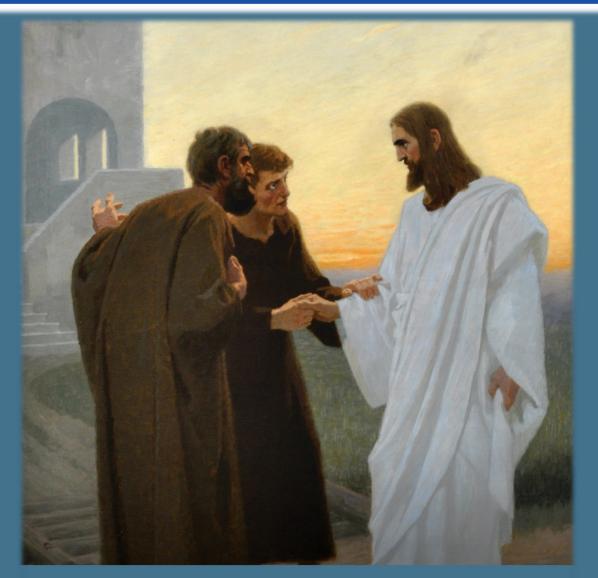
Third Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 23, 2023



SAINTS CYRIL AND FARNOSŤ SVÄTÝCH METHODIUS PARISH CYRILA A METODA

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



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

600

They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" - Lk 24:33-34

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

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

Intentions

April 22, Saturday - Sobota		April 26, Wednesday - Streda	
9:00AM	For the Members of O.L. Mother of Mercy		(Latin)
510 01111	Secular Discalced Carmelites	9:00AM	For Ava Anne Lossia 🏵 For Cara Hups
	✤For the Menard & Daniel Families		♦ †Ron Cox ♦ †Lesh Dushaj
	 For Bernard Hornbacher (B'Day) req. Family 	12:00PM	For Lourdes & Bernadette * For Tony &
	 tor bernard normalener (b bay) req. ranning tarry Asker 		For Anthony Yanik req. Mary Bann
5:30PM	In Thanksgiving		For Joaquin & Fran Sibug req. Julie Si
		April 27, Thursday - Štvrtok	
	 For the Intentions of the St. Monica Sodality For Alagne Maria Karlia (P/Dar) 	6:00AM	For Linsay Fayad (B'Day)
	 For Alanna Maria Korkis (B'Day) 		For Cara Hups For Jordan Henning
	For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family		For Zaraif Dalal & Family
	For Meg Hintzsche req. Langlois Family	12:00PM	For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
	✤For Christina Kovacs & Family		For the Nathan Meier Family
	✤For Yvonne Persichetti		✤ For Ricky Vennettilli req. Lucio & Yvc
April 23,	Sunday - Nedeľa		†Orest, Natalie & Walley Duzey
Third Sunday of Easter		7:00PM	For a Special Intention * For Charlene
	Acts 2:14,22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35		✤ For Conversion of Russia, China & No
7:30AM	For the Intentions of All Parishioners		♦ † Fr. Edward Prus
9:30AM	For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG	April 28,	Friday - Piatok
	 For the Intentions of the Knights of Columbus- 	Memoria	al of Saint Louis Grignon de Mont
	St. Nicholas Council & Families	6:00AM	For Lucy Timmerman (B'Day)
	✤For Thomas Fuller ❖For Gerald Sadecki		✤For Samantha Johnson (B'Day) req. F
	♦ FOI THOMAS FUNET ♦ FOI GETAID SADECKI ♦ TRafael Drensek		♦ †Cindy Desser
	♦ TRafael Drenser ♦ TRafael Drenser ♦ TRafael Drenser		🛠 †Thomas Langlois req. Langlois Fam
		12:00PM	For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family
11 00 1 1 5	*†Anna Apazeller req. Friends & Family		For Abitsam Babbie
11:30AM	(Slovak)		♦ †Rosie Davis ♦ †Edward & †Agatha
	For Fr. Juraj req. the Rosary Society	April 29,	Saturday - Sobota
	✤For Grace ❖For Cara Hups	- ·	al of Saint Catherine of Siena,
	For Gabriela Liptakova	memori	Virgin and Doctor of the Church
	✤For Gary Davis ✤For Elizabeth Aguilera	0.00 4 1/	-
	† Emilia Rafaidus req. the Rosary Society	9:00AM	For Luke Pawlowski
8:30PM	For All Ss. Cyril & Methodius Priests, Deacons & Fami-		 ✤For Michael Desser (B'Day) �For Henry Miller (B'Day) �For Marti
	lies & Loved Ones	1.0001	
April 24	For Joanne Macayaon (18th B'Day) req. Jimenez Fami-	1:00PM	*First Holy Communion Mass For the Intentions of the First Commu
	ly	5:30PM	For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG
	✤For Stanczak Family	5.50P M	 ✓ For Deacon Phil & Janice McCown re
	For Tessie Kowalski req. Catherine Alexandria Thom-		 For Deacon Fine & Jance McCown re For Vocations to the Priesthood & Re
	as		 For vocations to the Presthood & Re For the Sick & Suffering
	♦ + Karin Ryder ♦ + Lesh Dushaj		 For Andy Parker req. Langlois Family
	♦ TIrma Persichetti req. Lou & Yvonne		 For Lorraine Drozdowski
	Monday - Pondelok		♦ For Lorranie Drozdowski ♦ TStephanie & Walter Duzyj
-	-	Anril 20	
9:00AM	For Sr. Mary Andrea RSM	April 30, Sunday - Nedeľa	
	For Roz Gietzen req. Schuller Family	Fourth S	unday of Easter
	✤For Cara Hups		Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10,1-1
	♦ †Asberry Davis	7:30AM	For Claudia Bihar (B'Day) req. Family
12:00PM	For Lourdes & Bernadette		For Cara Hups
	For Monir & Alia Korkis		†James Harris req. Mila Flores
	♦ †Joe Olson ♦ †Lesh Dushaj		♦ †Kenneth O'Keefe ♦ †Dennis Raffer
April 25, '	Tuesday - Utorok		♦ †Lesh Dushaj ♦ †John Maciag req.
6:00AM	For Pope Francis	10:00AM	*May Crowning*
	♦ For Fr. Mark Desser		For the Intentions of All Parishioners
	 For Brad Chasney (B'Day) req. Family 	8:30PM	For Amy Shamoon
	For Dominic Bihar (B'Day) req. Family		♦ †Hana, †Sabriya, †Iman Al Boutany
12:00PM	For Mark Wilkins		♦ †Dennis Francis req. Gus & Marilou
12:00PW			
	✤For Lourdes & Bernadette ♦For Dr. Ghaith Ibrahim		♦ †Irma Persichetti req. Lou & Yvonne
	†Daniel Traskie req. Family		♦ † Joe Olson ♦ † Theodore K. & Joe R

