

Third Sunday of Lent
March 7, 2021



SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST SVĚTÝCH
CYRILA A METODA



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



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

“He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area.” -Jn 2:14-15a

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

MASS Intentions

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March 6, First Saturday – Prvá Sobota

- 9:00AM For the Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
❖ For the Members of the Rosary Society
❖ †Lou, Michael, & John Roy
- 5:30PM For Melissa Johnson & Family req. Aunt & Uncle
❖ For Al & Ann Varchetti
❖ For the Drozdowski Family
❖ †Anna Sutherland ❖ †Octavio Flores
❖ †Esther Norris
❖ †Joann Lichocki req. Ken and Mary Ann Warner

March 7, Third Sunday of Lent – Nedela

Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

- 7:30AM For Marge Lewandowski req. Thursday Bible Group
❖ For Ernest & Maria Gaiera ❖ For Irene Maciag
❖ For the Menard & Daniel Families
- 9:30AM (Livestreamed)
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Nancy Agruza
❖ For File & †Prek Pllumaj
❖ †Nellie Martha Zuhn ❖ †Jean Banks
❖ †Rush Limbaugh req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny
❖ †Gary & Roland Gasparski
- 11:30AM (Slovak)
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ †Janka Kolarikova req. Daniela Grisak
❖ †Karel Pondel req. Sobolic Family
❖ †James Robine ❖ †Jozef Szwarc
❖ †Anna Sovikova req. Stefan & Marta Sobolic
❖ †Jan Patlevič ❖ †Anna Bachanová
- 6:00PM (Latin)-Tridentine:
For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM For the Priests of St. Cyril's ❖ For Randy Ray
❖ For Kathy O'Reilly ❖ For Chrissy Petterle
❖ For John Matthew Ko
❖ †Rush Limbaugh req. Sorisho Family

March 8, Monday – Pondelok

- 9:00AM For Jessica Hanna (B'Day)
❖ For Edward & Mary Kelly
❖ †Alice DiCicco req. DiCicco Family
- 12:00PM For Amanda AhHee (B'Day) req. Parents
❖ For AnnMarie Laduke
❖ †Mike Foley req. Family

March 9, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM For Jagoda Jagustin ❖ For Carol Barduca
- 12:00PM For Rosemary Shamoon
❖ †Isaac Kappy req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny
❖ †Johnathan Banks

March 10, Wednesday – Streda

- 8:30AM *Stations of the Cross*
- 9:00AM (Latin)
For Sarah Hanna (B'Day)
❖ For Paul & Julie Varchetti & Family
❖ †Brian Czach
- 12:00PM For Sophia & Clara Michael
❖ For AnnMarie Laduke
❖ †Chester Rudzewicz

March 11, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM For Opal Timmerman (B'Day)
❖ For Christina Hamama
- 12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ †Benita Pablo
❖ †Timothy Konowalski
- 7:00PM For Mark Varchetti
❖ For Judy Zabawski
❖ For Jeffrey & Luke Pawlowski

March 12, Friday – Piatok

- 6:00AM For Glen & Amy Varchetti & Family
- 12:00PM For Sam Shamoon ❖ For Lourdes Shamoon
❖ †Rush Limbaugh req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny
Stations of the Cross
- 6:30PM In Thanksgiving req. Aziz Family
- 7:00PM ❖ For John Shkreli ❖ For File & †Prek Pllumaj

March 13, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM For the Members of O.L. Mother of Mercy Secular
Disclaled Carmelites
❖ For Patricia Kornelis (B'Day)
❖ †Jose Manuel Izquierdo
- 5:30PM For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family
❖ For Melissa Johnson & Family req. Aunt & Uncle
❖ For Nate & Theresa Robinson & Family
❖ For File & †Prek Pllumaj
❖ †David Chupa ❖ †Jonathan Michael Banks

