

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, July 30, 2023



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



## 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,  
which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and  
sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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

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# MASS Intentions

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## July 29, Saturday - Sobota

### Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus

- 9:00AM For Elizabeth Rencher & Family req. Nash Brown Family  
 ❖ For Charlene Swob (B'Day)  
 ❖ †Dominic Bologna req. Bernadette Mikowski  
 ❖ †Helen Makarewicz
- 11:00AM \*Baptism: Zaylon John Kanan
- 5:30PM ❖ †Helen & Andrew Chalkey req. Mary Anne  
 ❖ †Anna & John Linsky req. Mary Anne  
 ❖ †Anna & Stephen Linsky req. Mary Anne  
 ❖ †Richardz & Christyna Niemyjski req. Marilou & Gus  
 ❖ †Raymond Cetnar req. Connie Beste  
 ❖ †Vicki Fayad ❖ †Louis Mraunac

## July 30, Sunday - Nedela

### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52
- 7:30AM For Felicity Bennett req. Nash Brown Family  
 ❖ For Joy & Mark Wilkins (Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ †Gloria J. Guyer & Family ❖ †James Desser  
 ❖ †Thomas Robert Saccaro req. Family  
 ❖ †Leon Bartlett req. Sophia Skrocki ❖ †Alan Janette
- 9:30AM \*Baptism - Patrick Joseph Drockton  
 For the Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG  
 ❖ For Carmen Dubon (B'Day) req. Family  
 ❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
 ❖ For Jacob Abbott req. Family  
 ❖ †Paul & Mary Jane Grivas  
 ❖ †Estrella Rybicki ❖ †David Stander  
 (Slovak) For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 11:30AM For Alfred Gjergaj req. Mom
- 8:30PM ❖ For Carol Steinbock req. Mary Anne  
 ❖ For Jacquie Burchman req. Mary Anne  
 ❖ For Eddie Yatooma ❖ For Teri Yatooma  
 ❖ †Ralph & Martha Castronova  
 ❖ †Michael Gjonaj req. Margaret Shamon

## July 31, Monday - Pondelok

### Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

- 9:00AM For Eman Louis & Family req. Beth Ledford  
 ❖ For B. Brown & Family  
 ❖ For Megan Gibboney req. Zach Gala  
 ❖ †Dominic Bologna req. Bernadette Mikowski
- 12:00PM For Nagham Korkis (B'Day)  
 ❖ For Randy, Fabian & Fallon Gammo ❖ †Estela Flores  
 ❖ †Emilia Rafaidus req. Stefan & Marta Sobolic

## August 1, Tuesday - Utorok

### Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori,

#### Bishop and Doctor of the Church

- 6:00AM For Caroline Kalisch ❖ †Arnold & Florence Lang  
 ❖ †Mark & Lena Pepaj ❖ †Joan Miller
- 12:00PM For Joel Haio (B'Day) & Family  
 ❖ For Kendall & Sherrie Keil & Family  
 ❖ For J. Daman req. Friend  
 ❖ †Antonette Beski req. Sister, Karen

## August 2, Wednesday - Streda

- 9:00AM (Latin) For William Desser (B'Day)  
 ❖ For Marilyn Pankratz (B'Day) ❖ Gjak Pepaj & Family  
 ❖ †Dominic Bologna

- 12:00PM For a Special Intention for Samantha Babbie  
 ❖ †Robert Stout, Jr. ❖ †Al & Stacy Fedak  
 ❖ †Ann M. Pullis

## August 3, Thursday - Štvrtok

- 6:00AM For the Paul Varchetti Family  
 ❖ For Nate & Theresa Robinson & Family  
 ❖ †Marion McGrath
- 12:00PM For Gianna Hanna (B'Day)  
 ❖ For Randy, Fallon, & Fabian Gammo  
 ❖ For Brady Sitto req. Margaret Shamoon  
 ❖ †Dominic Bologna req. Nash Brown Family
- 7:00PM For Eddie Yatooma ❖ For Frank Shaffo  
 ❖ †David Chupa req. Wife  
 ❖ †Diana Fletcher req. Rita Battaglia

