

Solemnity of Ss. Cyril & Methodius
February 14, 2021



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



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

MASS Intentions

©JPPC

February 13, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM For the Members of O.L. Mother of Mercy Secular
Disalced Carmelites
❖ For a Special Intention req. Vicki Babbie
❖ For Amparo Garcia
- 5:30PM For Fr. Michael Lenz req. Ann Haio Family
❖ For Drew Manor req. Langlois Family
❖ †Anthony Warner req. Ken & Mary Ann Warner
❖ †Tim Brooks req. Mary and Frank Murphy
❖ †Margaret McIntyre req. Family
❖ †David Chupa
❖ †Patricia Amaradio

February 14, Solemnity of Ss. Cyril & Methodius

Acts 13:46-49 ; 1Cor 1:17; Lk 10:1-9

- 7:30AM For Mark Hornbacher, Jr. (B'Day) req. Family
❖ For Mom & Dad Hines & the Desser Families
❖ For Carol Mroczek
❖ For John Desser (B'Day)
❖ For Sandra Sweep req. Mary Shiner
❖ For the Deceased Members of the Sweep Family
❖ †Patricia Amaradio req. Michelle Gietzen
- 9:30AM *(Livestreamed)* For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 11:30AM *(Slovak)*
†Karel Pondel req. Sobolic Family
❖ †Jozef a Pavol Kováčik, req. Krajcovic family
❖ †Anna Sovikova req. Stefan & Marta Sobolic
❖ †James Robine
❖ †Hedwig Richiert req. Daniela Grisak
❖ †Joseph Venglar req. Wife
- 6:00PM *(Latin)-Tridentine:*
For Gus & Marilou Uytuico (50th Wed. Ann.)
- 8:30PM In Thanksgiving req. Alia
❖ For Tom & Michelle Bartold (29th Wed. Ann.)
❖ For Melissa Johnson req. Dan & Jan Atkinson
❖ For Amparo Garcia
❖ For the Shaina Family

February 15, Monday - Pondelok

- 9:00AM For Maria Laconi (B'Day)
❖ †Julia Wittner req Ken & Mary Ann Warner
❖ †Matthew Margiewicz
- 12:00PM For the Priests of Ss. Cyril & Methodius
❖ For Drane Shkreli
❖ †Marva Ralston

February 16, Tuesday - Utorok

- 6:00AM For Isaac Louth (B'Day)
❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj
❖ For Amparo Garcia
- 12:00PM †Philip J. Perrone ❖ †Juanita Saunders
❖ †Katherine Mikulak (Ann.)

February 17, Ash Wednesday - Popolcová Streda

- 6:00AM †Esther Norris
- 8:30AM **Stations of the Cross**
- 9:00AM *(Latin)* For a Special Intention req. Kola Gojcaj
❖ For Amparo Garcia

- 12:00PM *(Livestreamed)* †Mary-Jo Chenevert
❖ †Farman Polis ❖ †John Roy

- 7:00PM For Ronald Gillis (B'Day)
❖ For Terrence Jason Flores

February 18, Thursday - Štvrtok

- 6:00AM For Theodore Hines (B'Day)
❖ For Amparo Garcia
- 12:00PM For Josephine Signorello (B'Day)
❖ For Joyce Davenport (B'Day)
❖ For Jonathan Haio (B'Day) req. Mom & Dad
Stations of the Cross
- 6:30AM For Seminarian Patrick Blenman req. Grandparents
- 7:00PM ❖ †Mary-Jo Chenevert req. Mary Bann
❖ †Thomas Fernane

February 19, Friday - Piatok

- 6:00AM †Luke Timmeman
❖ †Bill Manfredo
- 12:00PM For Rosario Flores
❖ †Ruby Hunter
❖ For the Gill and Gammo Families
- 7:00PM In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gojcaj
❖ For Eleanor Weathers (90th B'Day) req. Family
❖ For Amparo Garcia