April 26, V	Vednesday - Streda			
	(Latin)			
9:00AM	For Ava Anne Lossia 🚸 For Cara Hups			
	♦ † Ron Cox ♦ † Lesh Dushaj			
12:00PM	For Lourdes & Bernadette � For Tony & Vickie			
	For Anthony Yanik req. Mary Bann			
	For Joaquin & Fran Sibug req. Julie Siwa			
April 27, T	hursday - Štvrtok			
6:00AM	For Linsay Fayad (B'Day)			
	For Cara Hups *For Jordan Henning			
	For Zaraif Dalal & Family			
12:00PM	For the Holy Souls in Purgatory			
	For the Nathan Meier Family			
	For Ricky Vennettilli req. Lucio & Yvonne Persichetti			
	♦ †Orest, Natalie & Walley Duzey			
7:00PM				
	For Conversion of Russia, China & North Korea			
	+ Fr. Edward Prus			
April 28, F	Friday - Piatok			
Memorial	of Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest			
6:00AM	For Lucy Timmerman (B'Day)			
	For Samantha Johnson (B'Day) req. Family			
	♦ †Cindy Desser			
	🛠 🕇 Thomas Langlois req. Langlois Family			
12:00PM	For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family			
	✤For Abitsam Babbie			
	*†Rosie Davis *†Edward & †Agatha Smak req. Family			
April 29, S	aturday - Sobota			
Memorial	of Saint Catherine of Siena,			
	Virgin and Doctor of the Church			
9:00AM	For Luke Pawlowski			
9.001111	✤ For Michael Desser (B'Day)			
	 For Henry Miller (B'Day) For Martin Szollosi 			
1:00PM	*First Holy Communion Mass			
	For the Intentions of the First Communicants			
5:30PM	For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG			
	✤ For Deacon Phil & Janice McCown req. Warman Family			
	✤ For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life			
	✤ For the Sick & Suffering			
	For Andy Parker req. Langlois Family			
	✤For Lorraine Drozdowski			
	♦ †Stephanie & Walter Duzyj			
April 30, Sunday - Nedeľa				
-	nday of Easter			
	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10,1-10			
7:30AM	For Claudia Bihar (B'Day) req. Family			
7.001111	For Cara Hups			
	♦ †James Harris req. Mila Flores			
	♦ †Kenneth O'Keefe ♦ †Dennis Rafferty			
	♦ †Lesh Dushaj ♦ †John Maciag req. Wife			
10:00AM	*May Crowning*			
	For the Intentions of All Parishioners			
8:30PM	For Amy Shamoon			
	♦ †Hana, †Sabriya, †Iman Al Boutany			
	Tornis Francis req. Gus & Marilou			
	♦ TBruce Wasikowski			