## August 4, First Friday - Prvý Piatok

### Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest

- 6:00AM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Noah Langlois  
 ❖ For Millie Mae Till (B'Day) ❖ †Cynthia Yanik
- 12:00PM For the Rosary Makers & Families  
 ❖ For Patrick & Stephanie Korkis (3rd Ann.)  
 ❖ †Thomas Robert Saccaro req. Pawlowski Family  
 ❖ †Greg & Mary Manning & Family
- 7:00PM For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life  
 ❖ For Widad, Steven & Vivian Haisha  
 ❖ †Nuo Ivezaj req. Lidia Nikprelaj ❖ †Larry Asker

## August 5, First Saturday - Prva Sobota

### Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

- 9:00AM For Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 ❖ For the Intentions of the Rosary Society  
 ❖ For Sophia Skrocki & Family ❖ †Louis Allawerdi
- 5:30PM For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family  
 ❖ For Francis Family req. Kevin & Stacy Francis  
 ❖ For Ray & Debbie Konowalski (45th Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ For Roz Gietzen req. Reynolds' Family  
 ❖ For Dan & Jan Atkinson ❖ †Paul & Mary Jane Grivas  
 ❖ †Nuo Ivezaj req. Lidia Nikprelaj

## August 6, Sunday - Nedela

### Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

- Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
- 7:30AM For Adam & Stephanie Brady (Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ For Michelle Gietzen (BD) req. Family  
 ❖ For Frank Shaffo ❖ For Caroline Kalisch  
 ❖ †John Peterson req. Brenda Groleau  
 ❖ †John Maciag req. Wife ❖ †Alan Janette
- 9:30AM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG  
 ❖ For the Intentions of the Knights of Columbus-  
 St. Nicholas Council & Families ❖ For the Louis Family  
 ❖ For John & Elizabeth Curell (63rd Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ †Philip A. Perrone ❖ †Estrella Rybicki  
 ❖ †Rafael Drensek
- 11:30AM (Slovak) For Fr. Libor & Fr. Juraj req. Janet Sullivan  
 ❖ For Michael & Megan Sobolic req. Prusak Family  
 ❖ †Fr. Elemir Mikus (10 yr. Ann.)  
 ❖ †Charles Celusnak req. Dymit Family  
 ❖ †Albert Balaz req. Wife Maria  
 ❖ †Zofia Grislakova req. D. Grislak  
 ❖ †Emilia Rafaidus req. Prusak Family
- 8:30PM For the Intentions of All Parishioners



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Sunday, July 30, 2023

Fr. Libor Marek, Priest in Solidum • [lmarek@saintcyrils.church](mailto:lmarek@saintcyrils.church)  
Fr. Juraj Nuota, Priest in Solidum • [jnuota@saintcyrils.church](mailto:jnuota@saintcyrils.church)  
Deacon Phil McCown • [pmccown@saintcyrils.church](mailto:pmccown@saintcyrils.church)  
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Parish Office • [parishoffice@saintcyrils.church](mailto: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

**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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: THURSDAYS: 1:00PM - 7:00PM**

## 2023 Parish Slovak Festival — Important News

Dear Parishioners, Friends, and Visitors:

It is with regret that we announce the cancellation of the three-day 2023 Parish Slovak Festival, originally scheduled for August 25-27, 2023. It was a difficult decision, but due to the new requirements recently implemented by the Archdiocese of Detroit for parish volunteers (see page 3), it was determined that we could not comply with those requirements in time for a full three-day festival. However, the Festival Committee is exploring whether a one-day event is still possible. Please continue to watch the bulletin for more information. The Parish Festival Raffle will still continue; please see below for further information.

The parish's annual festival is a special time for all of us to come together, socialize, celebrate the parish's Slovak heritage, and raise funds for the parish. With sincere gratitude, we thank the Festival Committee who have worked these last few months with the festival planning and all those who have supported the annual festival. With hope and trust in God's will, we will continue to explore our options and share any plans with you.