February 20, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM For a Special Intention req. Kola Peter Gojcaj
- 5:30PM For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family
❖ For Jonathon & Joshua Pate (40th B'Days)
❖ †Esther Norris & Family
❖ †Fr. Val Gattari
❖ †George Wittner req. Ken & Mary Ann Warner
❖ †Mary & Greg Manning & Family
❖ †Patricia Amaradio

February 21, First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 ; 1 Pt 3:18-22 ; Mk 1:12-15

- 7:30AM In Thanksgiving req. Hines Family
❖ For a Special Intention req. Alia
❖ †Stella Sabo
- 9:30AM *(Livestreamed)* For Fr. Ben Kosnac
❖ For Donna Mazurkiewicz (B'Day) req. Family
❖ †Jim Stelzer req. Mary Bann
❖ †Charmaine Daniels
❖ †Esther Norris
❖ †Paolo Persichetti
❖ †Betty Showler
- 11:30AM *(Slovak)*
†Anna Sovikova req. Stefan & Marta Sobolic
❖ †Karel Pondel req. Cisar Family
❖ †George Rafaidus
❖ †Eva Fleck
❖ †James Robine
❖ †Hedi Richiert
❖ †Anna Cnota
- 6:00PM *(Latin)-Tridentine:*
For the Intentions of all Parishioners
- 8:30PM For a Special Intention req. Vicki Babbie
❖ For the Yatooma Family
❖ †Onorio Iacobelli ❖ †Sabah Kiezi

Solemnity of Ss. Cyril & Methodius • February 14, 2021



Jesus Christ, The High Priest

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

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

Deacon Phil McCown • wadephil@yahoo.com

Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell@gmail.com

Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrils.church

Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross & Office Schedules

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAYS: 9AM & 5:30PM (Vigil)

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

MONDAYS: 9AM & 12PM

TUESDAYS: 6AM & 12PM

WEDNESDAYS: 9AM & 12PM

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS DURING LENT: 6AM, 12PM & 7PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Wednesdays at 8:30AM & Fridays at 6:30PM

*WEEKDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS: 10AM - 2PM

TUESDAYS: 11AM - 2PM

WEDNESDAYS: 10AM - 2PM

THURSDAYS: 11AM - 5PM

FRIDAYS: 11AM - 2PM

*Office is closed during 12 PM Holy Mass

Face masks must be worn at all times in the Church building.

Please keep 6' social distancing.

*CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

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

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

Confessions are outdoors. Please wear a face mask.

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

***General Dispensation from Obligation to Attend Mass on Sundays & Holy Days will Expire Saturday, March 13**

Archbishop Vigneron announced that the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days will expire on Saturday, March 13, 2021. In its place, he is granting a number of particular dispensations for the faithful who may find themselves in specific circumstances. Please read below for information about these specific dispensations and visit aod.org/comehometohope to learn more about how our parishes are working to keep everyone safe at Mass as well as tips and advice for inviting friends and family to attend Mass with you. (Please read Archbishop Vigneron's February 9 Letter to the Faithful on Page 7.)

***PARTICULAR DISPENSATION INFORMATION**

The general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (including the anticipatory Mass at 4:00PM or later on the previous day) is to be reinstated in the Archdiocese of Detroit effective Saturday, March 13, 2021.

Considering the grave obligation we have of being physically present with our brothers and sisters at Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation for the Eucharist, each of us is asked to make a good and sincere judgement as to whether these circumstances apply or not. Where doubt or confusion persists, consult any priest for clarity.

