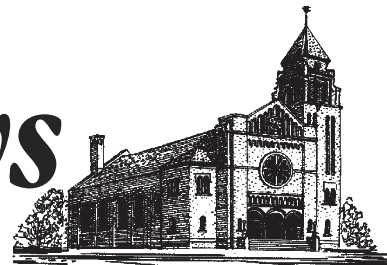


# News from the Pews

Quarterly News from SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Parish



July 2009

608 Sobieski Street • Lemont, IL • Telephone (630) 257-2776

## Plenty to Celebrate

By Fr. Larry Lisowski

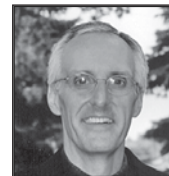
Our parish has been filled with many significant celebrations during the Easter Season, and the good news is that many more await us in the near future.

Thousands of people packed our beautiful historic church on Easter Sunday to joyfully celebrate our Lord's resurrection from the dead. It is always powerful to see the faith of so many who place their trust in the power of God's love, and continue to commit themselves to the relationship they share with Jesus Christ and the mission of the Church. The Alleluias we sing every Sunday offer us great hope and confidence in what God can do for us and with us.

Our 8th grade students from our Parish School, and those who have attended the School of Religious Education, celebrated the Catholic Education that they have received here at St. Cyril's. They graduate and now are sent forth as adult believers, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to proudly give witness to Christ in their life. We are thankful for these young men and women who represent the future of our Church.

Our young children in 2nd Grade during the Easter season received their First Holy Communion. They came to the table of the Lord with their families to be fed for the first time by the Bread of Life. Their simple and innocent faith inspires us and reminds us that our souls will always hunger for the Lord's love and presence. I am proud of all the ways that our parish helps all people, young and old, to taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

St. Cyril's continues to give thanks for the 125 years that the Catholic faith has been lived and professed in this parish community. Since January, we have traced and marked out how the Catholic faith has been handed down from generation to generation by our ancestors. Our parish is blessed to have such a great history and tradition.



Two major parish gatherings will take place as part of our anniversary year of celebration. The first is a special Sunday Mass which will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas Paprocki on August 16th at 10:00 AM. That Sunday's bilingual liturgy will allow all of our parishioners to gather together for a special Eucharistic celebration. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the unity we share as brothers and sisters in Christ. Details about our 125th Unity Mass will be mailed to every registered parishioner in the coming months.

On Saturday evening, October 24th, our 125th Anniversary Dinner-Dance event will take place at the Willowbrook Ball Room in Willow Springs. It will be an evening of fellowship and great memories. We welcome Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, our Vicar, who will be our honorary guest for our anniversary celebration. Every parishioner will receive an invitation in the Fall. Please mark your calendar now so that you will be able to attend. These will be historic events that you won't want to miss.

A wise pastor once told me, "Nobody likes a boring parish." Well, as you read through this edition of *News From the Pews*, you quickly realize that St. Cyril's is certainly far from that.

How blessed we are to gather and celebrate who we are as a parish family and the important events that take place in our journey of faith.

God is commonly known as the "One who gathers." How good it is to be here, in God's loving presence, and the presence of one another. May God help us to always be united in our faith, for years to come!



### Our Parish Mission Statement

We are a family of faith, entrusted with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Rooted in a rich tradition of worship, service, and prayer we foster the unity and faith of this community. Enlivened by the Spirit, we share our gifts, talents, and resources to bring about the Kingdom of God.

# "We Will" Statements Represent Parish Progress

By Kurt Korte, Parish Council President



Father Larry recently sent a letter to all parishioners updating us on the progress that has been made on the "We Will" statements that were a result of a parish wide survey taken about 2 years ago. The idea of the survey was to "take the pulse" of the parish in four key areas so that a blueprint can be created that will help us move forward as a parish. The "We Will" statements became that blueprint and the parish council continues to attain, modify, and create new "We Will" statements. Each area that is to be addressed (education, space, parish unity and spirituality/faith formation) has a committee of four to six members that meet throughout the year to discuss various goals and to create new goals. In this way, we hope to continue to build for the future of our parish. The committees will meet one more time before the summer so that the new parish council members (chosen in June) will have a to do list already prepared for them for the coming year. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the "We Will" statements please feel free to discuss them with any parish council member.



