

November 29, 2020



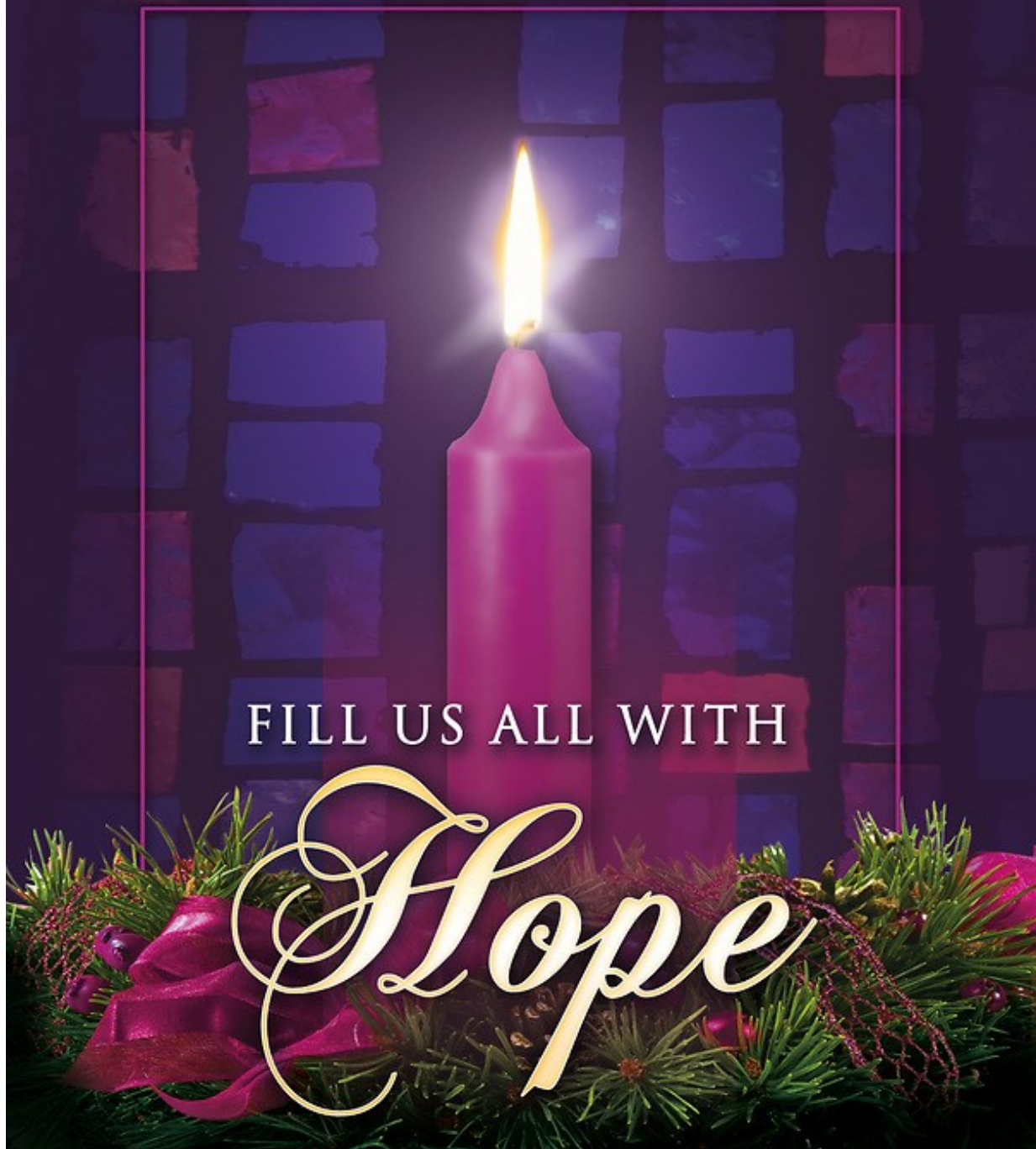
SAINTS CYRIL AND  
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOSTĚ SVĚTÝCH  
CYRILA A METODA



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

*First Sunday of Advent*



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

# MASS Intentions

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## 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 – Nedel'a

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. Abbott Family
- 11:30AM (Slovak) For the Intentions of all Parishioners
- 6:00PM (Tridentine)  
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
- 8:30PM For a Special Intention req. Vicki  
❖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

## November 30, Monday – Pondelok

- 9:00AM For Renee Numan  
❖For Elizabeth Laconi ❖For Christina Hermiz
- 12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For Theresa Stout req. Daughter  
❖†Michael Foley

## December 1, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For Lexi Laconi ❖†Karim Yatooma
- 12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For Drane Shkreli ❖†Michael Foley