While the general dispensation is removed, there are specific instances where the dispensation will continue, as well as those circumstances where there is no obligation in the first place. One does not have an obligation to attend Mass on Sunday in the following circumstances:

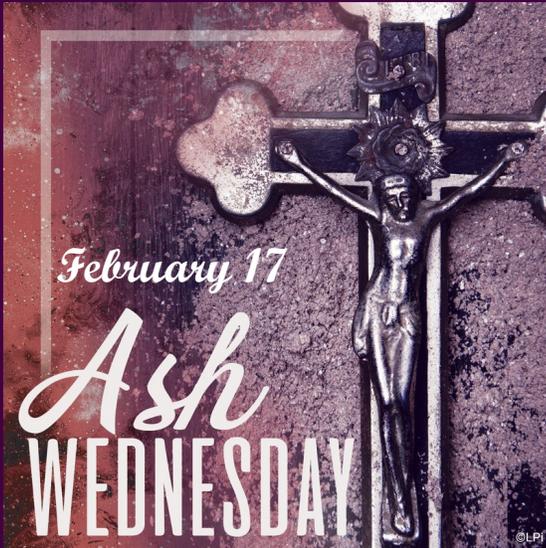
1. You are ill or your health condition would be significantly compromised if you were to contract a communicable illness (i.e., you have underlying conditions or are in a high-risk category). Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.
2. You exhibit flu-like symptoms. Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.
3. You have good reason to think you might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (e.g., you were in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID or influenza). Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.
4. You care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed.
5. You are pregnant.
6. Those 65 years of age or older (per the CDC's recommendation of high-risk individuals).
7. You cannot attend Mass through no fault of your own (e.g., no Mass is offered, you are infirmed, or, while wanting to go, you are prevented for some reason you cannot control (e.g., your ride did not show up, the church was at capacity)).
8. If you have significant fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.

For questions about the application of any of these, please contact your pastor.

These categories will be reviewed in due course and revised as needed.

Those within categories #1-8 above must still observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death and resurrection; an excellent way to do this is through participating in a broadcast of the Sunday Mass.

LENT BEGINS



Holy Masses on Ash Wednesday:

6:00AM, 9:00AM

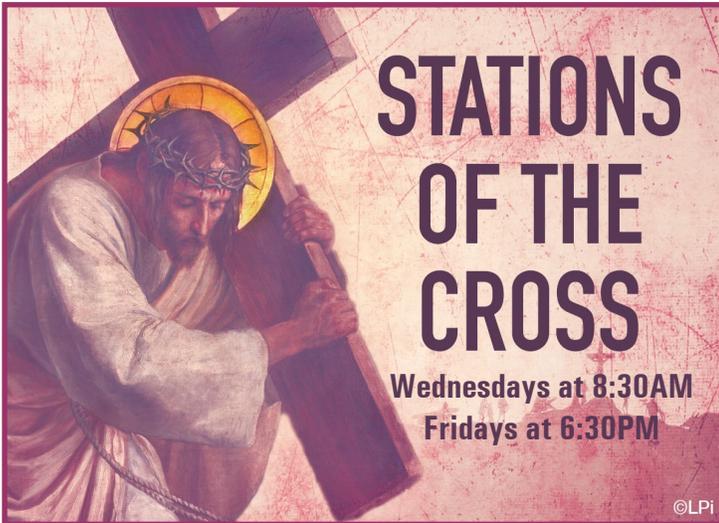
* 12:00PM and 7:00PM

(* 12:00PM Mass will be livestreamed)

Additional Holy Masses

During Lent:

Every Friday at 7:00PM



WHAT IS LENT?

The 40-day period from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by *praying, fasting, abstinence and other acts of penance.*

WHAT IS FASTING?

One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal.

DAYS OF FAST?

Ash Wednesday • Good Friday

WHO ARE REQUIRED TO FAST?

Catholics from age <18 to 59>.

The sick are excused from fasting.

WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?

Abstinence is *refraining from eating meat.* Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE?

Ash Wednesday • All Fridays in Lent • Good Friday

WHO ARE REQUIRED TO ABSTAIN?

Mandatory for everyone older than 14 years old.



Looking Forward to Lenten Fish Frys?



Lent & Fish Frys Go Together!

If you want to help bring them back, please contact Joseph White, 586-556-2122, GK7011@mikofc.org and sign up to help.

You can volunteer for one Friday or several. Adult men or women ... all are welcome!