## Upcoming Events:

July 17, 2009 - Block Party

August 16, 2009 - Parish Unity Mass and Brunch

September 27, 2009 - Parish School Alumni Day

October 24, 2009 - Parish Dinner Dance

Please save these dates.  
Visit us at [www.stcyril.org](http://www.stcyril.org)

should give our "time, talent and treasure" to the church. All of these 40+ organizations can use your time and talent. Some groups are more seasonal, while others are active throughout the year. Some have quite a bit of interaction with the community while others work with individuals. Please consider giving more of your time and talents to our parish. One of my favorite parts of mass is watching everyone come up for communion. We often sit in the front row and have a good view. I enjoy seeing all of the people that I have become acquainted with through the various committees, events or organizations my family has been involved with at the parish. It is a reminder that we are part of a wonderful parish family sharing what we can and working towards a common goal—maintaining and improving on a 125-year legacy

## Summer Celebrations

Be sure to mark your calendar with all the exciting summer activities that continue our 125th Anniversary celebration.

There will be more church tours. The first tour took place in April and was very successful with over 25 parishioners getting to know our church a little better. Keep an eye on the bulletin for details regarding the time and date for others as well as the next showing of the history DVD.

On July 17th we will hold our annual Block Party. We will have many of the usual things from past block parties (sno-cones!) but there should be some new and exciting twists this year as well, so be sure to join us and pray for good weather.

We will hold our first ever all-parish mass on the parish grounds at 10:00 a.m. on August 16th. It will be the only mass offered at SS. Cyril and Methodius that weekend and it will be held outdoors. Planning is well underway and will include parking, tenting, and cooling areas among other things. Please mark this on your calendar, as this will be an event that will be memorable. We are expecting over 2000 parishioners celebrating mass outdoors with our beautiful church and grotto as a backdrop. As always, if you can lend a hand with any event during this anniversary year please call the rectory and they will pass along your information to the appropriate chairpersons. Have a great Summer!

## News from the Pews

Quarterly publication for the  
SS. Cyril & Methodius  
parish community.

Send correspondence to:

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The next issue of **News from the Pews** comes out in Fall 2009. All Parish Ministries are encouraged to submit articles to share the happenings of parish life.



## Ksiądz Marcin obchodzi pierwszą rocznicę święceń kapłańskich.

Usiadłam z Księdzem Marcinem, aby zadać mu kilka pytań na temat jego pierwszej rocznicy kapłaństwa.

P: W których momentach swojego życia poczuł Ksiądz natchnienie, żeby zostać sługą Bożym?

O: Dla mnie to jest tajemnica. Wierzę, że Bóg wybrał mnie, abym pomagał wiernym.

P: Patrząc na ten ostatni rok, co było dla Księdza najbardziej wynagradzające?

O: Bez wątpienia, Sakramenty Święte - celebrowanie Mszy Świętej i udzielanie Chrztu Świętego. Chrztost Święty sprawia mi dużo przyjemności, bo z radością mogę witać nowonarodzonych członków naszej wspólnoty.

P: Co planuje Ksiądz osiągnąć w najbliższym czasie?

O: Chciałbym zobaczyć zjednoczenie dwóch wspólnot naszej parafii- polskiej i amerykańskiej. Bardzo lubię odprawiać dwujęzyczną mszę i z radością przyglądam się jak te dwie wspólnoty łączą się w modlitwie.

P: Jakie są Księdza największe wyzwania?

O: (Ksiądz Marcin z uśmiechem odpowiada: "życie jest wyzwaniem"). Księża mają do czynienia z ludźmi o różnych poglądach i tworzenie jedności jest wielkim wyzwaniem. Z tyłu naszego kościoła jest wywieszony sztandar z napisem "Rodzina Wiary", musimy żyć na znak tego symbolu i uznawać naszą parafię jako jedną rodzinę. Nauczyłem się, że Proboszcz Larry i ja musimy pracować jako zespół.