*Fr. Libor and Greg Wolf, Festival Chairperson*  
Questions: *Greg Wolf, (248) 321-6845*

## Parish Festival Raffle

The Parish Festival Raffle will still continue.

The main drawing will be on Sunday, August 27, with a grand prize of \$5,000.

**Parishioners** — Raffle tickets were mailed to each registered parishioner and you should have received them by now. If you did not receive your tickets or you would like additional tickets, please stop by the Parish Office or contact Ben Rybicki, Festival Raffle Ticket Chairperson, at (313) 399-3216 or [brybicki61@gmail.com](mailto:brybicki61@gmail.com). If you are unable to purchase or sell your tickets, please return all unsold tickets as we are required to account to the State Charitable Gaming Division for each printed ticket.

**Visitors and Friends** — Raffle tickets may be purchased in the Parish Office during office hours noted below.

The net proceeds from the raffle benefits the parish. If you are able to purchase raffle tickets or sell them to family and friends, your support is greatly appreciated.

Sold and unsold tickets may be returned by dropping them in the collection basket or to the Parish Office.

(Mondays: 10:00AM—5:00PM; Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 11:00AM—5:00PM; Wednesdays: 10:00AM—2:00PM)



# KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT

## Child and Youth Protection



Matthew 25:40 says, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." As Christians we are called to look out for the innocent as if they were Christ himself. In response to this call from Christ, the Archdiocese of Detroit has updated the safe environment policies it has in place to protect children and vulnerable adults. You may have seen some of the bulletin articles or heard Fr. Libor talk about the changes that now expand the certification requirements to all volunteers. The changes being implemented have been deemed necessary by the Archdiocese in order to better comply with the regulations set forth in the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As a result of these changes the following steps must be taken:

1. **All volunteers will need to sign a Code of Conduct** on [virtus.org](https://virtus.org). The virtus system will require you to sign this before you are able to register for a class. If you took the recertification class prior to virtus having this uploaded, you should receive an email asking you to go back into virtus to sign the code of conduct.

2. **Adult volunteers who have regular contact with children** are required to have annual background checks. The current paper form only authorizes us to run the initial background check. Virtus is working on uploading a form to be completed online that will authorize the annual background checks so the paper form will need to be completed now and the online form will need to be completed once it is available online. Completed forms can be dropped off in the Parish Office for Deacon Phil. \*\*

3. **Adult volunteers who do not have regular contact with children** are required to have background checks completed at least biennially.

4. **Any adult volunteer who took a Protecting God's Children course prior to 2020 will need to take a recertification class online at [virtus.org](https://virtus.org) by August 31, 2023.** There is also a Vulnerable Adults Module connected to the recertification class. In all, the combined class takes approximately two hours to complete. It is self-paced so, if needed, you can pause and return later to complete.

5. **Any adult volunteer that has not taken a Protecting God's Children class and has regular contact with children** must take a live Protecting God's Children course in-person or via zoom before volunteering. You can sign up for a class online at [virtus.org](https://virtus.org).

6. **Any adult volunteer who has not taken a Protecting God's Children class and does not have regular contact with children**, must take a class but can choose from either the live version or the self-paced on-line class.

7. **Any teen volunteer (ages 14 - 17)** will need to take the Healthy Relationships for Teens module in virtus. Teens should enter their date of birth when registering at [virtus.org](https://virtus.org) and the proper teen module will be assigned to them. No background checks are required for teens.

8. Every three years an online recertification will be required for the Protecting God's Children & Vulnerable Adults class.

If you do not know your username or password to login to [virtus.org](https://virtus.org), you can select the blue "I need login help" button to try to recover your login information. If you have taken a Protecting God's Children class in the past, it is important that you access your existing account in virtus so you are properly assigned to the recertification class and it will be linked to your previous class. If you are unable to gain access to your account with the "I need login help" button, please contact virtus at (888) 847-8870.