Join the Ss. Cyril & Methodius LENTEN CHALLENGE

Grow in holiness this Lenten Season by uniting with other parishioners in joining our Parish Lenten Challenge. Worksheets are located in the vestibule, with personal challenges and sacrifices, designed to help you to grow in holiness. Whether you choose to complete a challenge alone, or support one another by making it a family challenge, these worksheets are wonderful tools to help spiritually in your Lenten journey.

There are separate worksheets for Adults, Teens and Children. Once your worksheet is complete, drop it off in the Parish Office and you will be included in a Raffle that will take place after Easter.

"While Lent is a solemn season, it is not a somber one. The forty days are not structured to foster morbid gloominess and debilitating self-loathing; they are meant to thrust us into the heart of divine love." -The Little Way of Lent: Meditations in the Spirit of St. Therese of Lisieux)

2021 Parish Lenten Projects

Lent is always a time to reach out to others in need with our almsgiving and acts of charity. This year especially many people have lost work and are struggling. Many people among us are isolated and alone. And with regular activities canceled or scaled back, most of us have a little more free time than usual. Taking the time to send a note or card, perhaps through Operation Cheer described below, or to make a phone call during Lent is a simple act of charity that would mean more than ever this year. In addition, there are several other projects proposed for us to participate in as a parish during Lent. Please consider joining with other parishioners and making one or more of these projects a part of your personal Lenten sacrifices. Reaching out to encourage others and to provide for their needs during the season of Lent will help us prepare our hearts to welcome our resurrected Lord at Easter.

† Monetary Projects

† **Kahama Diocese, Tanzania/Bishop Minde:** While Bishop Minde was assigned to a new diocese in Tanzania in 2019, he continues as the ordinary of the Kahama Diocese as well. This includes our sister parish, Holy Family, and the many parishes and schools that some of our parishioners have visited since 2010 when the construction of our Sister Parish began. To help Bishop Minde with his many projects building up the diocese of Kahama, place your *monetary gift in a blue Lenten collection envelope* and place it in the Sunday collection basket or make your donation online (www.saintcyrils.church) using PushPay by Easter Sunday, April 4. Please make a *check payable to Ss. Cyril & Methodius and include Tanzania on the memo line*.

† **Imago Dei Crisis Pregnancy Centers:** Thanks to the time and talents of several tech volunteers, Imago Dei's four centers have an ever-increasing presence on social media as well as more and more traffic on their website. This means more women are contacting Imago Dei and choosing LIFE for their children. But there are also high costs associated with maintaining this internet presence. Coupled with the cancellation of their annual fundraising dinner in 2020, the financial need is great. Your monetary gift will help Imago Dei maintain its internet presence, keep the four centers open and continue offering a lifeline to women experiencing crisis pregnancies. Place your *monetary donation in a white Lenten collection envelope* and put it in the Sunday collection basket or make your donation to the Christian Service fund online (www.saintcyrils.church) using PushPay by Easter Sunday, April 4.

Fasting for Food: What are you giving up for Lent? We can all answer this question. Sweets. Coffee. Binging on Netflix series. How much money will that save? We probably haven't thought much about this question. After all, that's not the purpose of fasting during Lent. And the savings over 6 weeks probably is insignificant. But what if we set aside the money we saved each week that we don't buy ice cream or coffee and used it to help feed families in need? Or what if we canceled Netflix or Disney+ and did the same with the monthly fees? By themselves our sacrifices are small but collectively they would go a long way toward feeding such families. During Lent, would you consider magnifying your fasting to feed the families served by the food pantry and soup kitchen at **St. Christine's Christian Services** in Detroit? Collect your savings during Lent and then write a *check to St. Christine's Christian Services* for the amount you saved. Put your check in a white Lenten collection envelope and place it in the collection basket on Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday. *Note to parents:* Placing your savings in a jar and watching them add up during Lent can be a good visual for children to see the importance of their Lenten sacrifices.