March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent – Nedela

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

- 7:30AM For Carl & +Stephanie Varchetti & Family
❖ †Joan Bollmer
❖ †Muriel Fresard
- 9:30AM (Livestreamed)
For Sean, Sarah and Isabelle Sandelands
❖ For John Shkreli ❖ For Nancy Agruza
❖ For Debra Konowalski (B'Day) & Family req. Antonina Albino
❖ †Esther Norris req. Alma Warman
❖ †Josephine T. Hastings
❖ †Isaac Kappy req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny
- 11:30AM (Slovak)
†Ján Brodtko Gazdík a z rodiny Gazdíkovej
❖ †Paul Szwarc ❖ †Peter Piatek
❖ †Stuart Hess req. Daniela Grisak
❖ †Karel Pondel req. Cisar Family
- 6:00PM (Latin)-Tridentine:
†Robert Stout Sr. req. Family
- 8:30PM For the Intentions of All Parishioners

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

SPRING
FORWARD



Move Clocks Ahead One Hour



Third Sunday of Lent • March 7, 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 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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS: 8:30AM - 9AM & 11:30AM - 12PM

TUESDAYS: 5:30AM - 6AM & 11:30AM - 12PM

WEDNESDAYS: 8:30AM - 9AM & 11:30AM - 12PM

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS DURING LENT: 5:30AM - 6AM, 11:30AM - 12PM & 6:30PM - 7PM

SATURDAYS: 8:30AM - 9:30AM

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

***GENERAL DISPENSATION from Obligation to Attend Mass on Sundays & Holy Days EXPIRES NEXT SATURDAY, March 13**

Archbishop Vigneron announced that the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days will expire next 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.

***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.

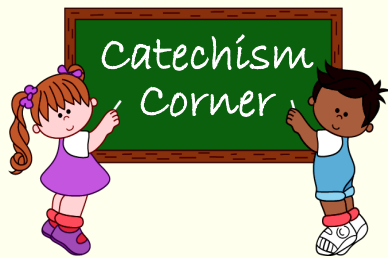
While the general dispensation is removed, there are specific instances where the dispensation will continue, as well as those circumstances where there is no obligation in the first place. One does not have an obligation to attend Mass on Sunday in the following circumstances:

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.



Catechism Corner

Catechism Class Schedule:

Wednesday, March 10: **Class at 6:15PM**
 Saturday, March 13: **8th Grade Confirmation Retreat from 12:00PM-2:00PM**
 Wednesday, March 17: **Class at 6:15PM**
 Wednesday, March 24: **Class at 6:15PM**
 Wednesday, March 31: **No Class (Holy Week)**
 Wednesday, April 7: **No Class (Easter Week)**

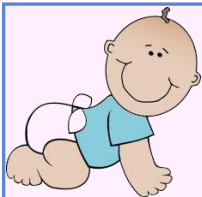
In accordance with the AOD Guidelines, I will be overseeing the Circle of Grace Training on March 17 during class for K - 8th grades. There will be different talks accommodating the students' maturity level. "Circle of Grace is the approved safe environment training program for elementary and high school students enrolled in religious education in the Archdiocese. The goal of the Circle of Grace program is to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. Circle of Grace is the love and goodness of God that surrounds us and all others. It is the recognition that God is with us always and is there to help us in difficult situations. Through the Circle of Grace Program, adults assist children and youth to recognize God's love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a Circle of Grace.

The Circle of Grace program teaches children and young people to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real life struggles".

If you decide that your wish is for your **child not to attend**, please fill out the '**Opt Out Form**' sent home February 24 or contact your child's teacher to receive another copy. So it is not confusing, if you choose for your child to attend, you do nothing but bring them to class. The students whose parents are opting out will go to another classroom during the lesson and return when it is over. All students please report to their normal classrooms that evening.