P: W jaki sposób spędza Ksiądz wolny czas?

O: Kiedy tylko mogę, lubię pływać, grać w koszykówkę i biegać.



## Who Me??

And God said, "Go, be a CATECHIST."

And I said, "Who?.....Me?"

And God smiled, "Yes!!..... You!"

And I said: "But I'm not ready yet. I've got company coming. And I can't leave the kids. And you know there's no one to take my place."

And God smiled, "Are you sure?"

And God said, "Go, we need a CATECHIST."

And I said, "But I don't want to!"

And God smiled, "I didn't ask if you wanted to."

And I said: "Listen: I'm not the kind of person to get involved in teaching. Besides, my family won't like it: and my neighbors - what will they think?"

And God smiled, "I know well!"

And yet a third time God said, "Go, be a CATECHIST!"

And I said "Do I have to?"

And God smiled, "Do you love me?"

And I said:"Look, I'm scared! The kids are going to hate me! And cut me to pieces. And I can't take it all by myself."

And God smiled, "Where do you think I will be?"

And God said to me, "Be a CATECHIST!"

And I said, "Here I am God! Send me!"



# Nurturing and Fostering Spiritual Growth Highlight Father Larry's 25 Years

By Liz Brohan



“God puts you in the places where you need to be,” said Fr. Larry as he reflected on 25 years in the priesthood. It’s a familiar feeling he’s experienced time and again, and one he credits for the major moments of influence that led to his decision to serve God and the Church.

Starting with his childhood during the Kennedy era when serving a higher purpose, giving back and making a difference became a national priority, the inspirational moments that define Father Larry’s calling transpired early and often.

“I grew up completely immersed in a Catholic community. I never knew anyone who was different from me until I went to college,” said Father Larry. “At the time, great priests like Jack Wall from Old St. Pat’s were everywhere, and I began to see myself in that role.”

Another moment came while working a summer job during college. “I was stripping and waxing floors in the choir loft, and as I looked down over the altar I realized it was a place I would be comfortable calling home someday,” he said.

Today, making the Church a place that feels like home to everyone, serves as his core mission and passion. His success

is particularly evident here at St. Cyril’s where he has worked to create a loving, open and nurturing environment where all parishioners feel welcome and connected to each other.

“The ability to help others grow their spirituality is deeply rewarding,” he continued. For him that starts with building an environment that enables others to grow in their belief in a way that can enrich both their personal life and work within their community. “When we support each other and feel nourished through the Eucharist we accomplish great things,” he said.

As for even greater things yet to come, Father Larry has his sights set on a few additional goals. “I’d like to encourage people who are not attending church to come back,” he said. He is also devoted to fostering and growing ministry work and lay leadership. Above all, he would consider it a profound achievement to inspire vocations from the parish.

“The best part of the job is the ability to enter into people’s lives at pivotal and significant moments like weddings, baptisms and deaths. It’s truly a privilege,” he concluded.



# Parish School

By Shirley Tkachuk, Parish School Principal



## Every Day at SS. Cyril and Methodius School

Our school community is truly a family. We are made of many, many talented people who work hard and have dedicated themselves to Catholic Education. They constantly go “over and above” what their job descriptions say. Our school is a success due to their talents and energy. As we close another school year, I would like to tell you just a little bit about some of these special people who help our children and make my job much easier!

I would especially like to tell you about the people who work in our front office. These ladies are the first people families meet when they enter our school, and they are responsible for taking care of many of the things that happen on a daily basis.

Mrs. Joan Witt is our school’s secretary. She helps with our calendar, orders books and supplies, sets up appointments, works with us on our bills, organizes field trips, and arranges for the substitute teachers who work in our building. She has been a member of our school family for 16 years. Joan and her husband Joe have two married children and one grandson!

The first person most people talk to in our school is Mrs. Geri O’Connell. She has been a part of our staff for 22 years. Geri and her husband Jim also have two married children, one grandson, and one new grandchild on the way!

Geri is our unofficial Director of Admissions. She gives the best school tours, arranges all of the paperwork, and can answer

almost all of the questions new families to our school might have.