Baby Items Collection on March 13 and 14: Besides financial assistance, the four Imago Dei crisis pregnancy centers are also in need of baby care items. We can show our love and support for the mothers who have the courage to choose LIFE for their babies by helping to supply some of their needs. Help these mothers care for their babies by bringing a baby care item or clothing when you come to Saturday evening or Sunday Mass on March 13 and 14 and leave it on one of the specially marked carts in the vestibule. Items that are most needed are: *diapers sizes 4 & 5, diaper rash ointment, diaper bags, boy's clothing size newborn to 2T, and rear facing car seats.*

Operation Cheer! The current pandemic has hit nursing homes especially hard! Many residents have been isolated in their rooms with few activities, eating meals alone, and very limited family visits. One of our parishioners works every day in nursing homes providing counseling to residents, and the rates of depression are at an all-time high! She has started an initiative, **Operation Cheer**, to bring encouragement, cheer, and support to nursing home residents. During Lent, will you set aside a little time to sign or make a card, or write a letter, or have your children draw pictures to help cheer up residents and let them know they are not forgotten? Messages of support might include: Hang in There! One Day at a Time! We're Praying for You! You are Loved! Thinking of You! Have a Good Day! Easter cards and birthday cards are also appreciated. Place your *cards and letters* in the box on the table below the bulletin board by Palm Sunday, March 28. If you have any questions about Operation Cheer, contact *Trisha*, (248) 925-6900.

Easter Food Baskets for Families in Need: Would you like to prepare a basket of food for Easter dinner for a family in need? St. Dominic's Outreach Center provides each of the 150 families they assist with a basket of food filled with all they need to enjoy a special Easter dinner. Baskets should include non-perishable food items such as and a Meijer gift card to purchase a ham or turkey and other perishable foods. If you would like to provide a food basket for a family, please contact *Erin Rybicki* at (586) 530-0547 or at christianservice@saintcyrils.church. Please do not bring your Food Basket to church without speaking to Erin.

*Let's also join together as a parish to pray for one another during our Lenten fasts,
as well as for the people who will be assisted by our Lenten projects and those who serve them.*

If you have any questions about any of the 2021 Lent Projects, please contact:

Erin Rybicki, Christian Service Coordinator, (586) 530-0547, or *Sandi Brady* in the Parish Office, (586) 726-6911



**Consecration to St. Joseph
Prep Begins Monday, February 15
Consecration Date: March 19**

What does it mean for a person to be consecrated to St. Joseph? Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy. Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of

filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. St Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

If you have already consecrated yourself to the Virgin Mary, can you be consecrated to St. Joseph, as well? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" God desires that all children be committed to the care of a mother and a father. You are not a member of a single-parent spiritual family. Mary is your spiritual mother, and St. Joseph is your spiritual father. The spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph is extremely important for your spiritual growth. Total consecration to Mary is not diminished by total consecration to St. Joseph. Mary wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Jesus wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Everything you have given to Jesus and Mary can also be given to St. Joseph. The hearts of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph are one.

Program Overview: Consecration to St. Joseph emulates the tried-and-true preparation method employed by St. Louis de Montfort in his Marian consecration, highlighting many of St. Joseph's titles, privileges, and heroic virtues. The program of preparation and consecration takes 33 days.

How to make your consecration as an individual: You'll spend about 20-30 minutes a day on a short exposition on one of the invocations in the powerful Litany of St. Joseph, followed by a reading on St. Joseph, concluding with the recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph. If you miss a day, just make it up and continue your preparation. On the day of your consecration, feel free to use whichever act of consecration you like best; you can also make up your own, if you like. A limited number of books for Consecration to St. Joseph are available in the Parish Office (\$15/each).

