8695 or make a check payable to "Archdiocese of Detroit - CSA", and either drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish.

Thank you again for your support of our church and the entire Archdiocese of Detroit.

Fr. Libor

If you are a family in need, please reach out to me directly at lmarek@saintcyrls.church or contact the Parish Office.



Christmas Novena Mass Cards Available Novena Begins Saturday, December 26

Christmas Novena Holy Mass Cards are now available
(in Slovak and English).

You may pick up Novenas in the Parish Office or
you may order them on our website:

www.saintcyrils.church

The 9-day Novena begins on Saturday, December 26.

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
is the most precious gift
anyone can receive.*

"Every mother,
when she picks up the young life
that has been born to her,
looks up to the heavens
to thank God for the gift
which made the world young again.
But here was a mother,
a Madonna, who did not look up.
She looked down to Heaven,
for this was
Heaven in her arms."

- Venerable Fulton J. Sheen



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS SLOVAK CATHOLIC CHURCH
41233 RYAN ROAD - STERLING HEIGHTS - MI - 48314
586-726-6911 - WWW.SAINTCYRILS.CHURCH

Special Collections

Envelopes are available in the church vestibule for the following special collections:

- ◆ Mission Sunday
- ◆ Peter's Pence
- ◆ Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and
- ◆ Retirement Fund for Religious

If you would like to contribute to one or more of these important causes, please pick up an envelope from the vestibule and return it in the collection basket by Sunday, December 27. Thank you for your generosity.

"Behold Thy Mother: Getting to Know the Blessed Virgin Mary"

Why did God choose Mary to be the one through whom Jesus would come? How can she help us be better missionary disciples of Jesus? Prepare yourself for Christmas with a free interactive online study hosted by Sacred Heart Major Seminary: Behold Thy Mother: Getting to Know the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dr. Robert Fastiggi, a renowned Mariologist, will offer reflections on the beautiful teachings of our Catholic faith about our Blessed Mother. Each week a different member of the Sacred Heart faculty will also introduce us to one of Mary's apparitions (Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, and Kibeho). Come and join us this Advent as we get to know better the Blessed Virgin Mary! The course starts November 29, but you can access the course now. Learn more and register for this wonderful opportunity at shms.edu/mary

Missalettes for 2021

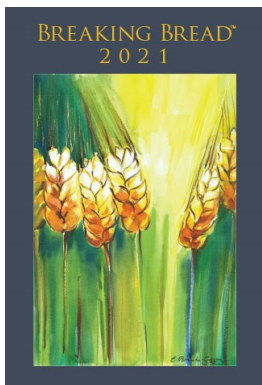
If you are interested in having a copy of your own Missalette for 2021, the "Breaking Bread Missalettes with Daily Propers" have arrived and are now available.

(Suggested Donation: \$6)

Missalettes may be picked up in the Parish Office during regular hours or you may contact the Parish Office at:

(586) 726-6911 or

parishoffice@saintcyrils.church



Pro-Life Poster Contest

THEME: Together Strong: Life Unites

The Knights of Columbus St. Nicholas Council #7011 announces its Student Pro-Life Poster Contest. There are three groups:

- ◆ Grades 7 & 8
- ◆ Grades 9 & 10 and
- ◆ Grades 11 & 12

Cash Prizes for each group:

- ◆ \$100 - 1st Prize
- ◆ \$50 - 2nd Prize and
- ◆ \$20 gift certificate to Faith@Work - 3rd Place

Contest forms and instructions are available from your Youth Group Leader or may be picked up in the Parish Office.

All posters must be submitted to the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church Parish Office (Attention: Poster Contest), no later than 5:00PM on Friday, December 4.

The posters will be returned to the students in time to take them on the March for Life in Washington, DC in January, 2021.

Adult Helpers Needed After Masses

Saturdays, 5:30PM & Sundays, 9:30AM

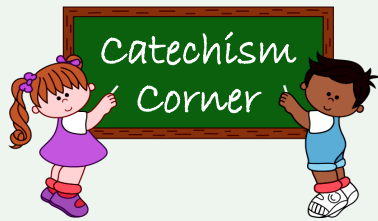
Adults are needed to help for approximately 20-30 minutes after the Saturday, 5:30PM, and/or Sunday, 9:30AM, Holy Mass(es) each week to sanitize the church and bathrooms. If you can commit to this important service to the church, please contact the:

Parish Office at (586) 726-6911



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- ◆ Our Sick Parishioners
- ◆ Those who have Died
- ◆ Family Members & Friends
- ◆ Those who Serve in the Military



Catechism Class Schedule:

Wednesday, November 25: **NO Class**

Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16: **Class**

Wednesdays, December 23 & 30: **NO Class**

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call:

Paul or Carroll Schuller, DREs: cschuller@saintcyrils.church or (586) 726-6911



Life Teen High School Ministry • Monday, November 23
CONTACT ALEX LEWIS FOR DETAILS



EDGE Middle School Ministry
OFF FOR THANKSGIVING!