## December 2, Wednesday – Streda

- 9:00AM (Latin) For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For a Special Intention ❖†Stefan Zwolinski (Ann.)
- 12:00PM For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
❖For Mila Ching ❖†Joe Basirico

## December 3, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM For Michael Fayad (B'Day) req. Mema & Papi  
❖For Natalie Asic (B'Day) ❖†Rosie Davis
- 12:00PM For Joey Wolf (B'Day) ❖†Anna Tomajko (B'Day)  
❖†Joe Basirico (B'Day)
- 7:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For Michael Fayad (4th B'Day)  
❖For Jacob Xavier Schulthies (B'Day)

## December 4, First Friday – Prvý Piatok

- 6:00AM For Bagriya Bakko ❖For Elizabeth Till  
❖For Jindar Valda  
❖†Cynthia Yanik req. Family
- 12:00PM For the Rosary Makers & their Families  
❖For the Hanna Family  
❖†Joe Basirico ❖†Eleanor Stout
- 7:00PM For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life  
❖For the Holy Souls in Purgatory ❖†David Chupa

## December 5, First Saturday – Prvá Sobota

- 9:00AM For the Members of the Rosary Society  
❖For David Funk req. Langlois Family  
❖†Magdalena Valbuena
- 5:30PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For Antonio & Angelina Slongo req. Family  
❖†Gary Gasparski req. Family  
❖†Art Gill & Patsy Gill (B'Day's)  
❖†Jeanne Orzechowski  
❖†Zoraida Tablata  
❖†Rodolfo Valbuena Jr

## December 6, Second Sunday of Advent – Nedel'a

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8 (5)

- 7:30AM For Lou Persichetti & Family  
❖For Cousin Anthony req. James Gerard Novak  
❖†Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
❖†Daniel Fluker req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
❖†Richard Walczk req. Moran's  
❖†Barbara Manuel req. Michelle Gietzen  
❖†Ken Wittstock & Family
- 9:30AM For President Trump ❖For Julia Russo  
❖For Ralph & Linda Bolda  
❖For Sarah Tallman  
❖For the Dec. Members of the Knights of Columbus St. Nicholas Council & their Families  
❖†Anna Sutherland  
❖†Bill Norris req. Warman's  
❖†Benedict Evola req. Shermetaro's
- 11:30AM (Slovak) For Kola Peter Gojcaj  
❖†Frank & Maria Suga req. Janka Stewart  
❖†Kveta Mandik req. Janka Stewart  
❖†Anna Juhas req. Janka Stewart  
❖†Mary Beth Rzepka  
❖†Vergeen Yousif Aboona  
❖†Kostika Fushi
- 6:00PM (Tridentine)  
For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖For Ralph Bolda  
❖For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
❖For Justin Till  
❖For Von Kama  
❖†Jim Stelzer  
❖†Aquilina Papasin  
❖†Albert Krakosky  
❖†Jim Stelzer req. Wolf Family



**Wedding Banns**



December 12, 2020: Lindsay Schuller & Jordan Henning



## First Sunday of Advent • November 29, 2020

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

Fr. Libor Marek, Pastor • [lmarek@saintcyrls.church](mailto:lmarek@saintcyrls.church)

Fr. Juraj Nuota, Associate Pastor • [jnuota@saintcyrls.church](mailto:jnuota@saintcyrls.church)

Deacon Phil McCown • [wadephil@yahoo.com](mailto:wadephil@yahoo.com)

Deacon Gerald Smigell • [vgsmigell@gmail.com](mailto:vgsmigell@gmail.com)

Parish Office • [parishoffice@saintcyrls.church](mailto: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](http://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\*\***



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

### **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 \$99,147 so far, which is 63% 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.

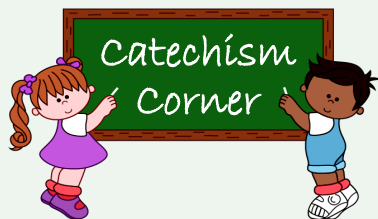
Contributions on behalf of our Parish can be made at [www.givecsa.org](http://www.givecsa.org) (select SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in the drop-down menu). If you do not have a computer and would like to make a contribution to CSA, please call (888) 331-8695 or make a check payable to "Archdiocese 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](mailto:lmarek@saintcyrls.church) or contact the Parish Office.





### Catechism Class Schedule:

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 30**  
**CONTACT ALEX LEWIS FOR DETAILS**



**EDGE Middle School Ministry**  
**OFF FOR A COR MEETING**

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

### **Northland Family Prayer News Saturday, December 5**

As we begin the Season of Advent, preparing to celebrate the Birth of Jesus, let us be thankful for the children in our lives and cherish them always. We also pray for all expectant parents, that God will bless them abundantly and fill their families with greater Faith, Hope and Love!