**If you are a group leader**, please send us a list of the names of all the current volunteers involved in your group as well as notify them that they need to take the above steps. From there, it is up to you if you want to have each volunteer notify Deacon Phil or our business manager, Rob Avery, directly when they have completed the class or they may notify you and then you can let us know. Once Deacon Phil is able to complete the background check, confirm the sign off on the code of conduct and confirm the class was completed, we will make sure the group leaders are informed that your volunteers are cleared.

\*\* If you have concerns with providing all of the information requested on the form, many times the background check can be completed with as little as your full name, date of birth, race and sex. A phone number is also helpful so if something of concern shows up on the background check we can discuss it with you directly. **Please be assured all information provided as well as the results of the background checks are kept confidential.** Deacon Phil runs the background checks and in the event that Deacon Phil is unavailable to run the check it will be run by our business manager. If your record is clear, it will be identified as such in the virtus system for recordkeeping purposes. If there is an issue involving violence or abuse on your background check, Deacon Phil will discuss the findings directly with Fr. Libor to determine if the issue is one that will prevent the individual from volunteering. If they are unable to volunteer, the reason will not be discussed with anyone. The background check will consist of a criminal history check only to confirm whether there are any criminal or misdemeanor arrests, charges or convictions. The background check is very important for us to ensure that we are not putting anyone who may have a history of violence or abuse in a volunteer position for the parish.

We greatly appreciate everyone's assistance in ensuring all groups/volunteers are in compliance with these new requirements. Though it certainly is going to take some extra effort by all of our volunteers, we are hopeful that the training is not only helpful in protecting our children and vulnerable adults while at church but also outside of church. I think we can all agree that if we can keep just one child or vulnerable adult from violence or abuse this will all be worth it.

If you have any questions please reach out to either:

Deacon Phil McCown, [pmccown@saintcyrls.church](mailto:pmccown@saintcyrls.church), or Rob Avery, Business Manager, [business@saintcyrls.church](mailto:business@saintcyrls.church)

## Bilingual (Slovak/English) Rosary First Friday, August 4, 6:00PM

The monthly Bilingual Rosary will be prayed on First Friday, August 4, at 6:00PM. We will be praying the Glorious Mysteries in honor of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Decades will alternate between Slovak and English, and we will end with a beautiful Slovak Hymn.

Prayer intentions are gathered throughout the month and read prior to the beginning of the Holy Rosary. If you have a prayer request, please contact the Parish Office by Wednesday, August 2, by emailing [babate@saintcyrls.church](mailto:babate@saintcyrls.church) or calling the office at (586) 726-6911. Thank you!

Organized by: Maria Lamerova and Betty Abate



*"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all devotions;  
it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...  
...if you wish peace to reign in your homes, pray the family Rosary." ~ Pope Saint Pius X*

### Our Lady's Rosary Makers • First Friday, August 4

The Rosary Makers meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. The next meeting is on First Friday, August 4, from 1:00-3:00PM in Room #113. Newcomers are always welcome.

For more information, please call: Jo Ann, (586) 979-1078

### Northland Family Prayer News • Saturday, August 5

July is coming to a close. It is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. We plead the Blood of Jesus over every soul in the world today (living and deceased) - may all come to realize He is the source of life, love, truth, courage, hope, peace, forgiveness and salvation. Lord Jesus, save us and the whole world! Please join us for the following Pro-life prayer events:

The next prayer and witness event outside the Northland Family Planning Clinic, 3810 17 Mile Road (just west of Ryan), takes place Saturday, August 5, from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. Bring your friends, family, rosary and warm weather gear. Park in the shopping center lots nearby - no parking is allowed at the clinic. The prayer event lasts about an hour and is not usually cancelled - you can also pray nearby from your car.

A Pro-Life rosary is usually prayed each Saturday at church. The Joyful and Luminous Mysteries are prayed before Mass, starting at 8:10AM, and the Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries are prayed after 9AM Mass, starting around 9:45AM. This schedule is subject to change.

For more info concerning the Saturday rosary at church or clinic prayer, please contact: Anne Marie at (586) 873-2004.