If you have questions, would like to be put on our mailing list or would like to volunteer, please contact:
Alexandria Lewis, (586) 641-7672 or lifeteen@saintcyrils.church



ARCHDIOCESE OF
DETROIT

November 13: Archbishop Vigneron

Letter Regarding the Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During these difficult months during the pandemic, I have granted a general dispensation from the grave obligation that we as Catholic Christians have to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation in the Archdiocese of Detroit, in part to help ease the conscience of those who are unable to be present for public worship due to risk of illness to themselves or their families. The most recent dispensation expires on November 22, at which point we had hoped the pandemic would have eased enough to allow all of us to return in an unrestricted way to our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

Unfortunately, local and state health officials report that we not only continue to experience an increase in cases in our region and elsewhere, but that the rate of increase is rising dramatically and dangerously. I have been in communication with leaders in our Catholic hospitals and they are very concerned about the immediate future and the challenges they face caring for all those in need, not just those experiencing serious complications from COVID.

Dispensation

After carefully considering these and other factors, I am extending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for people living in or visiting the Archdiocese of Detroit until Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. As we have from the beginning, we will continue to closely monitor the situation in our region, with an eye on the day – hopefully in the not-too-distant future – when all of us are able to safely reunite in our normal patterns of worship.

Attending Mass

This extension is given so as not to unduly bind the consciences of those who are greatly troubled by the destructive potency of the coronavirus, and to care for the most vulnerable among us, such as the elderly. At the same time, one should not take advantage of the dispensation without a true need. Catholics who have already begun to engage in non-essential activities, such as widening one's social circle or going out to eat, should return to Sunday Mass – an essential activity – as church capacity allows. Our souls greatly need the grace that comes from the re-presentation of Christ's saving death and resurrection and this is what Jesus has entrusted to us in the celebration of the Mass. Just as businesses, schools, and other locations have opened safely, so have our parishes. Our pastors, parishes, and the faithful have worked diligently and adapted well in order to ensure the health and well-being of everyone who has been able to come to church for Mass, Confession, or to pray. I want to offer my sincere gratitude for the efforts that have been undertaken to implement and maintain the first-rate precautionary measures that have kept our parishes and schools safe.

Keeping Holy the Lord's Day

Whether or not they are able to attend Mass, all baptized Catholics are reminded of the grave necessity they have to keep holy the Lord's Day. This is a divine law that neither I nor anyone else can ever dispense. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection of our Lord, and as such Christians from the earliest days have set it apart as a day unlike others. When it is not possible to participate in person in the Sacrifice of the Mass, it is vitally important for every member of the Catholic Church to observe the Sabbath by prioritizing prayer, time for God and for family, and works of charity. To that end, many of our parishes have been broadcasting their services over the internet during these last several months. While this virtual means of watching Mass can never replace the unmediated contact with the Real Presence of Our Lord we receive by being present and participating in Mass, these livestreamed Masses have been a way to help Catholics nourish their souls when they cannot be present for Mass.

Let us trust that the Lord accompanies us through all difficulties, including this pandemic. As we approach Advent and prepare for flu season, we should remember to pray daily for health care workers, first responders, including our priests, and all who are and will offer compassionate service and healing in the months to come. Let us also continue to invoke Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness for those who suffer illness, asking her to pray with us for healing and protection for the people of southeast Michigan and beyond.

With assurances of my prayers for you, I remain, Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit

St. Cyril's ... Spirit and Determination ... Our History (Cont'd.)

The Congregation of the Dominican Sisters continued to increase, and since there was no room to expand their current facilities, in January, 1948, they acquired 800 acres in Oxford, Michigan, which then served as the Dominican Sisters Motherhouse for over 70 years.

The 1950's was a decade of continued growth and jubilation. On June 3, 1951, Father Zalibera celebrated his 45th anniversary of priesthood. A procession comprised of school children, altar boys, parish societies and clergy led Father to the church where a High Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated followed by a banquet organized by the parishioners. Another significant project was the installation of the automatically-operated Schulmetronic Basilican church bells. After much planning and careful consideration, Father Zalibera choose these Basilican bells to complete the church towers which added to the beauty of the church building. The culmination of this work rang out on Christmas Eve in 1955.

On May 27, 1956, the parishioners gathered again to celebrate Fr. Zalibera's Golden Anniversary with a High Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Mooney. The day included a banquet where clergy, civil authorities, students and parishioners paid tribute to their beloved pastor. In honor of this occasion, the church was redecorated through the generosity of the parishioners.