Please join us for our next Pro-Life prayer and witness event outside the Northland Family Planning Clinic on Saturday, December 5, from 11:30AM-12:30PM. The clinic is located at 3810 17 Mile (just west of Ryan Road). Please dress warm and bring your friends, family, rosary and mask. We will observe social distancing guidelines or you may pray nearby from your car.

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

### **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.



### **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 this 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.

### **Reporting Sexual Abuse**

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others – no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (866) 343-8055 or by emailing: vac@aod.org.

In addition the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at (844) 324-3374 (Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM) or by email at: aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

More information about the Archdiocese of Detroit's efforts to address abuse may be found at protect.aod.org.

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Detroitská Arcidiecéza povzbudzuje jednotlivcov, ktorí by vedeli o prípadoch sexuálneho obťažovania mladistvých zo strany kleru, aby ich ohlásili bez ohľadu na to, kedy sa tieto prípady vyskytli. Jednotlivci môžu kontaktovať orgány činné v trestnom konaní, alebo upovedomiť Detroitškú Arcidiecézu prostredníctvom koordinátora pre pomoc obetiam na tel. čísle 866-343-8055, alebo emailom vac@aod.org

Úrad generálneho prokurátora v Michigane možno kontaktovať na bezplatnom telefónnom čísle 844-324-3374 (od pondelka do piatku, od 8:00 do 17:00), alebo emailom aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Viac informácií o snahe Detroitskej Arcidiecézy predchádzať zneužívaniu je k dispozícii na adrese protect.aod.org.

### **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

**BREAKING BREAD  
2021**





### 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](http://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

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

### St. Anthony of Padua • Devotions Begin on Wednesday at 11:45AM

St. Anthony was born to a wealthy family in Lisbon, Portugal on August 15, 1195. At baptism he was given the name Fernando. At age 15 he joined the Augustinian community in Coimbra, Portugal. There for 9 years he studied Theology and was ordained a priest in 1220.

In Coimbra he witnessed the return, from Morocco, of the bodies of five Franciscan missionaries who were beheaded for their faith. This heroic witness to Christ, and their amazing courage inspired him to become a missionary and he joined the Franciscans taking the name Anthony. His first assignment was to be a missionary to the Muslims in Morocco, but he became seriously ill and had to return to Europe. His ship was caught in a fierce storm and landed in Italy.

He was an excellent preacher and teacher. He drew masses of people everywhere, sometimes numbering 30,000 or more. He challenged people to care for the poor and spoke out bravely about injustices in society. People waited all night to hear him. Legend is that at one time in the city he was visiting, when the people refused to listen to him, he went to a nearby river and preached to the fishes. The fishes appeared to pop their heads out of the water, row after row and listen to him intently. That got everyone's attention and they came to see this and listened to St. Anthony's preaching.

*"St. Anthony had tremendous compassion to those in pain. In his preaching he emphasized that God's love is unfailing and never ending. He encouraged people to repentance and sacrifice in their lives."* After morning Mass, he would hear confessions, sometimes lasting all day and he fasted all day as well. *"...St. Anthony was patient in trial, humble regarding his own talents, and genuinely enthusiastic in sharing his faith with others, His life was what every Christian's life is meant to be, a steady courage to face the ups and downs of life, the call to love and forgive others, to have compassion for the needs of others, to deal with crises large and small, and to have complete trust and dependence on God."*

He is popularly known for finding lost things, but his main thrust was finding persons who had lost their path to God. The story for his being named patron for lost things happened this way. A novice left the Franciscan order taking with him St. Anthony's Book of Psalms and prayer book which also contained all his notes that he used for his teaching in Theology. St. Anthony prayed hard that he would find the book and the thief would return and change his life. The novice did return with the book and rejoined the Franciscan order.

His images are often depicted holding the Gospel, with a flame of fire or holding the Infant Jesus emanating from the pages, because he made the Word of God burn brightly in people's heart. St. Anthony was so holy, one of his friends had a vision of him holding the Child Jesus in his arms, the other reason is he made the Word of God come to life for others.

In his lifetime he performed many miracles for the sick and the poor. He was greatly loved by the common man. Because of his many miracles, he is known as "The Miracle Worker". The last years of his life was spent ill and in pain and he died on June 13, 1231. He was canonized by Pope Gregory IX on May 30, 1232.

When his body was exhumed 30 years later, his body had turned to dust except his tongue which appeared as if it was still connected to a living body. His sermons were so rich with spiritual teachings and profound explanation of the Gospels he was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII on January 16, 1946. His relics are in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, Italy.

Source: Companion of St. Anthony Prayer Booklet and Google internet.