Third Sunday of Easter • Sunday, April 23, 2023

Fr. Libor Marek, Priest in Solidum • Imarek@saintcyrils.church Fr. Juraj Nuota, Priest in Solidum • jnuota@saintcyrils.church Deacon Phil McCown • wadephil@yahoo.com Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell@gmail.com Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrils.church

Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAYS: 9:00AM & 5:30PM (Vigil) SUNDAYS: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak) & 8:30PM MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: 9:00AM & 12:00PM TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS: 6:00AM & 12:00PM THURSDAYS & FIRST FRIDAYS: 6:00AM, 12:00PM & 7:00PM

Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS CONFESSION SCHEDULE

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAY: 8:30AM - 9:00AM & 11:30AM - 12:00PM TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS: 5:30AM-6:00AM & 11:30AM-12:00PM THURSDAYS & FIRST FRIDAYS: 5:30AM - 6:00AM, 11:30AM - 12:00PM & 6:30PM-7:00PM SATURDAY: 8:30AM - 9:00AM

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS: 10:00AM - 5:00PM TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: 11:00AM - 5:00PM WEDNESDAYS: 10:00AM - 2:00PM *Office is closed during 12:00PM Holy Mass

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: THURSDAYS: 1:00PM - 7:00PM



Next Sunday, April 30, the 9:30AM and 11:30AM (Slovak) Holy Masses will be combined into one *May Crowning Mass*, beginning at 10:00AM!

MAY CROWNING RECEPTION

There will be a Reception in the Fr. Mikus Hall after the May Crowning Holy Mass.

The Rosary Society requests that you please bring your donation of dessert finger foods (on disposable platters) to the Father Mikus Hall prior to the 10:00AM Holy Mass.

If you would like to help at the May Crowning Reception, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or call the Parish Office!

Thank you! The Rosary Society

LADIES of the PARISH

Would you kindly take a few minutes of your time to fill out a brief survey for the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Rosary Society? As the longest-established Parish organization, we are trying to determine the needs of our parishioners today and we need your help. Surveys are located on www.saintcyrils.church, by the posters in the vestibule and gallery or scan the QR code on the right.



Please complete online surveys, or return completed surveys to the Parish Office, by NEXT SUNDAY, April 30.

our

Thank You! The Rosary Society

Thank You! Parish Lenten Projects Donors

Thank-you to all the parishioners and friends who donated food, baby items and Easter baskets for this year's Lenten Projects. Your generosity and concern for neighbors in need brought:

RELIEF to the director of *St. Christine's Food Pantry* whose shelves were almost bare the morning we delivered our food donations and NEARLY 1 MONTH OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD for the struggling families that come through the door each week.

ASSISTANCE and SUPPORT for the parents who are choosing life and raising their babies despite very difficult circumstances. Image of God CPC in Madison Heights is well supplied with diapers and other baby necessities, including \$120, collected at our Baby Shower.

SMILES and EASTER FUN to 61 children whose families are assisted by St. Dominic's Outreach Center.

Thank-you to the men of Trail Life and other volunteers who helped collect and sort all the donations. And thank-you also to those who loaded the trucks and the drivers who made the deliveries. Whether you donated cans of food or other items; whether you gave of your time; or whether you delivered a load of donations; know that you were essential to the success of these parish projects and to caring for local people in need.

Mother's Day Novena



Don't forget the special lady in your life with the perfect gift — a beautiful Mother's Day Novena card for mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, mother-inlaws, stepmothers, wives, aunts, sisters, friends or any woman who has kindly nurtured you with a special motherly love. Mass cards will be available this week in the Parish Office. The 9-day Novena will begin Monday, May 15. \$10 The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most precious gift anyone can receive.