The Dominican Sisters had been using the third floor of the school as their convent since the school was first built. This was not an ideal situation, and the continuing need for more classroom space brought about the plan to build a convent on parish grounds. Fundraising began and the groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 6, 1957. Work continued for two years and on September 27, 1959, Rev. Bishop Henry Donnelly blessed the new convent.

During the peak of the parish in the 1950s and 1960s, there were 1,800 parish families, a yearly enrollment of 800 students in the elementary and high schools and an on-site staff of 18 sisters. The completed building unified the church and school as one massive structure. The Byzantine style sanctuary occupied the center of the building while the three-story school wrapped around it and the gymnasium/auditorium was located below the sanctuary. When the entire parish complex, which included the church, school, rectory, convent and furnishings, was completed, the cost was estimated at nearly \$1 million dollars (equal to \$8,793,243 in 2020). This was a substantial sum of money at that time since most parishioners were mainly in the lower income bracket. It was very difficult at first, but the parishioners took pride in the sacrifices they made to build the church, school and auditorium that served them for many years. At that time, architects considered the structure as one of the three best-built church buildings in Detroit.

**SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS
CHURCH & SCHOOL**
9071 SAINT CYRIL AVENUE
DETROIT 13, MICHIGAN



Knights of Columbus -Gianna House Baby Botte Project

WHAT A GREAT TIME TO BE CATHOLIC! WHAT A GREAT TIME TO BE PRO-LIFE!

As you know, The Knights of Columbus have been Pro-Life from their inception. St. Nicholas Council 7011 is pleased to announce the completion of its Baby Bottle Project for 2020. This Project was selected by Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church as one of its 2020 Lenten Projects.

St. Nicholas Council 7011 was involved in raising funds to provide operating and other expenses for Gianna House, a resource center for pregnant mothers, located in Eastpointe. Gianna House offers two separate programs. One program is its Community Outreach Program which since 2015 has focused on community building and skills enhancement, serving those who are pregnant, new moms, and moms with multiple children. These Outreach mothers are in their 20's and 30's and come from 21 different cities. In 2019, this program had 1,136 mother visits; mothers attended 978 classes and received over 4,000 baby items. On May 3, 2019 Gianna House, in a ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrated the licensing of their facility with the State of Michigan, the first certified nonprofit, long-term residence for pregnant teens in the State. This represents their second Program, their Residency Program.

Teenage girls, age 13-17, may stay for up to one year after the birth of their child and receive free room and board, prenatal care, counseling, as well as other classes in caring for their baby. Gianna House is in the process of a restoration of their facilities to open a second wing to accommodate additional residents and to respond to the needs of many inquiries received from pregnant 18- year olds. Last year through this program, Gianna House helped many mothers, providing many items, such as diapers, formula, car seats, and other essentials.



In late February/early March of 2020, the Knights from St. Nicholas Council 7011 distributed almost 600 baby bottles to parishioners at the weekend Masses to fill with donations for Gianna House. The collection of these bottles was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. The Council's Knights eventually completed the collection of these bottles. On November 11, 2020, the Council's Grand Knight, Joseph White PGK and Ken Pullis, Right to Life Chairman, met with some of the staff of Gianna House and presented them with a check for \$6,800 (photo). This total amount was a great accomplishment given the unusual circumstances in 2020 and is a result of the great generosity of our parishioners and visitors to Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church. Every contribution, large or small is greatly appreciated and will be well used by Gianna House.

We leave you with three thoughts- THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU.



ADVENT GIVING PROJECTS - 2020



"It seems the more things change, the more they stay the same." While this familiar saying might not ring true for most of the changes we have experienced in 2020, this should not be the case during Advent here at St. Cyril's. We have a long tradition of coming together as a parish to give generously to those who are in need during these days leading to Christmas. This year we will continue supporting those that depend on us each year, although some of the channels are a bit different. For example, instead of a Giving Tree, we will provide gifts for families at St. Dominic's Outreach Center through a toy and gift collection and for foster children in Macomb County through direct sponsorship.

As Advent approaches, please prayerfully consider how you can give generously to one or more of these parish projects a part of your Christmas preparation. If you have questions about any of the 2020 Advent Giving Projects, please contact *Erin Rybicki* at (586) 530-0547 or *Sandi Brady* in the Parish Office at (586) 726-6911.

Monetary Donations: Donations to the Christian Service Fund from now until December 31, 2020, will be divided among the four organizations listed below. You can make a donation through Push Pay on the parish website or by putting cash or a check made out to St. Cyril & Methodius in a **2020 Advent Giving** envelope and placing it in the Sunday collection basket by December 27, 2020. The envelopes are available on the table below the bulletin board.