St. Anthony Devotions will begin at Ss. Cyril & Methodius. The devotion will be prayed every Wednesday morning beginning this Wednesday, December 2, at 11:45AM. Please join us in honoring Our Lord through this devotion to St. Anthony.



### "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](http://shms.edu/mary)







## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church

# Prayers and Devotions

### *The Holy Rosary*

- **Monday & Wednesdays** -  
5 Decades of the Holy Rosary are prayed immediately following the 9AM Holy Mass.

- **Monday through Friday** -  
5 Decades of the Holy Rosary are prayed before the 12 Noon Holy Mass, beginning at 11:30AM.

### *The Chaplet of Divine Mercy*

- **Mondays through Fridays** -  
Prayed Monday through Friday immediately following the 12 Noon Holy Mass.

### *The Holy Rosary for Life*

(Pro-Life Rosary)

- **Saturday Mornings** -  
All 20 Decades of the Holy Rosary are prayed on Saturday Mornings.

The Joyful & Luminous Mysteries are prayed before the 9AM Holy Mass, beginning at 8:10AM.

The Sorrowful & Glorious Mysteries are prayed immediately following the 9AM Holy Mass.

### *Eucharistic Adoration*

Thursdays from 10AM—7PM



### *The 'Touch of Mary' Rosary*

(For Priests & Unity in the Church)

- **Thursday Evenings** -  
All 20 decades of the Holy Rosary are prayed on Thursday evenings before the 7PM Holy Mass, beginning at 5:40PM.

### *Perpetual Help Devotions*

- **Tuesday Mornings** -  
Prayed on Tuesday Mornings, before the 12 Noon Holy Mass, beginning at 11:45AM.

### *St. Anthony Devotions*

- **Wednesday Mornings** -  
Prayed on Wednesday Mornings, before the 12 Noon Holy Mass, beginning at 11:45AM.

### *Bilingual Slovak/English Rosary*

- **Second Friday of the Month** -  
5 Decades of the Holy Rosary are prayed in English and Slovak.  
The Bilingual Rosaries are recorded and later posted on our Web-Site: [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church) Under "Resources" and "Media."

Prayer Requests can be sent to:  
[100rosary@gmail.com](mailto:100rosary@gmail.com) or text: 586-413-4050

## 52 Sundays • Advent Family Prayer Challenge

Welcome to the Advent Family Prayer Challenge (from the Archdiocese of Detroit)! Your family is invited to enter into the beauty of the Advent season through prayer and reflection on the Scriptural themes of the season. Each day's prayer will reflect on the Evening Prayer Antiphon from the Liturgy of the Hours and how these themes touch our daily lives.

Starting on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, participants will receive a daily reminder to pray via text. The Advent season gives us the opportunity to prepare our hearts and homes for Christ. This prayer challenge is a chance for families to celebrate this season in a new way. We look forward to you joining us! Sign up by texting: **ADVENT20 to 33777**.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: What are the Liturgy of the Hours?** The Liturgy of the Hours is the daily prayer of the Church marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. Priests and deacons are required to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, but consecrated and lay people can also pray it. This Advent, families have the opportunity to enter into the rhythm of the Church's prayer through the Advent Family Prayer Challenge. **Do you have to be a certain age to participate?** All ages can participate! Parents are welcome to adapt the prayers as needed for the age and needs of their family members. **Do I have to say the prayers at a certain time every day?** The prayers will be sent each day, but you decide what time is best for your family to pray. It may be at dinner, around the Advent Wreath, at bedtime, or at a different time that works for you. What is most important in this challenge is that you take time to pray with your family. **What if we don't have children or I live alone?** You can still strengthen your habit of prayer with this Challenge this Advent season. Anyone can unite their prayers with the faithful throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Universal Church. You may need to adapt the prayers sometimes, but don't let that stop you from joining. Also, you may want to consider inviting friends or family members to pray with you either in person or via phone or video. **Do I have to use the words of the prayer prompts?** No, you do not. The prompts are simply a suggestion to give you a starting point. **Any tips on how to remember to pray?** I know I'll get a reminder, but life gets busy! One idea: Copy and paste the website link into a calendar event on your phone and set an alarm for the same time each day. When the alarm goes off, the link will appear on your phone and prompt you to go to the prayer. **How is this different than the Lenten Family Prayer Challenge?** While both challenges hope to help families build or strengthen the habit of prayer, each has a slightly different focus. The Lenten Family Prayer Challenge provided a prompt to pray for different family members for a specific theme each day. The Advent Family Prayer Challenge will provide a reflection inspired from the Antiphons of Evening Prayer and help your family dive into the Scriptural theme of the Antiphon and pray about how it affects your family life.



## 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.**