Catechism Corner

Catechism Class Schedule:

Wednesday, February 17: **No Class (Ash Wednesday)**
(Please take your children to Holy Mass if possible)

Wednesday, February 24: **Class at 6:15PM**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
Paul or Carroll Schuller, Directors of Religious Education,
cschuller@saintcyrils.church or (586) 726-6911

Life Teen High School Ministry • Monday, February 15

**"Relationships - A Night about
Building Solid, Lasting Community"**

7:00PM—8:45PM

EDGE Middle School Ministry • Thursday, February 18

"Go Fish - A Night on Discipleship"

7:00PM—8:45PM

If you have questions, would like to be put on our mailing list or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Alexandria Collins, (586) 641-7672 or lifeteen@saintcyrils.church

**Total Consecration to Jesus thru Mary
Prep Begins Saturday, February 20**

Louis de Montfort (1673 – 1716) had a profound and deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and wrote extensively on the virtues of Our Lady, what true devotion to her consists of, and how the faithful need to turn to her as the way to her Son, Jesus Christ. He recommends that the faithful formally consecrate themselves to the Blessed Mother. For this end he developed a specific 33-day program consisting of various prayers and readings to help the faithful detach themselves from the world and bond themselves more closely with Christ through the example and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This "Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary" consists of an initial 12-day preparation followed by a period of three consecutive weeks, each week focusing on a different theme. It is recommended that the consecration be done on a major feast day of Our Lady, meaning that the preparation would begin 33 days prior. Once you make the consecration, it is for life. It can be renewed annually. The next preparation begins on Saturday, February 20, for all who wish to make, or renew their Consecration on March 25, the Annunciation of the Lord.

"Preparation for Total Consecration" books are available in the parish office for \$10.

Questions about making your Total Consecration, or to register to make (or renew) your Total Consecration, contact:
the Parish Office: (586) 726-6911

Support the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

Many countries transitioning from the former communist regimes in Eastern Europe continue to be stricken by poverty. In Albania, a country that experienced a particularly harsh form of communism, many young women facing extreme poverty succumb to misleading promises of marriage or work opportunities, drop out of school and travel abroad. Separated from their families, they often find themselves in the difficult circumstances of domestic violence or even forced prostitution. The Catholic Church of Albania, which is being restored after the fall of communism, is at the forefront of helping young women overcome these risks through tuition support, the arts, faith activities, and culinary workshops that prepare them for work that allows them to support themselves and to contribute to their family budgets.

With support from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the Laura Vicuna Center and the Rogationist Fathers' high school has provided education, skills, training, and brighter futures to 13 young women from the town of Tale. When you participate in the collection, you help to make education and life opportunities a reality for at-risk youth, such as the young women in Tale, and you provide a witness of the faith to a recovering region. More information: www.usccb.org/ccee
Envelopes for this special collection are available on the table in the vestibule and will be collected next weekend, February 20 & 21.

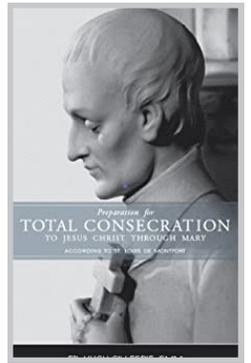
Lenten Reflection Series on the Four Last Things

February 23, March 2, March 9 & March 16

Everyone (recommended 18 years and older) is encouraged to join your host, Charlie Giroux, each week as he presents a select recording from the late great Archbishop Fulton Sheen on the important topics: Death, Judgement, Purgatory/Heaven, and Hell.

Free Virtual Series, 7:00PM - 8:30PM. To register, please email:

Charlie Giroux, Giroux.charles@shms.edu





Come Home to Hope - Letter from Archbishop Vigneron to the Faithful of the AOD

February 9, 2021. Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Sacred Liturgy, and particularly the Holy Eucharist, is the very heart and foundation of our Catholic faith. It is during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that the saving death and resurrection of Jesus is made present to us, our covenant with Our Lord is renewed, and God, in the person of Jesus Christ, comes to us and makes himself truly present for us in his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is an irreplaceable gift; a foretaste of Heaven itself.

