

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 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

Sunday, December 24



Monday, December 25



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

Reflection

4th Sunday in Advent / Christmas Eve

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all.

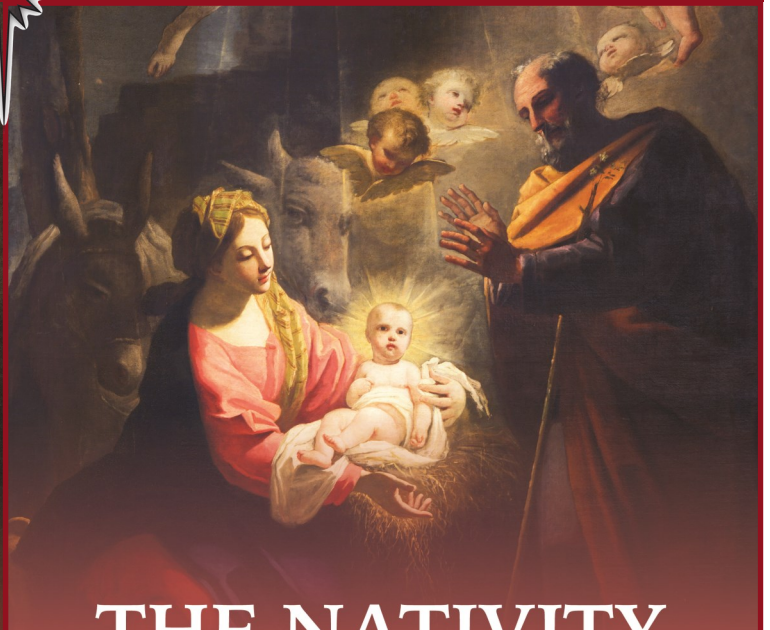
O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all four candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His Holy Name. Amen.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

(Isaiah 7:14)



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4

The First Christmas Renewed

An air of quiet expectancy permeates our church on Christmas Day. As silent worshipers we realize that we can participate, through the Mass, in all the Glory and Joy of Christ's first coming. At the Gloria, that clear echo of the angel's song, we are transported to Judea's starlit hills. The Gospel then bids us follow wandering shepherds in their journey to a lowly cave. Hear the Sanctus Bells! They remind us that we have reached a threshold of a Divine abode and suggest a prayerful pause. The awesome words of the Consecration bring God to earth once more, and with the shepherds we lift the adoring eyes to Mary's Son, elevated above the head of the Priest. Consummate joy is ours when, at the Communion, we receive the Babe of Bethlehem into our hearts. What an exalted privilege it is thus to relive the first Christmas.

~ Anonymous

MASS *Intentions* ©JPPC

December 23, Saturday - Sobota

9:00AM For Paul & Samantha req. Vicki
 ❖ For Mark Nikollaj req. Uncle Dan & Aunt Jan
 ❖ †Lazar & +Alamma Pathrose
 ❖ †Mark & +Ryan Ledford req. Mom

5:30PM For the Intentions of All Parishioners

December 24, Sunday - Nedela

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

7:30AM For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. Valentina
 ❖ For the Schuller Family
 ❖ For Bruce Herriman

❖ For Tom & +Jane Desser
 ❖ †Audrey Bustillo req. Parents
 ❖ †John Maciag req. Wife ❖ †Louis Brady

9:30AM For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG
 ❖ For John Dushaj (B'Day) req. Vera
 ❖ For Glenn Wilkins Family
 ❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family

❖ †Bill Green ❖ †Rafael Drensek
 ❖ †Anna Apazeller req. Friends & Family
 11:30AM (Slovak) For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. Sam Babbie
 ❖ For Nikoleta Surinova req. Andrew Moynihan
 ❖ For Maria Nukulaj req. Family

❖ For Yousif Khalid req. Niran Kassab
 ❖ For Sabrina, Zelig, & Selena Kray
 ❖ †Charles J. Celusnak req. Marsha Schoener
 ❖ †Emilia Rafaidus req. Stefan & Marta Sobolic

4:00PM (Christmas Vigil Holy Mass)
 For the Intentions of All Parishioners

MIDNIGHT For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Paul & Samantha req. Vicki
 ❖ For Tony & Vicki ❖ For the Okama Family
 ❖ For Eddie McIlhargie req. Rita
 ❖ For the Brady Family ❖ For Leo