Of course, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (586) 726-2911 or cschuller@saintcyrils.church. I would like to once again share something that happen a few years ago during the Circle of Grace Training. When the 7 year olds were asked if they were approached by a man at a park to help him find his lost puppy, would they go, one sweet young man answered yes. With beautiful compassion, this young boy wanted to help someone. He learned from his wonderful Catholic parents to help others (Works of Mercy). You understand that I was hoping for a "no, tell him to ask an adult". I explained that we do want to help others but we must also know when it is appropriate. We must trust God's Grace and the funny feeling in the stomach the Holy Spirit gives us when something just isn't right; that message from Him telling us to run to a trusted adult for help. The reason I share this is that I feel if one child learns from this program to help preserve their innocence and well-being, it is well worth one week's inconvenience to our class schedule.

May God Bless You and Your Families, *Carroll Schuller*



Baby Item Collection

Next Weekend • March 13 & 14

Image of God Pregnancy Centers are lifelines to women experiencing crisis pregnancies. Besides financial assistance, the four Image of

God 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 by bringing a baby care item or clothing when you come to Saturday evening or Sunday Holy Mass next weekend, March 13 and 14. Leave your item(s) 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)**
- **Rear-Facing Car Seats**

Thank you for your support of the mothers who choose LIFE for their children and the angels at Image of God who help them!



Life Teen High School Ministry • Monday, March 8

"Worship - A Night about Liturgy"

7:00PM—8:45PM

EDGE Middle School Ministry • Thursday, March 11

"Trusting God in the Storm - A Night on God's Faithfulness"

7:00PM - 8:45PM

If you have questions about Life Teen or EDGE, 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

Holy Hour • Saturday, March 20

Angelic Warfare ... the Battle for Souls Continues ...

A Call to Mary presents a special Hour of Consolation and Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart Mary for all of the blasphemies, insults, sacrileges and offenses committed against them every day throughout the world. Please join A Call to Mary on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 10:00AM (following the 9:00AM Holy Mass) for this special Holy Hour. If we do not respond to the requests of our Blessed Mother, we shall suffer the consequences of sin and the Justice of Almighty God.

Our Lady of Fatima warned us over 100 years ago, that if people did not repent and turn back to God, Russia would spread her errors throughout the world, there would be wars, famine and persecution of the Church. Please join A Call to Mary for this important Holy Hour and pray for the Triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Enjoy the Best Fish Fry in Town

Fridays, March 12, 19 & 26 🐟 4:00PM - 7:00PM



Fish Fry

Curbside Pick-Up Only

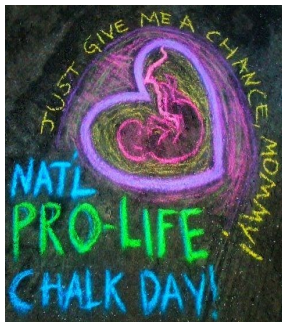
MEAL MENU:

- Battered Cod (3 pcs.) with French Fries, Cole Slaw & Roll (\$10)
- Battered Cod (3 pcs.) with Mac 'N Cheese, Cole Slaw & Roll (\$10)
- Butterfly Shrimp (6 pcs.) with French Fries, Cole Slaw & Roll (\$10)
- Butterfly Shrimp (6 pcs.) with Mac 'N Cheese, Cole Slaw & Roll (\$10)
- Blackened or Grilled Salmon with Rice & Roll (\$12)

SIDE ORDERS AVAILABLE:

- Joe's Home-made Clam Chowder (\$5)
- Mac 'N Cheese (\$4), French Fries (\$3), Rice (\$3) & Cole Slaw (\$1)

CASH, CHECKS & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!
Sponsored by: St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus



National Pro-Life Chalk Day **Tuesday, March 23**

On this day, students take to the streets, schools, college campuses (and Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parking Lot) to draw pro-life words and slogans all over the sidewalks!!! This is a wonderful way to draw attention to pro-life facts and shed light on ways to find help!