When the pandemic first began, in the midst of tremendous uncertainty, it was necessary to suspend all public liturgies. During this time, we assessed the situation in light of public health information and explored a safe way to bring Christ to the people, both through the



Word of God and the Sacraments. Given the gravity of the Sunday obligation to attend Mass, this decision was not undertaken lightly. Then, we cautiously returned to Mass with prudent restrictions, such as capacity limits and rigorous cleaning protocols, to allow for the resumption of essential public worship without undue risk of accelerating the pandemic. During these difficult months of pandemic, our pastors, parishes, and all the faithful have adapted in order to ensure the health and well-being of everyone in our local communities. 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.

As part of our adaptations, many of our parishes have broadcast Masses over the internet during these last several months. While this has been a means to help Catholics nourish their souls when they could not be present for Mass, we must remember that it cannot become the norm. God did not come to us virtually. He came to us — and continues to come to us — in the flesh. As Catholics, unmediated contact with the Real Presence of the flesh and blood of Our Lord in offering this sacrifice to the Father is irreplaceable and essential. We recall Christ's own words when he foretold the gift of the Holy Eucharist:

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." (John 6: 54-56)

In recognition of the essential and central nature of the Eucharist Sacrifice in our lives as Catholics, and in acknowledgement of my duty as shepherd to care for the souls of everyone within our diocese, it is important that I lead more of us back to Mass, when and where possible. **That is why the general dispensation from the Sunday obligation will be extended only for one month, until March 13.** With its expiration, I intend to grant some particular dispensations to those in need. It is time for us to welcome back more of the faithful with a renewed amazement that we have a God who is so close to us and who has such a deep love for us that he comes to us in flesh and blood. Active participation in Mass is an occasion for all of us to avail ourselves of the immeasurable spiritual graces Christ desires for his faithful through his Paschal Sacrifice.

We know that there remains the concern for spread of infection, particularly among the winter months when we live indoors to a greater degree. All of us must remain vigilant to limit its spread, particularly among those most vulnerable. With this in mind, I am granting particular dispensations from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation for people in certain circumstances, including those who are ill and those who care for anyone who is at-risk of serious complications from COVID-19. I am making a particular request that those who are ill or think they might be ill to refrain from this in-person participation in the liturgy as an act of justice and charity to others. Those who would experience significant anxiety or fear of getting sick from being in a public setting are similarly dispensed from their obligation to attend. More information about the particular dispensations can be found (on page 3 of this bulletin and on the Archdiocese website: www.aod.org/comehometohope-letter). In allowing the general dispensation to expire, we welcome back to Mass all Catholics who have already been engaged in other activities that would present a similar or greater risk of exposure, such as eating out at restaurants, traveling, partaking in non-essential shopping, and widening one's circle of contacts. These individuals should also prepare to return to Mass in recognition of its preeminence in our lives as Catholics.

The health and safety of our communities is and always will be paramount as we continue to closely monitor local conditions. For that reason, I am continuing the liturgical directive that all the faithful present at Mass, with the exception of small children, wear a mask or face-covering. If this proves impossible for you or a family member, please speak with your priest. Additionally, our churches will remain limited to no more than 50 percent of available capacity for the near future, and many other existing protocols will remain in place. The Archdiocese is committed to assisting pastors to adjust Mass schedules or offer additional public Masses, insofar as possible, to make it easier for as many of the faithful as possible to attend Mass while still practicing social distancing during the approaching Lent and Easter seasons.

At the beginning of this pandemic, I entrusted the Archdiocese of Detroit to Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness for those who suffer illness, asking that, through her intercession, God would grant healing and protection to the people of southeast Michigan and beyond. I ask you, brothers and sisters, to join me in offering prayers of thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother for her intercession so far and to pray for her continued accompaniment. With her help, let us persevere in hope to face the challenges of this virus and continue to give witness to our confidence in the good news of the Lord's victory over suffering and death.

With assurances of my prayers for you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron

Archbishop of Detroit