

Fourth Sunday of Advent • Sunday, December 22, 2024  
Nativity of the Lord • Wednesday, December 25, 2024

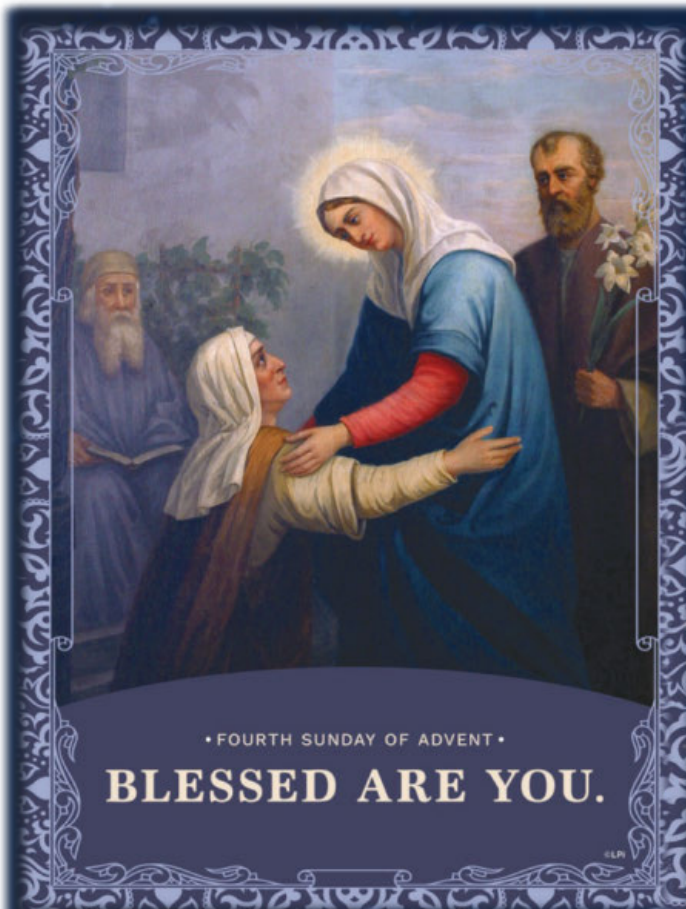


SAINTS CYRIL AND  
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOSŤ SVÄTÝCH  
CYRILA A METODA



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



• FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

**BLESSED ARE YOU.**



*Merry  
Christmas!*

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:14

# MASS Intentions

©JPPC

## December 21, Saturday - Sobota

- 9:00AM For a Special Intention req. Alia Korkis  
❖ For Sophia Skrocki & Family  
❖ †John & Phyllis Edwards req. Daughter  
❖ †Paul Truchan req. Family
- 5:30PM For the Intentions of All Parishioners

## December 22, Sunday - Nedela

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
- 7:30AM For the Hines & Desser Families  
❖ For Joseph Ivers (70th B'Day) req. Wife  
❖ For Marge Lewandowski  
❖ †Michael Kripl req. Mike MacDonald  
❖ †Barbara Lemker req. Lewandowski Family  
❖ †Barbara Badiha Gerios req. Patricia Edwards  
❖ †Gene Kucharek (14th Ann.) req. Wife
- 9:30AM For the Poor Souls in Purgatory req. RMG  
❖ For the Intentions of the Members of the  
St. Monica Sodality ❖ For Donald Trump & Family  
❖ For the Dailey & Konowalski Families  
❖ †William J Carry req. Mike MacDonald  
❖ †Donald George req. Louis & Joseph Families  
❖ †Kostika Fushi
- 11:30AM (Slovak) In Thanksgiving req. Vicki Babbie  
❖ For Fr. Joseph Marcel Porttelli, Bernard & Lucy  
Porttelli req. Anne Haio ❖ For Ausher Aqrawie  
❖ For Carroll Schuller req. Friend  
❖ For Living & Deceased Members of Lopatka Family  
❖ For Living & Deceased Members of Nadasky Family  
❖ For Maria Duque req. Anne Haio  
❖ For Martin Labas (B'Day) req. Family  
❖ †Ivana Machackova req. Mirka Plzak
- 8:30PM For a Special Intention ❖ In Thanksgiving  
❖ For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family  
❖ For Robert Lulgjuraj  
❖ †Lucas Garbarino ❖ †Mike  
❖ †Sabria Pattah Ateeq req. Family