If you happen to fall at recess, or feel sick during the day, you’ll be taken care of by Mrs. Althea Wesolowski. Althea also takes care of the absentees and keeps all of our medical information and supplies organized. She has been a part of our staff for 11 years. She and her husband Dan have two sons, and will welcome a new daughter-in-law this September.

Mrs. Carolyn Cloutier and her husband Richard have one daughter. She has been a part of the staff for 21 years. Carolyn is responsible for ordering, preparing, and organizing our TerraNova materials. She also helps me with preparing some of the reports that need to be sent to the state. Carolyn also laminates materials for the teachers!

Thank you to all of the great ladies who work in our office for their contributions to making “Every day at SS. Cyril and Methodius School” a good one for our students, parents, and staff!



## Religious Education News

By Trish Nickleski, Religious Education Director

The religious education school year has come to a close and we are already beginning to work on the next school year which will begin in September.

I am in need of many volunteers for the upcoming school year. I know there are people in our parish who would make wonderful catechists for the young people of our parish. You may be a young adult, a senior citizen or a parent of a student in our program. Please consider sharing your faith with the young people of our parish. You are given a teacher’s manual which will guide you through each lesson and I am available to help you every step of the way. I can also put you in contact with a seasoned catechist who can help you in many ways. Each class has a teacher’s aide to help you and our class sizes will be between 12 and 15 this upcoming school year.

I am also in need of catechist aides to help out in the classroom. You would be there to help the teacher in any way that is needed but would also be responsible for taking attendance, collecting papers, listening to children’s prayers, etc.

I have listed what positions are available at this time and hope you will consider becoming a volunteer for our program.



**Sunday Session: 8:45 -10:15 am**

**Catechist Aide for 1st grade**

**Monday Session: 5:30 until 7:00 pm**

**Catechist for 3rd, 5th and 8th grade**

**Catechist Aide for 8th grade (adult only for 8th grade)**

**Wednesday Session: 5:30 until 7:00 pm**

**Catechist for 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades**

**Catechist Aide for 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th grade (adult only for 7th and 8th grades)**

I am also in need of a crossing guard to help the current crossing guard on Wednesday.

If you are interested in sharing your faith with the young people of our parish and would like to volunteer for the Religious Education Program please give me a call at 630-257-9314.

# Inspired Art Corner

By Judith Mokolke

## A Story of Two Brothers

As you walk into the nave of our church, one of the first things you may notice are the beautiful paintings installed on the walls above the sanctuary arch. This depicts events in the lives of our patron Saints, Cyril and Methodius. This is a narrative painting done on canvas, not a mural, and was done as part of the renovation of our church in 1945. In early times, narrative paintings were used in churches to convey a religious story for those parishioners who weren't able to read. For us here at Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish, these paintings are a lovely decorative means to remind us of our patron saints, their virtues and their story. Sts. Cyril and Methodius were Greek brothers, missionaries in the 9th century, who worked among the Slavic people. Through their work, they not only brought Christianity to the Slavs, but also greatly influenced their cultural development. They

are renowned for having developed the Cyrillic alphabet. They inspired a large group of followers – pupils and apostles. St. Methodius was the elder brother and he eventually became archbishop. He

out-lived his brother, Cyril, who was known as a great teacher and philosopher. He is usually shown with a massive Bible. Early in their missionary travels, the brothers miraculously discovered the relics of St. Clement. While the brothers continued their missionary works, they would bring along the remains of St. Clement, impressing and inspiring the Slavic natives, as well as the Papal court in Rome. When St. Cyril died, his body was interred in the Basilica of San Clemente. Many miracles were witnessed after St. Cyril was buried there. This Basilica still exists in Rome. Excavations have found a 4th century church below the current structure, and beneath that a 1st century temple. After St. Cyril died, St. Methodius vigorously continued the work among the Slavs. He was imprisoned while fighting both political and spiritual battles. The pope intervened and gave St. Methodius his freedom. St. Methodius would continue to baptize the Czech prince Borivoi and his wife, Ludmilla, as well as one of the Polish princes.