### Rosary Society Meeting ~ August 5

**MEETING** — The Rosary Society will meet on First Saturday, August 5, after the 9:00AM Holy Mass and Rosary. The meeting starts at approximately 10:15AM in the Fr. Mikus Hall. All ladies, 18 and older, are invited to attend.

**SURVEY** — We thank all of the ladies who took the time to complete our April survey and we are encouraged by the number of responses. We are processing the results and determining our next steps. For anyone who still wants to learn more about us and what we do, we invite you to our next meeting.

Questions: Kathy Holka, 586-703-4043  
or [kholka@aol.com](mailto:kholka@aol.com)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov). More information about the AOD's efforts to address abuse may be found at [protect.aod.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov). Viac informácií o snahe Detroitskej Arcidiecézy predchádzať zneužívaniu je k dispozícii na adrese [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org).

### Assumption Novena Begins August 15

The Novena for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary begins on Tuesday, August 15. Novena Mass Cards are now available: in the Parish Office on weekdays and after Holy Masses on weekends.

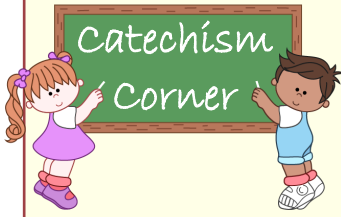
*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
is the most precious gift  
anyone can receive.*



*"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Revelation 12:1*

## Catechism Corner - Registration (Grades K-8th) Limited Space Available

### Did you register your children for Catechism?



August is almost here, the catechism books have been ordered, and the teachers are in place anxiously awaiting the first week of class. Mark your calendars as Catechism Classes will begin Wednesday, September 13, 2023 (6:15- 7:30).

If we have your paperwork, you will receive a packet later this month with your child's teacher, room assignment, calendar, and program notes. Parents that haven't sent in their child's paperwork, please do as soon as possible or we will not be able to promise that your child will have a book or classroom assignment the first week of class.

The cutoff for early registration is July 31st. We must have your paperwork by July 31st to be eligible for the early tuition. Fees go up on August 1st.

**Fees Increase  
August 1**

|                         | <u>Registration BEFORE July 31st</u> | <u>Registration AFTER July 31st</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>*Parishioner:</b>    | \$75 per Student                     | \$125 per Student                   |
| <b>Family Maximum:</b>  | \$200                                | \$300                               |
| <b>Non-Parishioner:</b> | \$125 per Student                    | \$175 per Student                   |
| <b>Family Maximum:</b>  | \$300 Non-Parishioner                | \$400 Non-Parishioner               |
| <b>Home School Fee:</b> | \$20 (during Sacrament Years)        | \$30 (during Sacrament Years)       |
| <b>Kindergarten:</b>    | \$20 Supply Fee                      | \$30 Supply Fee                     |
| <b>Special Needs:</b>   | No Charge                            | No Charge                           |

- ♦ **Only those who are home schooled for other academics may home school for Religious Education.**
- ♦ Home School students making the Sacrament of Communion in 2024 must enroll at this time.
- ♦ Home School students making the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024 (8th grade) and 2025 (7th grade) must enroll at this time. The Confirmation Program is a two year program. You must be enrolled both years to be eligible.

Confirmation Packets were mailed to registered 8th Grade Confirmation Families two weeks ago. If you did not receive a packet of information, we do not have your registration forms.

Families of registered 7th Grade Students received their packets at the parent meeting on July 26th. If you did not receive your child's packet, please contact us.

Any questions, please contact *Paul or Carroll Schuller* at: [cschuller@saintcyrils.church](mailto:cschuller@saintcyrils.church) or (586) 726-6911

Update from:

*Moms* Walking with  
Moms in Need



Our Family of the Good Shepherd Walking with Moms In Need Committee was established in February, 2023. Since then we have been meeting monthly to implement the USCCB Phase 1-5 recommendations. Presently, we are in Phase 2 (Launch the Inventory Process) in which core team members have been visiting local pregnancy resources to determine first-hand what is available to moms in need. Thus far, we have visited/validated

six pregnancy resource centers: Abigayle Ministries, Compassion Pregnancy Center, Image of God, Mary's Mantle (Home for mothers), Mother and Unborn Baby Care, and Pregnancy Aid. We have found all of these to be wonderful resources for mothers. We have plans to visit approximately seven more centers. Once this is accomplished we plan to share our results with the parish and commit to a parish response.