## December 23, Monday - Pondelok

- 9:00AM In Thanksgiving  
❖ For the Vitale & Monsu Families  
❖ For Samria Holly Matti  
❖ †Sharon Grudnicki req. Beste Family
- 12:00PM In Thanksgiving req. Breanna Konowalski  
❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
❖ For the Wnek Family req. Jackline Daniel  
❖ For Jim & Barb & Jordan Wisniewski

## December 24 Tuesday - Utorok

\*\*\* NO 6:00AM Holy Mass Today \*\*\*

- 12:00PM For Therese Stout ❖ For Donald Trump & Family  
❖ †Sharon Grudnicki req. Beste Family  
❖ †Audrey Bustillo req. Parents
- 4:00PM (Vigil) For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 12:00AM (Midnight) For a Special Intention req. W. Foumia  
❖ For the Nino Abate Family  
❖ For Brit Eaton & Family ❖ For Annette Rudzewicz  
❖ †Sharon Grudnicki req. Beste Family  
❖ †Sabria Pattah Ateeq req. Family  
❖ †Louis Brady

## December 25, Wednesday - Streda

### Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

- 7:30AM For the Gary & Jo Davis Family  
❖ For Edwards Family req. Patricia  
❖ For Michelle Gietzen req. Family  
❖ For Mike MacDonald  
❖ †Nancy Carol Rayles req. Schuller Family  
❖ †Helene Maciag ❖ †John Maciag
- 9:30AM For the Shamoon Family ❖ For the Hanna Family  
❖ For Derrick Chupa (B'Day) req. Mother  
❖ For the Drozdowski Family ❖ For Simon & Brandon  
❖ For Katie & Anthony Schuller & Family  
❖ †Michael Kripl req. Mike MacDonald
- 11:30AM For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 5:30PM In Thanksgiving req. Salim Family  
❖ For Herminia Tolentino ❖ For Samatha Eli & Family  
❖ For Donald Trump & Family req. Janet Sullivan  
❖ †Donald George req. Louis & Joseph Families  
❖ †Barbara Badiha Gerios req. Patricia Edwards  
❖ †Paolo Persichetti

## December 26, Thursday - Štvrtok

### Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

\*\*\* NO 6:00AM Holy Mass Today \*\*\*

- 12:00PM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena
- 7:00PM For Poor Souls in Purgatory  
❖ For Thomas James Langlois req. Family  
❖ For Joseph Hanna (B'Day)  
❖ †Sabriya, Hanna & Iman Boutany

## December 27, Friday - Piatok

### Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

\*\*\* NO 6:00AM Holy Mass Today \*\*\*

- 12:00PM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena

## December 28, Saturday - Sobota

### Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

- 9:00AM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena
- 5:30PM For the Poor Souls in Purgatory req. RMG  
❖ For Steve Forster (B'Day) req. Family  
❖ For Mark Hornbacher (B'Day) req. Family  
❖ For Sean Gardiner (B'Day) req. Family  
❖ For Donald Trump & Family  
❖ †Alberto Pertusi req. Family  
❖ †Rafael Drensek req. Drensek Family

## December 29, Sunday - Nedela

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52
- 7:30AM For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 9:30AM For the Intentions of the Christmas Novena
- 11:30AM (Slovak) For Mark, Jennifer & Family  
❖ For Living & Deceased Members of Lopatka Family  
❖ For Living & Deceased Members of Nadasky Family  
❖ For Carroll Schuller req. Friend  
❖ For Mirka Plzak req. Lopatkova Family  
❖ For Terry & Anne Haio ❖ For Azzam, Jandark & FERIA
- 8:30PM For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
❖ For Gayle & Mark Hornbacher (Wed. Ann.) req. Family  
❖ For Antonina Albino & Family  
❖ †Donald George req. Louis & Joseph Families  
❖ †Barbara Badiha Gerios req. Patricia Edwards  
❖ †Sabria Pattah Ateeq req. Family ❖ †Robleto Pablo

4th Sunday of Advent • Sunday, December 22, &amp; Nativity of the Lord, December 25