Collecting Stories of Miracles Unexplained Happenings for a Parish Book

I am collecting stories of miracles, supernatural happenings, times when God unexplainably touched your, a relative's, or other's lives and let you know that God's really there. Whether it happened to you or someone you know (dad, cousin, uncle, etc.), if you could please have that person write down the story (or help them), I would like to gather them and put them into a book. The book could be placed in a public space where others might pick it up to rekindle their faith, or perhaps it may bring back to the Faith a family member who has gone astray. Please keep your story as family friendly as possible. They will all appear anonymously and should include a title for the table of contents.

Please email stories to StCyrilstories@gmail.com or hand write and leave for me in the parish office. I can also write them down for you if necessary. Please contact me at the email address above or call me if you have any questions.

Thank you so much, Peter, (248) 250-4502

"A Father's Heart", Movie about St. Joseph • May 1

Joseph of Nazareth, the humble figure barely mentioned in the Bible, has attracted the attention of people all over the world. But why? What do we know about the real St. Joseph? In "A Father's Heart", the filmmakers searched over five continents for the people whose lives have been transformed by this mysterious man. Husband of Mary. Foster-Father of Jesus. Protector of the Church. Patron of the Dying. Terror of Demons. These are some of the titles attributed to this discreet and silent carpenter from Nazareth. The details of his earthly life may be a mystery, but the miracles that are attributed to him are life changing. "A Father's Heart" features the powerful testimonies of those who have seen authentic miracles brought forth through the intercession of St. Joseph. From radical conversions to impossible cures; from the rebuilding of broken marriages, to aid to the dying - this compelling documentary film reveals just who St. Joseph is and how he acts in the world todav.

"A Father's Heart" is currently scheduled to only be shown on Monday, May 1, in a limited number of theatres. Book your ticket now. Perhaps more showings will be added if there is great interest: https://www.fathomevents.com/events/A-Father's-Heart

Catechism Corner Class Schedule THE MAY CROWNING MASS IN HONOR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10:00AM NEXT SUNDAY, April 30th!

beautiful Mass honoring Our Lady Queen of Heaven!

The Crowning Court will be composed of our Confirmation students. The First Communion class will have a place of honor as Mary's children. All children in the Religious Education Program and the parish are also welcome to participate. Please bring your child/children in their Sunday best to

the parish hall at 9:40AM. Aside from the Confirmandi and Communicants, all other students will process in, offer a flower for Our Blessed Mother and then join their families in their pew for Holy Mass. This will be a very beautiful and memorable occasion. Please support your children at this special liturgy.

THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION IN THE FR. MIKUS HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MASS. PLEASE BRING A FINGER FOOD DESSERT DISH TO SHARE.

(PLEASE DROP YOUR DISH OFF IN THE PARISH HALL BEFORE MASS. THE CATECHISM FAMILIES HAVE ALWAYS GRACIOUSLY SUPPLIED DESSERTS FOR THIS EVENT. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.)

Catechism Calendar:

April 26, 6:15-7:30PM: Class for All & May Crowning Rehearsal for 8th Grade Confirmation Students Friday, April 28, 6:00PM: First Confession & First Holy Communion Rehearsal Saturday, April 29, 1:00PM: First Holy Communion Sunday, April 30, 10:00AM: May Crowning Holy Mass Wednesday, May 3, 6:15PM - 7:30PM: Class for All & Rehearsal & Confession for Confirmandi Saturday, May 6, 5:30PM: Confirmation Holy Mass with Bishop Robert Fisher Wednesday, May 10, 6:15PM - 7:30PM: Class for All (Last Class)

Questions: Carroll Schuller, (586) 726-6911, cschuller@saintcyrils.church or Paul Schuller, (586) 254-9212, p_schuller@yahoo.com

Life Teen High School Ministry • Monday, April 24 "First Things First – A Night Focused on Theology of the Body and How we are Both Body and Soul" 6:45PM - 8:45PM

All high school teens are welcome to Life Teen. Life Nights are dynamic youth gatherings including snacks, games, small group discussions, and an opportunity for teens to learn more about the Catholic faith with their peers.

Our Life Teen Night's this month will focus on being body and soul, death and eternal life, our senior send off night and the freshman welcome night.