In April, some of our committee members donated household supplies and clothing to a single mother of three children who had lost everything in an apartment fire in Sterling Heights. The St. Jane Francis Conference of St. Vincent de Paul worked with Nationwide Furniture to deliver 2 complete brand new beds. SVdP members also donated other household goods, and a St. Jane parishioner donated several pieces of furniture. Clearly the Holy Spirit at work in our parishes.

In May, we had a speaker from Project Rosie who described their wonderful confidential pregnancy help 24 hour hotline/texting service. Anyone needing emotional or physical support for pregnancy can Call or Text (616) 312-2282.

Thank you for your continued prayers for mothers in need and for our parish committee. Anyone who would like to join our core committee or be a member at large please email

[babate@saintcyrils.church](mailto:babate@saintcyrils.church)

Thank you & may God bless you, *Betty Abate*

For a current list of  
pregnancy resources:  
<https://ccsem.org/mom/>





## August ~ Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



### History and Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



In 1854, Blessed Pope Pius IX, proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. This affirmed the truth that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the very moment of conception, was free from sin, and this means that Mary is truly 'Full of Grace' – that Divine Grace flows unhindered into and through Her. Mary is unable to do anything other than be entirely devoted to God.

While veneration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary began much earlier in the Church's history, it was only in 17th Century France that this particular devotion became intensively developed and widespread. St. Jean Eudes (1601-1680), in particular, fervently spread the devotion throughout France and the Catholic world, in the 17th and 18th centuries.

While we, with our fallen nature, aspire to Holiness, Mary was, from the moment of her conception, our perfect model – the one who shows us how to love God with a pure heart and how to overcome our sinfulness.

The core of the Blessed Virgin's love is, of course, her Heart, her Immaculate Heart, which was formed pure and perfect through her Immaculate Conception. And we are called to be devoted to her pure Heart, as a refuge – a refuge in which we can bathe in the sweet love of our holy Mother, and where we can learn to model our lives on the will of God and return the love to Him, as her Immaculate Heart does with every beat.

We are called to pay homage to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, through acts of prayer and devotion, just as throughout the centuries, those who have gone before us have done. They, like ourselves, were helped and aided by Saints, Popes, and those who also rendered special devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Of course, we must not forget the guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary herself, who – at Fatima above all – specifically called us to Devotion to her Immaculate Heart, through acts of sacrifice and reparation.

St. Jean developed a new theology of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He recognized the importance of seeing how the Sacred Heart of Jesus had been born from the Immaculate Heart of His Blessed Mother: *that His Heart was formed in imitation of hers.*



Not only was the Sacred Heart of Jesus born of her Immaculate flesh, It was also born from her Immaculate love: A love most pure and focused solely on God, expressing God's will alone. And of course, her pure and tender love was embodied within her Immaculate Heart. St. Jean's focus was particularly on the Incarnation of Divine Love. And in his eyes, this commenced with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Not only did she perfectly love God, *she also reflected His love.*

The Sacred Heart of Jesus was formed from the marriage between the Divine Love of the Holy Spirit and Mary's Immaculate love. Of this, he wrote: *"The Heart of Christ is a temple of divine love. It is the uncreated and eternal love, namely, the Holy Spirit who has built this magnificent Temple and built it from the Virginal blood of the Mother of love."* To him, these two Hearts are both Sacred and indissolubly linked. They work together to bring Divine Love into the world.

*The Lord, Jesus, gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom . . .  
 . . . He gave His Mother, Mary, the keys to His Heart."*

*~ Pope Pius XII*