*Welcome*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)Deacon Gerald Smigell • [vgsmigell6@gmail.com](mailto:vgsmigell6@gmail.com)Parish Office • [parishoffice@saintcyrils.church](mailto:parishoffice@saintcyrils.church)

# THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

## *Mass Schedules*

Monday, December 23: Daily Masses at 9:00AM & 12:00PM

Tuesday, December 24: Daily Mass at 12:00PM (See Christmas Eve Schedule Below)

## *Nativity of the Lord:*

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

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

Thursday, December 26: Daily Masses at 12:00PM & 7:00PM (No 6:00AM Mass Today)

Friday, December 27: Daily Mass at 12:00PM (No 6:00AM Mass Today)

Saturday, December 28: 9:00AM & 5:30PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday, December 29: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak) & 8:30PM

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

**\*HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Tuesday, December 31, 2024: 5:30PM (Vigil Mass)

Wednesday, January 1, 2025: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak) & 5:30PM

## *Confession Schedule*

No Confessions will be heard from December 23 through January 1.

Regular Confession Schedule will resume Thursday, January 2, with Confessions heard

1/2 hour before each weekday Holy Mass and on Saturdays from 8:30AM-9AM.

## *Eucharistic Adoration Schedule*

Thursday, December 26: 1:00PM until Friday, December 27, 12:00PM

Thursday, January 2: 1:00PM until First Friday, January 3, 7:00PM

## *Office Schedule*

The Parish Office will be open on Monday, December 23, from 10:00AM-12:00PM.

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24, thru Sunday, January 5, and reopen on Monday, January 6, 2025!



## 2024 Parish Advent Giving Projects

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated food, paper products and gifts the weekend of December 7 & 8! The staff and volunteers at St. Dominic's, Mary's Children, St. Veronica's and MCCMH were very appreciative and eager to distribute the donations to the people and families they serve. Thank you also to all the parishioners who helped sort and deliver the donations!



### Monetary Donations to Local Ministries

During the month of December, donations to the parish Christian Service Fund will be distributed between these ministries:

**Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Centers:** Women experiencing a crisis pregnancy find friendly and much needed assistance at Image of God's three centers, one of which is in nearby Madison Heights. 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 cover Image of God's operational costs so they can continue their lifesaving and life affirming mission in 2025.

**St. Christine's Christian Services:** Located in the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit, the soup kitchen and food pantry at St. Christine's currently feeds 500 people each week. Our donation to their general fund will go toward purchasing fresh foods, paying utility bills or wherever is most needed.

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.

### International Monetary Donations

**Slovak Seminary Donation:** Future priests from all five Slovak dioceses are currently studying at St. Gorazd Seminary in Nitra. This year 50 theology students are in formation at St. Gorazd. This annual donation from our parish is a small way for us to support the church in Slovakia. Rather than a direct sponsorship, our donation will be used at the rector's discretion to provide financial assistance or to help fund retreats or other formation events.

**Catholic Medical Clinic in Kahama, Tanzania:** The town of Kahama, home of our sister parish Holy Family, desperately needs a medical clinic that cares for each patient's heart and soul, as well as their immediate medical concerns. It needs a Catholic medical clinic. Since his visit to our parish last spring, Bishop Christopher has started construction a building for this clinic. However, funds have run low and the project is at a stand-still. Our donation will allow construction to continue and move closer to providing this loving and essential resource to the people of Kahama.

To donate to either or both of these projects, place your donation in a **blue** Advent Giving envelope, indicate the amount of your donation for the program(s) you wish to donate to, and place it in the Sunday collection basket by **December 25**.

Note: per the IRS, this international donation is not tax deductible.

*If you have questions about any of the projects, contact: Erin Rybicki at [ChristianService@saintcyriels.church](mailto:ChristianService@saintcyriels.church)*

## Christmas Novena Begins December 26



Our Christmas Novena begins on Thursday, December 26. Cards are available in either English or Slovak in the Parish Office on Monday from 10:00AM-12:00PM or after Masses this weekend.