December 25, Monday - Pondelok

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

7:30AM For the Gary Davis Family
 ❖ For Derrick Chupa (B'Day) req. Mom
 ❖ For Robbie Hasenauer & Family
 ❖ †Natale & Agatha Mangano req. Family
 ❖ †John Maciag ❖ †Helene Maciag
 ❖ †Larry Asker

9:30AM For Fr. Ben Kosnac
 ❖ For the Korkis Family ❖ For the Hanna Family
 ❖ For Michael & Megan Sobolic
 ❖ For Jack Reynolds & Family
 ❖ For the Schuller Family
 ❖ For John Mangano req. Vera Lucaj

11:30AM (Slovak)
 For the Smigielski & Obelnicki Families
 ❖ For Emmanuel Velarde
 ❖ †Gerard Simoneau ❖ †Ricky Paul Kray
 ❖ †Shirley Kassab req. Niran Kassab
 ❖ †Luz Sobrevinas req. Daughter
 ❖ †Emilia Rafaidus req. Milan & Eleanor Straka
 5:30PM For the Intentions of All Parishioners

December 26, Tuesday - Utorok

Feast of Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

12:00PM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena

December 27, Wednesday - Streda

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:00AM (Latin) For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena

12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 ❖ For Thomas James Langlois req. Langlois Family
 ❖ For Joseph Hanna (B'Day)
 ❖ †Michael Pullis

December 28, Thursday - Štvrtok

Feast of the Holy Innocents

12:00PM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena

7:00PM For Mark Hornbacher (B'Day) req. Family
 ❖ For Sean Gardiner (B'Day) req. Family
 ❖ For Gayle & Mark Hornbacher req. Family
 ❖ For Sam & Amy Shamoon req. Vicki

December 29, Friday - Piatok

Fifth Day within the Octave of Nativity of the Lord

12:00PM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena

December 30, Saturday - Sobota

Sixth Day within the Octave of Nativity of the Lord

9:00AM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena
 5:30PM For Holy Souls in Purgatory req. RMG
 ❖ For Fr. Ben Kosnac & Fr. Luigi Gabris req. Friend
 ❖ For Mark Hanna (B'Day)
 ❖ For Carol Bozena (B'Day)
 ❖ For Zac Cavins req. Langlois Family
 ❖ For John & Marian Santi (67th Wed. Ann.)
 ❖ †Fr. John Hardon, SD

December 31, Sunday - Nedela

Sunday of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

7:30AM In Thanksgiving req. Nash - Brown Family

❖ For Louis Family
 ❖ For Sylvester Joachim Wilkins req. Family
 ❖ For Alexandra Nukulaj req. Family
 ❖ For Martin Lulgiuraj req. Aunt Dijela
 ❖ †Jane Desser req. Marge
 ❖ †Catherine Brady

9:30AM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena

11:30AM (Slovak) For Madison Trinity req. Grandparents
 ❖ For Nick Nukulaj req. Family
 ❖ †Carel Minjeur req. Gino & Paula Vitale
 ❖ †Alan Issac
 ❖ †Charles J. Celusnak req. Stefan & Marta Sobolic
 ❖ †Joseph Rimarcik req. Julie Celusnak & Family
 ❖ †Emilia Rafaidus req. Hildegard Ivin

5:30PM For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family
 ❖ For Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Richardson & Family
 ❖ For Willard & Kathleen Braniff req. Leo & Diane
 ❖ For Amanda Nukulaj req. Family
 ❖ For Dianna Dusevic req. Mom
 ❖ †Nikola & Dijela Dusevic



4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve • Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fr. Libor Marek, Priest in Solidum • lmarek@saintcyrls.church
Fr. Juraj Nuota, Priest in Solidum • jnuota@saintcyrls.church
Deacon Phil McCown • pmccown@saintcyrls.church
Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell6@gmail.com
Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrls.church

Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS HOLY MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24:

Saturday, December 23, Sunday, December 24, & Monday, December 25: See Schedule Below

Tuesday, December 26: 12:00PM—No 6:00AM Holy Mass Today

Wednesday, December 27: 9:00AM (Latin) & 12:00PM

Thursday, December 28: 12:00PM & 7:00PM

Friday, December 29: 12:00PM—No 6:00AM Holy Mass Today

Saturday, December 30: 9:00AM & 5:30PM (Vigil)

Sunday, December 31: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak), & 5:30PM

Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

No Confessions will be heard December 26, 27, 31 & January 1, 2 & 3

The regular Confession Schedule will resume Thursday, January 4, with Confessions heard 1/2 hour before each weekday Holy Mass and on Saturdays from 8:30AM - 9:00AM.