- 1. Friends of the Congo:** Many of us remember Fr. Jean Ikanga as a frequent visitor to St. Cyril's, during the holidays while he was a medical student at Emory University in Atlanta. After completing his degree, Fr. Jean returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, his home country, and began building a modern maternity clinic in an underserved region of the Congo. At this point the final need for this project is a source of clean water. Raising funds to construct the well has been difficult during the pandemic for Fr. Jean's funding agency, Friends of the Congo. Please help Friends reach its goal to finance the well which will make it possible for the clinic to begin caring for women and children. **Donations can be made online** at: <https://www.congowomensclinic.org/> **or by mailing a check to:** Friends of the Congo, Inc., 6223 Hough Road, Almont, MI, 48003.
- 2. Mary's Children Family Center:** This day program that provides care and enrichment for 25 adult survivors of traumatic brain injury was closed for 6 months due to Covid concerns. Last month, the center reopened on a limited basis and is once again providing loving care for these very vulnerable individuals. Students at Mary's Children begin their day together with the rosary, then participate in individualized projects and activities, coming together in the center's chapel at the end of the day to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet before going home. With a 2:1 student to caregiver ratio, each student is helped to participate as they are able and to reach their individual, full potential. In the past, our parish has collected cleaning supplies and applesauce cups to help the center offset costs. This year, if you would like to support Mary's Children, you can make a **donation online** at: <https://www.maryschildrenfamilycenter.org/> **or mail a check to:** Mary's Children Family Center, 495 E 14 Mile Road, Clawson, MI, 48017.
- 3. RTL/Lifespan:** Every Advent, the parish giving projects include assisting a pro-life organization and providing needed items for pregnant women and mothers of young children who are in need. This year we are supporting Lifespan, a group that has been educating youth and voters here at St. Cyril's and throughout metro Detroit for many years. Lifespan's annual bus trip to the March for Life has impacted many, many youth from our parish over the years; but with no major fundraising during 2020, Lifespan's resources for continuing its many projects are low. Lifespan also provides clothing and other necessities for mothers and babies in need through its Wee Care program. Please **donate to either the general fund or to Wee Care online** at: <http://milifespan.org/donate/> **or mail a check made out to:** Right to Life/Lifespan Educational Fund (indicate general fund or Wee Care on the memo line) to Lifespan's main office at: 32540 Schoolcraft Road, Suite 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305.
- 4. St. Dominic's Outreach Center:** "An integrated ministry living the heart of the gospel in the heart of Detroit", St. Dominic's serves its neighbors by operating a food pantry and clothes closet, providing back-to-school supplies, hosting community events, and making referrals for services. With its 2020 fundraising dinner canceled, the center is in great need of operating funds. Please help St. Dominic's continue its many works of mercy by **making a donation online** at: <https://www.stdominicoutreach.org/> **or by mailing a check to:** St. Dominic's Outreach Center, P.O. Box 32655, Detroit, 48232. (Please do not mail checks to the address on the center's website.)

Slovak Seminary Sponsorship: Since its foundation, our parish has been blessed with the generous pastoral care of priests from Slovakia. This project gives us an opportunity to show our appreciation to the Slovak Bishops for their continued support of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Sterling Heights and to help build the Church in Slovakia. Currently, 25 men are in priestly formation in Bratislava and two in Rome. You can help cover their fees and expenses with a **gift of \$300**. If you would like to sponsor the seminary, please contact *Sandi Brady* in the parish office (586-726-6911). You will receive a Christmas ornament with the photo of one of the seminarians to place in your home as a reminder to pray for him.

Toy and Gift Collection: Typically, the majority of the tags on our Giving Tree are for the children and parents of about 50 families that regularly receive assistance from **St. Dominic's Outreach Center**. This year, we will be collecting those items in a different way. **On the weekend of December 12-13, the ushers will be collecting toys and gifts before all Sunday Holy Masses.** Bring your **unwrapped gifts** when you come to Mass and leave them on one of the carts that will be in the vestibule. Toys for children of any age are needed, as well as basketballs, footballs, and soccer balls; parents and older teens appreciate personal care gift sets.

Christmas Cards for Sacred Heart Seminarians: Currently, two St. Cyril's parishioners are at Sacred Heart Major Seminary preparing for the priesthood. They will spend 8 or 9 years in study and formation before being ordained. At Christmas, please encourage them on this journey with a Christmas card or a note of encouragement along with your prayers for their intentions. **Send your cards to Charles Giroux or Ryan Walters at:** Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 Chicago Rd., Detroit, MI 48206.

Please remember in your prayers the individuals who will benefit from our gifts, the staff members and volunteers at the agencies that serve them, as well as all the seminarians in Slovakia and at Sacred Heart Seminary.
Thank you for your kindness and generosity.