Church Cleaning Day • Tuesday, March 30

Help is needed to make "our" church beautiful for Easter Sunday. If you are available to help clean the church on Tuesday, March 30, after the 12:00PM Holy Mass, please sign up on the form in the vestibule or contact the Parish Office, (586) 726-6911. Thank you!

Blood Drive • Wednesday, March 31

Our next Blood Drive is during Holy Week on Wednesday, March 31, from 1:00PM—7:00PM in the Father Mikus Parish Hall. Without the proper amount of blood on-hand, patients (perhaps even our family members, friends or parishioners) may not have blood available for necessary operations or emergencies. Please HELP SAVE LIVES and sign up today.

If you have questions about the Blood Drive, please call:
an American Red Cross representative at
1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit:
www.redcross.org



Parish Slovak Festival

Planning Meeting — Tuesday, March 16, 7:00PM

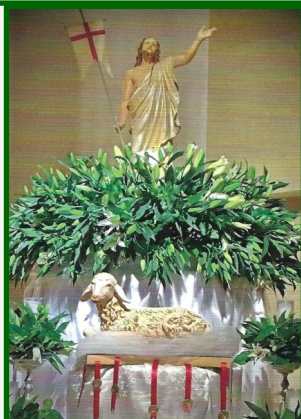
Our Annual Festival is back!

Preliminary plans have begun for the festival, but we need your help. Please join us at our first Festival Planning Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00PM (Meeting location TBD). The festival is the parish's largest and most fun fundraising event. If you are interested in helping at the festival, come meet with us on March 16. ALL are welcome!

If you have questions, please contact:
John Fournier, (248) 410-5866

FESTIVAL DATES:

Weekend of August 27—August 29



Easter Novena Mass Cards Available

Our Easter Novena will begin on Easter Monday, April 5. Novena Mass Cards are for living or deceased relatives and friends and are available in English and in Slovak. (Suggested Donation: \$10 each)

Novena Holy Mass Cards are available in the Parish Office on weekdays and in the vestibule on weekends.

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

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 weekend collection basket or make your donation online (www.saintcyrls.church) using PushPay by Easter Sunday, April 4. Please make a *check payable to Ss. Cyril & Methodius and include Tanzania on the memo line*.

† **Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Centers:** Thanks to the time and talents of several tech volunteers, Image of God'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 Image of God 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 Image of God maintain its internet presence, keep the four centers open and continue offering a lifeline to women experiencing crisis pregnancies. Place a *check payable to Ss. Cyril & Methodius in a white Lenten collection envelope* and put it in the weekend collection basket or make your donation to the Christian Service fund online (www.saintcyrls.church) using PushPay by Easter Sunday, April 4.

PLEASE NOTE: Donations made to Ss. Cyril & Methodius by check or through PushPay, will be shared between Image of God and St. Christine's, per Archdiocesan guidelines.

† **St. Christine Christian Services (SCCS):** The food pantry and soup kitchen operated by SCCS has had to adapt not just to COVID restrictions but also to an increased number of people needing help. The weekly food pick-up has become a drive-up event and the soup kitchen's hot meals are carry-out only. Along with the increase in clients, costs have also increased. Help SCCS continue its vital mission of bringing food to the needy with a monetary donation. Place a *check payable to Ss. Cyril & Methodius in a white Lenten collection envelope* and put it in the weekend collection basket or make your donation to the Christian Service fund online using PushPay by Easter Sunday, April 4. You can also give directly to SCCS online at sccsdetroit.org

PLEASE NOTE: Donations made to Ss. Cyril & Methodius by check or through PushPay, will be shared between Image of God and St. Christine's, per Archdiocesan guidelines.

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 needy 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 Ss. Cyril & Methodius and place it in a white Lenten collection envelope* and place it in the collection basket on Easter Sunday. On the "Fasting for Food" line (on the envelope), write in the amount of your donation that was from your Lenten fasting.