Questions or to be added to the mailing list, please contact: Alexandria Collins, (586) 641-7672 or lifeteen@saintcyrils.church

EDGE Middle School Ministry • Thursday, April 27 "Receive - A Night Discussing How Sacraments are Necessary for Salvation" 7:00PM - 8:45PM

All middle school teens (6th, 7th and 8th grade) are welcome to our Edge Nights. Edge Nights are dynamic youth gatherings including snacks, games, small group discussions, and an opportunity for teens to learn more about the Catholic faith at a middle school level.

Our Edge Night's this month will focus on the necessity of sacraments in our lives, how to know God's voice and our end-of -the-year messy game night.

Ouestions or to be added to the mailing list, lease contact: Alexandria Collins, (586) 641-7672 or edge@saintcyrils.church

2,000 Crosses to Stand Against Abortion

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish display of 2,000 white crosses in front of the Parish will be in place until Thursday, April 27. Each cross represents 800 children that will die from abortions in 2023. This is another pro-life project that St. Nicholas Council 7011 supports. Please pray for a end of abortion in our time.

Walking With Moms In Need Committee Update

Our Family of Parishes has formed a Walking With Moms in Need (WWMIN) Committee to prayerfully consider how we can increase outreach to mothers. Mothers facing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy may have concerns about a lack of material, financial, and social services. Knowing that she is not alone and receiving support may allow her to open her heart to God's plan.

During the next few months, our WWMIN committee will be "walking in the shoes" of a pregnant woman in need and taking inventory of the pregnancy resources currently available in our local area. Our committee will identify if there are any gaps and plan a parish response.

Do you know someone in need who needs help now? If so, please contact Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan:

https://ccsem.org/mom/

If you would like to join our WWMIN committee, please contact Betty Abate, babate@saintcyrils.church.

Gardeners Needed: If you like the outdoors and have an interest in keeping our church grounds beautiful, please contact the Parish Office. Your green thumbs are desperately needed!

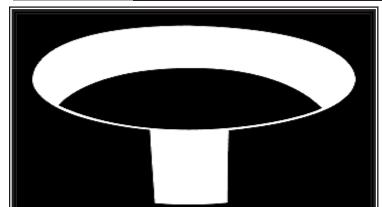
Please set an example for your children by bringing them to this

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Catechísm

Corner

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Sterling Heights



Diaconate Vocation Awareness Night • May 3

Our goal of trying to target more specific regions for vocations to the Diaconate continues with our next Diaconate Vocation Awareness Night taking place Wednesday, May 3, at St. Therese of Lisieux in Shelby Township from 7:00PM – 8:30PM. If you know of anyone who is discerning the call or would like to learn more about the Permanent Diaconate Vocation, whether in the vicinity of the Northeast Region or beyond, please have them RSVP for the event to:

Deacon Chris Beltowski at beltowski.christopher@aod.org or Erin Dewimille at dewimille.erin@aod.org.

Even if the commute is too much this time around, we can gather their info and invite them to an info night closer to them, in the future.

For men who are interested and married: wives are strongly encouraged to attend. Permanent Deacons in the Northeast Region are highly encouraged to accompany men they recommend to this event.

Bilingual Rosary • First Friday, May 5

Our special Bilingual Rosary will be prayed on First Friday, May 5, at 6:00PM. We will be praying the Glorious Mysteries, alternating decades in Slovak and English and end with a beautiful Slovak hymn.

Prayers intentions for our parish community are read before the rosary. If you have a request, we would love to pray for you. Please submit your prayer requests by Wednesday, May 3, by either calling the Parish Office at (586) 726-6911 or emailing babate@saintcyrils,church.

Organized by: Maria Lamerova & Betty Abate

Tools for Growing in Faith * FORMED

As a community, we all have UNLIMITED access to the best Catholic faith formation materials on the market, all in one easy location: <u>www.FORMED.org</u>. FORMED has resources for all ages. There are in-depth faith formation programs, Bible study programs, Lighthouse Catholic Media audio talks, full length movies, children's audio programs and e-books!

All you have to do to gain access is log onto: www.FORMED.org.

Scroll down and enter our parish code: **90c575.** You will then be prompted to set up your own personal account so that you can have full access to all of the amazing faith formation materials available through FORMED.

Advance Directives Presentation • April 29

"Live Well ... Finish Well", an Advance Directives Presentation by Shawn Bennis, RN, C.A.R.E. Program Specialist for Henry Ford Health System will take place at St. Jane Frances de Chantal, 38750 Ryan Rd., on Saturday, April 29, beginning at 9:00AM. The presentation includes a discussion on health care wishes, long term plans and Q & A. Presentation is sponsored by the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Health Ministry.