The paintings located in the east and western spandrels of our church, capture the brothers at important junctures of their mission. Because we don't have records of the identity of the artist, or any notes he may have left regarding these scenes, we can only guess at what they may be. The eastern spandrel may show the brothers about to leave on their venture to the Slavic countries, or it may be the brothers baptizing a Slavic prince or king. The brothers are the central figures in the painting – Methodius is depicted as grey-bearded, arms raised in a blessing, carrying a cross and his unique crescent-handled staff, looking focused and straight-on. Cyril, dark hair and beard, his arms around the Word of God, looks off into the distance. They are standing within the city's stone walls, a large turret with small arched windows behind them. It seems to be a beautiful day, an intense blue sky, fluffy clouds, and green trees just beyond the wall. The wall and turret seem to



be Slavic, rather than Greek. Followers, well-wishers, patrons, soldiers, altar servers, townspeople and officials surround the brothers. All gaze at the brothers, some bow their head as they accept the blessing. Although Sts. Cyril and Methodius are dressed in neutral black and white, their audience is arrayed in various jewel tones – reds, shades of blue and yellow. The only female in either painting is tucked in the corner, kneeling in a yellow dress as she watches the scene. One figure in the front of the painting is holding a white cloth with gold embroidery, another kneeling figure, dressed in rich red (royal ?) robes holds a small tray with a covered dish and, what looks like, unleavened bread. The white cloth is commonly used in baptisms and funerals, and the covered dish may be salt or oil, both used in baptism. Bread is given as a parting gift, symbolizing “may you never be hungry,” or the bread may be the Body of Christ. Most likely, because of the white cloth and covered dish, this is a baptism scene. Above the altar, the paintings meet with the all-seeing eye of God, within a triangle, symbolizing His three natures.

The painting in the western spandrel shows St. Methodius, wearing an “omophorion” — a cloak worn by bishops, ornamented with crosses which symbolize the lost sheep carried on the shoulders of the Good Shepherd. Once again, his arms are extended and he is carrying his staff. A very solemn audience surrounds him. I have always thought this scene was the burial of St. Cyril. However, a good close-up photograph confirms that in St. Methodius's right hand is a small shell, or bowl, and water is being poured onto the head of the kneeling figure in the simple brown tunic in the foreground. We know that after his brother died, Methodius baptized several princes. An altar attendant holds St. Cyril's beloved bible. This time the scene takes place in a church or chapel. There are candles on the altar directly behind St.

Methodius. There is another white cloth, but what I believed to be a burial pall, is actually a baptismal cloth. What I thought was a white tomb, is a baptismal font. The artist may have done an interesting balance in the two scenes by using the white cloth in the same area of each painting to symbolize life – baptism, and new beginnings, the brothers leaving to change the spiritual and cultural lives of eastern Europe.

These paintings are so beautifully rendered, the composition is nicely balanced, and it tells a wonderful story, the story of the Patrons of our church – St. Cyril and St. Methodius, brothers who selflessly dedicated themselves to God's work.

*A special thank you to Tom Howe, a fellow parishioner, who took pictures of these paintings for this article.*



# Mothers' Club

By Laura Klimczak, Secretary of Mothers' Club

Trees and lawns are lush green. Flowers are in full bloom. This is the time of the year to go outside and enjoy nature. On May 8th, the school children participated in the annual "Waller Walkathon." God graced us with a nice day so that the children could walk outside, and admire the beautiful flowers in the grotto and the added greenery. They were able to walk to the beat of the music that was provided by a DJ and high fives of encouragement from Mr. Waller and family. All the students showed enthusiasm and determination to walk the entire time allowed. Water was provided to the students during their walk and when they finished

they enjoyed popsicles. Every student received a "Walkathon" t-shirt for their participation. This "FUNdraiser" will help to provide the school with a new math series for 3rd, 4th and 6th grades, Peaceful Playground for outdoor recess, new desk chairs for 5th and 6th grades and lower level laptops. Thanks to all of our volunteers and donators that made this event possible. The children really enjoyed it! Mother's Club wishes everyone a safe and delightful summer break! See you in the fall.