Suggested Donation: \$10 each

### Novena Holy Masses will be celebrated on:

Thursday, December 26: 12:00PM  
 Friday, December 27: 12:00PM  
 Saturday, December 28: 9:00AM  
 Sunday, December 29: 9:30AM  
 Monday, December 30: 9:00AM  
 Tuesday, December 31: 12:00PM  
 Wednesday, January 1: 9:30AM  
 Thursday, January 2: 12:00PM  
 Friday, January 3: 12:00PM

### **Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer**

*O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
 grant that we may share with all our hearts  
 in this profound mystery of Christmas.  
 Put into the hearts of men and women this peace  
 for which they sometimes seek so desperately  
 and which You alone can give to them.  
 Help them to know one another better,  
 and to live as brothers and sisters,  
 children of the same Father.  
 Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.  
 Awaken in their hearts  
 love and gratitude for Your infinite goodness.  
 Join them all together in Your love.  
 And give us Your heavenly peace.  
 Amen.*

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

## St. Monica Mass Sunday, December 22

The monthly St. Monica Sodality Mass takes place this Sunday, December 22, at 9:30AM. Prayers for the return of our loved ones to the full practice of the Catholic faith will take place in the Chapel after the 9:30AM Holy Mass.

## Learn About the Liturgy • Saturday, December 28

You have been told that the Holy Mass is the summit of our Catholic faith. You know that the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of our Lord, but do you understand what the liturgy is? What place does the liturgy have in the spiritual life? Do you know the meaning behind the prayers, gestures, motions, and actions of the priest and people throughout the Mass? Do you know how to participate in the celebration?

Explore the depths of the mystery of liturgy with Father Juraj. Father will guide you through the world of liturgy in order to better understand why the priest, deacon, altar servers, and the people of God do what they do, say what they say, and participate as they do in the liturgical rites of the Mass and in other sacraments. It will help you as well to consciously join in the celebration. There will also be time for questions and answers.

Join Father Juraj and your fellow parishioners in the Overflow Room on the 4th Saturday of each month. The next lesson is Saturday, December 28, immediately following the 9:00AM Holy Mass.

Bring a friend and take this opportunity to deepen your faith and truly appreciate the gift that is at the center of our Catholic life!

## Consecration to Jesus Thru Mary • Prep Begins Dec. 31

### CONSECRATION DATE: Presentation of the Lord, February 2

The next 33-day preparation for the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, St. Louis de Montfort, begins on Tuesday, December 31, for all who wish to make, or renew their Consecration on February 2, the Presentation of the Lord. "Preparation for Total Consecration" books are available in the Parish Office on Monday, December 23, from 10AM-12PM for \$10.

Questions or to Register, please contact:

the Parish Office: (586) 726-6911

## Catechism Corner Class Schedule

Wednesday, December 25: NO CLASS (Christmas)

Wednesday, January 1, 2025: NO CLASS (New Years Day)

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

## N.O.W. Teen Ministry

High Schoolers: N.O.W. Nights will resume Monday, January 13!

Questions about N.O.W. Ministry: *Heidi Normile*, (586) 859-0194

## EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry

6th, 7th, and 8th graders: EDGE Nights will resume Thursday, January 16, 2025!

Questions about EDGE Ministry: *Heidi Normile*, (586) 859-0194

## O.C.I.A. Class

OCIA Classes will not take place on Tuesdays, December 24, or January 31. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 7, where Commandments 1-5 of the Ten Commandments will be discussed. All are welcome to join the OCIA sessions to learn more about what we believe as Catholics. Simply come to listen and learn.

## Overnight Eucharistic Adoration

### Hearts Deepest Longing

**THURSDAYS, 1:00PM - FRIDAYS, 12:00PM  
until 7:00PM on FIRST FRIDAYS ONLY**

In the final Sunday of Advent we read about Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth after the Annunciation. St. Luke tells us that Mary "went with haste..." to see Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. Just like when we have good news we want to share it with whomever will listen. Mary was excited, and when it comes to the things of God so should we! After God moves in your life don't you want to just tell people about it? Here, the greatest event in world history took place so imagine the enthusiasm Mary and Elizabeth had! Elizabeth, who was carrying St. John the Baptist, upon seeing Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit proclaimed for the very first time the Rosary when she says, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb". Little St. John the Baptist even "leaped in her womb" once Mary spoke for the first time. Elizabeth reaffirmed Mary when she said to her, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled". We too, can experience the Holy Spirit move and operate in our lives in a tremendous, life-changing way. It is a testament to those around us that God is real. Let us never miss an opportunity! ~ Paul A. Ray

Questions about Adoration, please call: *Annette*, (586) 247-7214

## Knights of Columbus—Student Pro-Life Poster Contest

**THEME: "EVERY LIFE: WHY WE MARCH"**

The Knights of Columbus (Council 7011) is pleased to announce the 2024 Pro-life Poster Contest.