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 Image of God 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 and a 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 christian-service@saintcyrls.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.*

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

Our Church History • The Slovak Dominican Sisters of Oxford, Michigan

In 1913 four Dominican Sisters left Olomouc, Repcin, Czechoslovakia and came to Pennsylvania at the request of a parish priest for the purpose of teaching the children of Slovak immigrants. Over a period of nine years, the sisters taught in Ford City and Homestead, Pennsylvania. In 1921 they moved to Windber, Pennsylvania.

The unofficial beginning of the Dominican Sisters of Oxford began in 1923 when Sister Mary Salesia (DeSales) Zavodnik, appointed by Mother General Augustin Stuchla, in Czechoslovakia, bestowed the Dominican religious habit upon three young American-born postulants who joined the Slovak Sisters: Sister Mary Joseph Gazda, Sister Mary Rose Urban and Sister Mary Dominica Palun. With this act, Sister Mary DeSales Zavodnik became the Foundress of a new Dominican Congregation in America.

That same year, Sister Mary DeSales Zavodnik and Sister Mary Joseph Gazda came to Detroit to solicit financial assistance. They met Father Joseph Zalibera and accepted his invitation to teach in a temporary school. On September 8, 1923, classes opened in the first Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church building located on Heintz Street in Detroit. This marked the beginning of a long and dedicated teaching ministry of the Dominican Sisters at St. Cyril's parish.

By May 1925, a site for the first American Motherhouse and Novitiate was being considered and Sister DeSales asked Bishop Michael Gallagher for permission to establish the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters in the United States. In January 1926, Bishop Gallagher gave his permission and appointed Reverend Joseph Zalibera as Advisor and Spiritual Director. Through Father's skilled negotiations, he succeeded in obtaining the property on Van Dyke and 13 Mile Road in Warren, Michigan as a gift for the Sisters and then helped them with financing their first Motherhouse. The groundbreaking was held on May 27, 1927, and this first small Motherhouse was dedicated to St. Joseph, in honor of Father Zalibera.

In 1939, the family of Detroit industrialist, Aaron Mendelson, donated the family 36-acre estate on Scott Lake in Pontiac (now Waterford), to Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit. In order to accommodate the growing community of Sisters, the Archbishop in turn donated the estate named Menscola (MENdelson SCott LAke) to the Dominican Sisters in exchange for their Motherhouse in Warren. With some remodeling, the Menscola Manor became their new Motherhouse. On January 22, 1941, Sister Mary Joseph Gazda was named Mother Provincial of the American Foundation.

During the next several years, the Sisters extended their teaching responsibilities to other parish schools in Michigan, and as the congregation continued to grow, larger facilities became necessary since the Motherhouse in Waterford was no longer adequate and expansion was not feasible. On January 30, 1948, the community purchased 800 acres from Mr. and Mrs. Marvin E. Coyle, Lakeview Manor, in Oxford, Michigan. Under the leadership of Sister Mary Joseph Gazda, the Dominican Sisters of Oxford expanded their ministry beyond teaching and began caring for the sick and elderly. Their former Motherhouse on Scott Lake was transformed into a health care facility and became Menscola Convalescent Home. It opened November 6, 1948, and was staffed by five sisters.

Difficulties in regular communication caused by World War II and the Communist rule of Czechoslovakia prompted the Sisters to petition for a separation of the American Province from the European Motherhouse. On August 18, 1950, the official decree from the Sacred Congregation for Religious declared the American Province separate from the Motherhouse in Europe. Bishop Allen Babcock read the Decree of Separation and Cardinal Mooney bestowed St. Rose of Lima as the patron of the Congregation. The Dominican Sisters of Oxford became an autonomous Congregation and were then commonly referred to as the Oxford Dominicans. They continued to serve Slovak parishes and also taught at schools and other institutions that were not Slovak.

(To be continued ...)



Dominican Sisters of Oxford, Michigan, with their Co-Founder, Father Joseph Zalibera.