# Fr. Marcin Celebrates His First Anniversary

By Karen Dziekan

I sat with Fr. Marcin to ask him a few questions as he celebrates his first year anniversary in the priesthood.



Q: What are some of your moments of inspiration that led you to choose the priesthood?

A: It's a mystery. You have to believe that God chose me to work with his people.

Q: What have you found most rewarding as you look back this past year?

A: Without a doubt, it is the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Baptism. With Baptism, I enjoy welcoming innocent babies into the Church. It is both joyful and fun.

Q: What are some achievements you hope to realize?

A: Ultimately, I would like to see unity of the two communities – Polish and English. I enjoy the bilingual masses and seeing the people together. Yes, it would definitely be the joining into one community.

Q: What are some of your biggest challenges?

A: (Fr. Marcin laughs as he says, "Life is a challenge.") Priests deal with all kinds of people who have very different perspectives. Dealing with diversity and creating unity are the biggest challenges. In the back of our church where we have hanging the 125th "A Family of Faith" banner, we need to live this symbol and recognize our parish as this one family. For myself, I learned it is important for Fr. Larry and I to work as a team.

Q: What are some of your favorite activities to enjoy when your schedule allows?

A: Whenever I can, I enjoy swimming, basketball and running.

# Largest Parish Alumni Renunion Planned for September

**ATTENTION:** ALL SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS PARISH SCHOOL ALUMNI

As part of the 125th Anniversary, we are planning a Parish School Alumni Day.

It will be Sunday, September 27, 2009 this will include a Mass and reception.

If you have not already supplied your current information, please fill out the following on a sheet of paper and drop it in the collection basket. We are trying to build a database of all graduates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

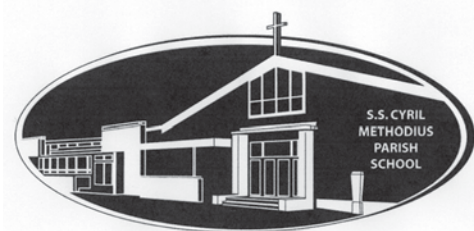
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pass this along to any of your children, family and friends that are not in the area.

Start to search for your old photos - Class, Graduation, Field Trips, Reunions, School picnics, Plays, Sports, Communion and Confirmation. Also, if you still have your uniform bring that too!

So far we have graduates signed up dating back to 1941!



## Parish Information

### Worship Services

Saturdays	7:00 A.M.	5:30 P.M.		
Sundays	7:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.	12:00 Noon	5:00 P.M. (St. Patrick's)
Masses in Polish	8:30 A.M.	1:30 P.M.		

Holy Days As Announced

Weekday Mornings	7:00 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	<i>(no 8:00 A.M. in summer)</i>	
Tuesday Evenings	8:00 P.M.	(Polish)		
First Fridays	7:00 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	7:00 P.M.	<i>(no 8:00 A.M. in summer)</i>

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays	4:30 P.M.
First Friday	5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

### Phones

Rectory (630) 257-2776	Gym (630) 257-9844	Polish School (630) 669-9058
School (630) 257-6488	Rel. Ed (630) 257-9314	Counsel. Office (312) 655-7725
Fax (630) 257-9372	Music Minister (630) 257-0100	

### Check out the SS. Cyril & Methodius website!

<http://stcyril.org/whatis.html>

There is a lot of new material on line. The various organizations in the parish and school are all contributing new material to the web site. The Parish bulletin is updated weekly, the school calendars and homework are on-line, and much more information is available to help our parishioners stay up to date on parish and school activities. You can also e-mail articles for the *News from the Pews* at [rectory@stcyril.org](mailto:rectory@stcyril.org).



**SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church**  
**608 Sobieski Street**  
**Lemont, IL 60439**

## SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish

### Pastor

Rev. Lawrence Lisowski

### Associate Pastor

Rev. Marcin Szczypula

### Pastoral Ministry

Deacon Norbert Lesniewski

### Parish School Principal

Shirley Tkachuk

### Music Ministry

Melinda Voss - Music Director

### Director of Religious Ed

Trish Nickleski

### Liturgy Coordinator

Marietta Vargo

### Business Manager

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