Application forms and the list of rules are available in the vestibule. Posters must be submitted to the Parish Office not later than 4:00PM on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. The posters will be returned to students in time to take them on the March for Life in Washington in January, 2025.

For complete details, visit our website: [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church). More details will be outlined in December 29 bulletin.

## Tax Statement Request for 2024

If you made a single donation of \$250 or more in 2024, you will automatically be issued a tax statement per government requirements. Those that have used Pushpay or have given us an email address to enter into our database in the past will receive a tax statement automatically. If we have your email address before the third week in January, the email will come directly from a Pushpay email and not from the church email so please be aware of this when looking for the email. If your email address is received after the third week of January the email will likely come from a parish email.

If you are not sure if we have your current email address and would like to receive a tax statement via email you can go to our website, [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church), to complete the tax statement request form there or contact the Parish Office to ensure your correct address is in our database.

If you would like a paper tax statement for your 2024 tax deductible contributions, please complete the form on our website or fill out the form located in the vestibule and place it in the collection basket or drop it off in the Parish Office.

Emailed tax statements should go out by January 22nd and paper statements will be available by the end of January.

Questions, please contact: *Rob Avery*,  
(586) 726-6911 or [business@saintcyrils.church](mailto:business@saintcyrils.church)

## 10 things to know about Jubilee 2025, the Holy Year that begins Tuesday, December 24

(OSV News) -- Signs around the Eternal City declare "Roma si trasforma" -- "Rome is transformed" as an explanation for the ubiquitous infrastructure projects underway, including the restoration of iconic sculptures and monuments, ahead of Jubilee 2025, a Holy Year that begins Christmas Eve. While the metropolis is seizing the opportunity for renewal, that is ultimately the jubilee's expectation for the entire church. "For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' ... of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as 'our hope,'" Pope Francis wrote in the document that officially declared the year.