OFFICE HOURS WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2023 - JANUARY 3, 2024:

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25, through Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

The Parish Office will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, from 10:00AM - 2:00PM.

Office hours:

Thursday, January 4, & Friday, January 5, are 11:00AM - 5:00PM

OVERNIGHT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

THURSDAYS, 1:00PM - FRIDAYS, 12:00PM (On First Fridays, Adoration continues until 7:00PM)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



**Mass Schedule Information:*

4th Sunday in Advent:

Saturday, December 23: 5:30PM

Sunday, December 24: 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM (Slovak)

Nativity of the Lord:

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve: 4:00PM (with Living Nativity) & Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak) & 5:30PM

***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:*

****NOT a Holy Day of Obligation This Year**

Monday, January 1, 2024: 9:00AM & 12:00PM

***NOTE: The 4th "week" of Advent is only one day, December 24. As a result, the Catholic faithful have an obligation to attend Mass twice between the afternoon of December 23 and December 25, to participate in one Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and one Mass for Christmas (see above schedule).**



POŽENANÉ VIANOCE! Wishing You a Blessed Christmas!
Christ is Born for us; Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Fr. Libor, Fr. Juraj, Fr. Michael, Deacon Gerald & Deacon Phil

He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name. /John 1:11-12/

God comes to us with His offer of friendship, communion, and salvation. He encounters us in the midst of our imperfect world and in the messiness of our lives. Not everything gets fixed, but His gentle touch puts us on the way that leads to Him. And He walks with us!

Wishing all parishioners, visitors, friends, benefactors, and all your families a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024!

Fr. Libor



2023 Parish Advent Giving Projects

The remaining Advent Giving Projects are outlined below.

If you have questions about any of the projects, contact:

Erin Rybicki at ChristianService@saintcyrils.church

Christian Service Fund: Donations made to the parish Christian Service Fund during Advent will be divided between **Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Centers** and **St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at St. Jane de Chantal Parish**. You can contribute to this fund online using PushPay or place a check made payable to Ss. Cyril and Methodius in a white Advent Giving envelope and put it in the collection basket by December 25, 2023.

† **Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Centers** - Women experiencing a crisis pregnancy find friendly and much needed assistance at Image of God's three centers. The centers help women set goals and provide for their own and their baby's needs from pregnancy through the baby's first 2 years. Our donation will help Image of God's operational costs so they can continue their lifesaving and life affirming mission in 2024.

† **St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) chapter at St. Jane de Chantal Parish** - During the past year our Parish Office called upon the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Jane's to assist a parishioner and a local family that were experiencing great need. SVdP promptly stepped in and provided for both of these situations. As a next step in partnering with SVdP in the Family of the Good Shepherd, this donation will help them fund services such as assistance with rent or utilities, household or emergency needs to individuals in our local community.

Donations to the Christian Service Fund can be made online via PushPay; or place cash or a check made out to Ss. Cyril & Methodius in a white Advent Giving envelope and put it in the Sunday collection basket by **December 25.**

SLOVAK SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS: The seminary in Bratislava, which we have assisted with individualized sponsorships for many years, is currently undergoing major renovations. The students are now at the seminary in Nitra, making a combined total of 70 seminarians in formation. This larger number of students makes it unreasonable for our parish to sponsor them individually for a \$300 donation as we have in the past. Instead, parishioners who wish to support the future priests in Slovakia may make a donation in any amount to a seminary scholarship fund. Our monetary gift will help support seminarians with financial needs, at the rector's discretion. To contribute to the scholarship, place your donation in a blue Advent Giving envelope and place it **in the Sunday collection basket by December 25.** Note: per the IRS, this international donation is not tax deductible. A group photo of the seminarians is posted in the vestibule and gallery. Please continue to pray for the seminarians, their instructors, mentors and all priests.