Total Consecration to Jesus thru Mary Preparation Begins: April 28

Consecration: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary is a beautiful exercise to increase our spirituality and ability to truly serve our Lord Jesus Christ. The basic premise set forth by St. Louis Marie de Montfort is simply that Jesus came into the world through Mary and that for us to always be assured of being close to Jesus, even closer than ever before, we should go through Mary. St. Louis de Montfort (1673 – 1716) developed a 33-day devotion consisting of various prayers and readings to help us to grow in holiness and increase our faith and love for our Lord. It will help us to detach ourselves from the world and bond ourselves more closely with Christ through the example and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consecration to Jesus is for anyone, who is old enough to understand the love of Jesus and Mary. The preparation is intended to prepare our hearts and minds by praying and meditating.

The next preparation begins on Friday, April 28, for all who wish to make, or renew their Consecration on May 31, the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *"Preparation for Total Consecration"* books are available in the parish office for \$10.

Questions or to register to make (or renew) Consecration. please contact the Parish Office: (586) 726-6911



Vacation Bible School • June 19–23

Are you ready for a fabulous time? Get onboard Cat.Chat Airlines and take off on a Radical Ride around the world with Amazing Angels and Super Saints. Buckle up as you prepare to soar through awesome lessons about prayer and how to put it into action. The dates for VBS are June 19-23. This year's theme is "A Radical Ride on the Wings of a Prayer."

Registration begins now. Planning meetings will be on: April 27; May 4, 11, 17, 25, & 31; and June 7 & 12. All meetings begin at 7:00PM and run until 9:00PM.

Registration: <u>https://form.jotform.com/221497037041148</u> Questions,: *Michelle Jones*, (586) 219-6678 or moeprays@gmail.com

Mystagogy ~ Leading Through the Mysteries

On Saturday, April 8, we celebrated the Easter Vigil Mass, the Holy Liturgy that St. Augustine called the "Mother of all Holy Vigils!" On that day, throughout the entire world, the Church received many new Catholics through the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Here at St. Cyril's, we were very blessed to witness these great Sacraments! After months of study, prayer and preparation, members of our R.C.I.A program entered the Church and made all of their Sacraments of Initiation.

Three of the R.C.I.A members are *Neophytes*, or "Newly Baptized," a Greek term meaning "new plant". This term will stay with the newly-baptized for their first year of full communion with the Catholic Church.

In addition, one of them was a *Candidate*, which refers to an adult who was baptized as an infant either as a Roman Catholic or as a member of another Christian community but did not receive further catechetical formation, nor, consequently, the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. She was considered a "candidate" for the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Confirmation and a "candidate" preparing to receive Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. Her candidacy is derived from her Baptism. She is now a new member of the Church.

Although the joyful, long-awaited day has come and gone, their journey is not over. They now are in the final period of formation called mystagogy, which lasts throughout the Easter Season until Pentecost.

What is Mystagogy?

Mystagogy comes from the Greek word meaning "to lead through the mysteries." The Catechism describes mystagogy as a "liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ" (CCC 1075). Mystagogy leads us from the "external" signs and rituals of the liturgy to the "inner" spiritual meaning of the Divine life they signify. Mystagogy is the form of catechesis that helps explore the spiritual treasures contained within the sacraments by continuously reflecting on their meaning and significance in our personal lives of faith. Our faith needs mystagogy because of one simple reason: we celebrate and proclaim a *mystery*.

Mystagogy was the way the early Church Fathers embraced and trained new Christians in the practices and beliefs of the faith. Perhaps the most well known teacher of *mystagogy* was St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386), who delivered a famous series of sermons, known as "mystagogic catecheses" during the time of Lent through the Easter Octave. After the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church revitalized this ancient practice, especially in the R.C.I.A.. But mystagogy isn't just for the newly baptized; it is the way every Catholic can continually deepen their relationship with Christ by daily drawing on the grace of the sacraments.

Please continue to pray for our R.C.I.A. members, the participants, instructors & mentors,

as they enter this beautiful season of Mystagogy!

If you or a loved one have not made, or completed, your sacraments in the Catholic church,

our R.C.I.A. program begins again in September, 2023, for initiation at the Easter Vigil, 2024.

For more information, please contact:

Steven Piskorowski, Director of R.C.I.A., (586) 883-3093



Newly-Baptized & New Members of the Catholic Church: Michael Leschuk, Timothy Guyer, Areeba Siddiqui, Caitlyn Wilton