Here are 10 things to know about the upcoming Jubilee Year. **1.** *A jubilee year, also known as a "holy year," is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years. According to the Vatican website for the jubilee, these years in Jewish history were "intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields."* **2.** Jubilee 2025 opens Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican immediately before Pope Francis celebrates midnight Mass. Holy Doors will also be opened at Rome's three other major basilicas: St. John Lateran on Dec. 29, St. Mary Major on Jan. 1, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls on Jan. 5. A Holy Door will also be opened Dec. 26 at Rebibbia Prison, a Roman prison Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass and wash inmates' feet on Holy Thursday. The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity. In 1423, Pope Martin V opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran -- the Diocese of Rome's cathedral -- for the first time for a jubilee. For the Holy Year of 1500, Pope Alexander VI opened Holy Doors at Rome's four main basilicas. At the end of a holy year, the Holy Doors are formally closed and then bricked over by masons. **3.** *The theme of the Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." The papal bull, issued May 9, that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled "Spes Non Confundit," or "Hope does not disappoint," drawn from Romans 5:5. "Everyone knows what it is to hope," Pope Francis wrote. "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. "Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt," he continued. "Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope." Pope Francis also hopes the year draws Catholics toward patience, which he described in "Spes Non Confundit" as a "virtue closely linked to hope," yet can feel elusive in "our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now."* **4.** Drawing on their Jewish roots, jubilee years emphasize the sacrament of reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ. **5.** *The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for "signs of hope" in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people "in difficult situations." Pope Francis has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address "ecological debt," which he described as "connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time."* **6.** Expect an influx of pilgrims in the Eternal City. Italy's National Tourist Research Institute projects 35 million visitors in 2025, nearly triple of its 13 million visitors in 2023. Pilgrimage is a "fundamental" part of jubilee events, Pope Francis said in "Spes Non Confundit." "Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life," he wrote. He noted that jubilee pilgrims are likely to visit Rome's Christian catacombs and its seven pilgrim churches -- the basilicas of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Lawrence, Holy Cross and St. Sebastian -- destinations St. Philip Neri popularized in the 16th century with a 15-mile walk. Twelve other Roman churches, including the Sanctuary of Divine Love in southeast Rome, are designated "jubilee churches" intended as gathering spots for pilgrims during the jubilee. Experts in the travel and hospitality industries suggest anyone heading to Rome in 2025 -- pilgrim or not -- book accommodations, tickets and tours in advance. Visitors may also be expected to pay an increased tourist tax, depending on their type of accommodations. **7.** *Major events are happening in Rome, including jubilee gatherings with liturgies, speakers and papal audiences to celebrate different groups within the church. The first is the Jubilee of the World of Communications Jan. 24-26, followed by the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel Feb. 8-9. The jubilee also includes gatherings for artists (Feb. 15-18), deacons (Feb. 21-23) and even marching bands (May 10-11). Some of these special gatherings will coincide with major canonizations, such as the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis during the Jubilee of Teenagers April 25-27, and the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee of Young People July 28-Aug. 3. Expect some events to highlight the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which Christians received the Nicene Creed. This year, despite different liturgical calendars, the dates for celebrating Easter align in the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, leading some, including Pope Francis, to call for a "decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter," which was discussed in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.* **8.** Expect Rome to sparkle and shine. Many famous sites and artworks in Rome and at the Vatican have been cleaned or restored for the jubilee, much to the chagrin of many tourists in 2024, who found major monuments obscured by fencing, scaffolding and tarps. Many of those projects are expected to be completed with a fresh-face reveal in time for the jubilee. In October, St. Peter's Basilica revealed its newly restored baldacchino, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the 1600s, after 10 months of work. Also receiving cleaning or restoration are Michelangelo's Pietà, Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona, and Bernini's angels on the Ponte Sant'Angelo. **9.** *While many jubilee events will take place in Rome and at the Vatican, it's a celebration for the whole church. On Dec. 29, diocesan bishops are expected to open the Holy Year locally with Masses at their cathedrals and co-cathedrals. Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their cathedral during the year, and should watch diocesan communications for local events. While Pope Francis encouraged bishops to designate Holy Doors for their own cathedrals during the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015, there will only be Holy Doors at the Vatican and in Rome this year.* **10.** The Jubilee Year concludes with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6, 2026, on the feast of the Epiphany. However, the Holy Doors at Rome's other major basilicas will close Dec. 28, 2025, the same day dioceses are to end local celebrations of the Holy Year. The Jubilee Year also looks ahead to 2033, when the church will mark the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, which Pope Francis called "another fundamental celebration for all Christians."

# POŽENANÉ VIANOCE! Wishing You a Blessed Christmas!

Christ is Born for us; Come, Let Us Adore Him!

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

*“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you”*

(Luke 1:28)

Our all-powerful God decided to reach out to us, share our human condition, live with us, breathe with us, walk with us. It is the most profound experience of communion.

I wish all parishioners, all Christians, and all people to find Him, see Him, and live with Him. Whether He comes in glory or in forms that are not appealing, Christ wants to meet us in this world. Let us welcome Him as our guest and as our Lord.

Fr. Libor Marek

To the Parish Priests and to all the Parishioners of Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Christmas is a season full of blessings and gifts. The greatest is given to us by God Himself, through the Incarnation of His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

May our Lord be with us throughout this Christmas and in our daily lives as we seek to be closer to Him every day.

Many greetings and gratitude from the Christians in the Kahama Catholic Diocese.

With Love and Joy,

Bishop Christopher Ndizeye, Bishop of the Kahama Diocese (Sister Diocese)



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 2025 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 2024 in fervent prayer asking the Holy Spirit to inspire us with what we must do to attain great holiness, thus becoming true saints!

My 2025 New Year's Resolution!

1 virtue I would like to grow in: \_\_\_\_\_

1 sin I would like to eliminate: \_\_\_\_\_

1 book of Scripture I would like to read completely: \_\_\_\_\_

1 spiritual book I would like to read: \_\_\_\_\_

1 prayer I would like to learn: \_\_\_\_\_

1 way to improve my Sacramental Life: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Intention for 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

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