Christmas Novena Begins Tuesday, December 26

**Cards are Available in English and Slovak in the
Parish Office on Weekdays and after Masses on Weekends!**

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is
the Most Precious Gift Anyone can Receive!*

Catechism Corner

Class & Benediction Schedule

Wednesdays, December 27: No Class

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 6:15PM: Class & Benediction for All

Wednesday, January 10, 6:15PM: Class

Wednesday, January 17, 6:15PM: Class & Benediction for All

Wednesday, January 24, 6:15PM: Class

Wednesday, January 31, 6:15PM: Class & Benediction for All

We'll see all the children back for class on January 3rd, 2024!

Catechism questions, please contact:

Paul & Carroll Schuller, (586) 726-6911

p_schuller@yahoo.com or cschuller@saintcyriels.church

Life Teen & EDGE Youth Ministries

Life Teen & EDGE provide opportunities for youth to come together to socialize while learning to proclaim and witness our faith, play games, and enjoy snacks and prayer time. Feel free to bring a friend to Life Nights on Mondays and EDGE Nights on Thursdays. Dates for the nights are published in the Parish Bulletin or contact Heidi Normile for more information.

We are looking forward to seeing you in 2024!

Questions? Please contact:

Heidi Normile, Youth Minister, (586) 859-0194

edge@saintcyriels.church or lifeteen@saintcyriels.church

Total Consecration to Jesus thru Mary • December 31

Preparation Begins December 31

Next Consecration • Presentation • February 2

Preparation for the next Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins on Sunday, December 31. The Consecration will take place on the Presentation of the Lord, February 2.

Preparation takes 33-days. The Parish Office is closed until Wednesday, January 3. Please register for the Consecration by emailing: parishoffice@saintcyriels.church.

—FAITH— IN THE FIRE OF THE *Holy Spirit*

A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH THE LOVE
OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Companions of the Cross *Life in the Spirit Seminar*

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

JANUARY 26, 2024 6:30pm - 9:00pm and

JANUARY 27, 2024 8:30am - 8:00pm at

Ss. Cyril & Methodius

Cost \$40 (Payment by Cash or Check at Door)

Breakfast, Lunch & dinner provided!

Pre-registration required:

<https://bit.ly/Faithinthefire>

Information: Jim or Shirley, 586-419-0278



USHERS NEEDED!

If you are a gentleman who would like to help at the Mass you attend, please talk to an usher or call the Parish Office.

Please Remember to Pray for:

- ◆ Our Sick Parishioners
- ◆ Those who have Died
- ◆ Family Members & Friends
- ◆ Those who Serve in the Military



Adoration ~ Come Let Us Adore Him

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: THURSDAY, 1:00PM - FRIDAY, 12:00PM

COMMITTED ADORER NEEDED (FIRST FRIDAYS ONLY) FROM 5:00PM - 6:00PM



A HEARTS DEEPEST LONGING

"Belief" is a very crucial component of Christianity. It is necessary for our relationship with God. Jesus, time and again, emphasized the importance of belief in the Gospels. We must believe not only in the sense that we believe Him when He tells us that the Father has sent Him (John 17:3), but also in all that He teaches (John 17:20; John 14:26). It is everything or nothing. We cannot believe only certain aspects of what our Lord taught and disregard the others simply because we may personally disagree with them. After all, He is God, the Creator almighty, and we're His creation. Who are we to question Him?

Belief is simply the acceptance of something as true on a trustworthy person's word. Belief emphasizes the act of the will. Therefore, we believe something as true without having to see or perceive it. Faith, on the other hand, which gets confused with belief, is an act of the mind which assents to what is believed. If we say we believe in something yet act as if we don't, it is not belief. Faith is not there. Yet the Church is full of doubters. Christ, then, becomes just a person with yet another fancy philosophy or idea. Some things are believed and some aren't, and all remains subjective.

Here we have to ask ourselves the question: Do I believe Christ's words and teachings on things like loving thy neighbor or any of the Ten Commandments but do not believe Him on what He said about Himself in the Holy Eucharist? Jesus, being the third Person of the Holy Trinity, cannot lie or speak falsehoods. The discrepancy is not with Him but with us. If you do not believe that Jesus' true Body and Blood is the very substance of the former bread and wine then you doubt the authenticity of all else that Christ taught. You must examine yourself and all that you believe and discover where you really stand.

- Paul A. Ray

If you have questions about Eucharistic Adoration, please contact: Annette Rudzewicz, (586) 247-7214



January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Feasts of the Blessed Virgin ~ by St. Francis de Sales

The days upon which the Blessed Virgin Mary shows herself bountiful of her favors, are the feasts celebrated in her honor; and if we desire to profit by them, we must sanctify them fervently. Let us approach the Sacraments on those days, and propose to practice some particular virtue of the Blessed Virgin, adapted to the mystery of the day. For instance, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, let us propose to practice purity of intention; on that of her Nativity, a renewal of fervor, banishing all tepidity from our soul; on that of the Presentation, detachment from those desires which require to be mortified; on the Feast of the Annunciation, of the Visitation, on the Feast of the Purification, obedience to Superiors; and on the Feast of the Assumption, preparation for death. Such was ever the practice of all the true servants of Mary.



On New Year's Eve, 1895-1896, St. Gemma Galgani wrote: *"During this new year I resolve to begin a new life. I do not know what will happen to me during this year, but I abandon myself entirely to You, my God, and my aspirations and all my affections will be for You. I feel so weak, dear Jesus, but with Your help I hope and resolve to live a different life, that is, a life closer to You."*

Writing to her spiritual director Gemma wrote: *"Father, do you know the latest idea that has come into my head? It is to become a saint at all costs."*

While 2024 comes with uncertainties about the future, the vocation and goal of each and every one of us remains the same - to become saints and strive for Heaven!

Let us, therefore, spend these final days of 2023 in fervent prayer asking the Holy Spirit to inspire us with what we must do to attain great holiness, thus becoming true saints!

My 2024 New Year's Resolution!

I virtue I would like to grow in: _____

I sin I would like to eliminate: _____

I book of Scripture I would like to read completely: _____

I spiritual book I would like to read: _____

I prayer I would like to learn: _____

I way to improve my Sacramental Life: _____

Special Intention for 2024: _____

Choose a Patron Saint for 2024

"There is a custom among us of drawing by lot, on New Year's Day, special Patrons for ourselves for the whole year."
(305 - Diary of St. Faustina)

"Follow the saints, because those who follow them will themselves become saints." (Pope Saint Clement I)

~~~~~

After the 9:AM & 12PM Holy Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, all are welcome to take a saint card from the basket at the entrance of the church.  
The saint on the card you choose will be your special Patron for 2024!



# *Weekly Devotions in the Church*



## Saturday

**Blessed Virgin Mary:** 9:00AM. (See bulletin for optional Feast Days/Memorials)

### **Holy Rosary (for Pro-Life):**

*10 decades before the 9:00AM Holy Mass & 10 decades after the 9:00AM Holy Mass*

*(On First Saturdays): 10 decades before the 9:00AM Holy Mass & 5 decades after the 9:00AM Holy Mass*

## **Saturday Vigil & Sunday**

**Holy Rosary:** *Before or After Each Holy Mass*

## **Monday**

### **Holy Rosary:**

*After 9:00AM Holy Mass (5 decades)*

*11:30AM (5 decades)*

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** *After Noon Holy Mass*

## **Tuesday**

**Holy Rosary:** *11:30AM (5 decades)*

**Perpetual Help Devotion:** *11:45AM*

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** *After Noon Holy Mass*

## **Wednesday**

### **Holy Rosary:**

*After 9:00AM Holy Mass (5 decades)*

*11:30AM (5 decades)*

**St. Joseph Devotion:** *11:45AM (1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesday)*

**St. Anthony Devotion:** *11:45AM (2nd, 4th Wednesday)*

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** *After Noon Holy Mass*

## **Thursday**

**Holy Rosary:** *11:30AM (5 decades)*

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** *After Noon Holy Mass*

**Eucharistic Adoration:** *1:00PM - Friday, 12:00PM (On First Fridays, Adoration continues until 7:00PM)*

**Touch of Mary Rosary:** *10 decades beginning at 6:00PM*

## **Friday**

**Holy Rosary:** *11:30AM (5 decades)*

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** *After Noon Holy Mass*

## **First Friday**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus:** 9:00AM. (See bulletin for optional Feast Days/Memorials)

**Bilingual Rosary:** 6:00PM

*If you would like information on our Weekly Devotions or any of our Prayer Ministries:  
Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Rosary Society, Our Lady Mother of Mercy Carmelites,  
St. Monica Sodality, or the Touch of Mary Prayer Group,  
please contact the Parish Office at 586.726.6911*

