

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish St. James at Sag Bridge Mission

Parish Staff

Pastoral Ministry
Rev. Waldemar "Valdi"
Stawiarski
Pastor

Rev. Thomas Koys
Associate Pastor

Education
Shirley Tkachuk
Parish School Principal

Monika Leja
R.E. Administrator

Roxana Boyden
R.E. Administrative Assistant

Liturgy
Trish Nickleski
Liturgy Coordinator

Music Ministry
Miroslawa Sojka-Topor
Music Director

Administration
Denise Duda
Operations Director

Lynn Bailey
Ann Noonan
Assistant Business Managers

Roxana Boyden, Debbie Grand
Peggy Sniegowski, Ann Noonan
Parish Secretaries

Nicole O'Hare
Bulletin Editor

Coleen Mast
Evangelization Coordinator

Bernice Raj
Cook/Housekeeper

Ryszard Witkowski
Paul Siro
Maintenance



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*"Rejoice,
prepare to receive our Savior!"*



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.

The Parish Staff of St. Cyril's and St. James welcomes all to our historic parishes that have carried on the mission of Jesus Christ.

Parish Information
Parish Office: 608 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL
 Denise Duda, Operations Director
 (630) 257-2776; (630) 257-9372 Fax
 rector@stcyril.org
 website: www.stcyril.org
 www.facebook.com/SSCMLemont

School: 607 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL
 Shirley Tkachuk, Principal
 (630) 257-6488; shirleyt@stcyril.org

Religious Education: Monika Leja, Religious Education
 Administrator (630) 257-9314;
 mleja@sscmlmont.org

Mass Schedule:

Monday thru Saturday: 7:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM Sunday Obligation

Sunday: 7:00 AM (English-No Music),
 8:00 AM (Polish), 9:30 AM (English),
 11:00 AM (Polish),
 12:30 PM (English), 2:00 PM (Polish),
 7:30 PM (English-No Music)

Special Masses:

Tuesday PM: devotions at 7 PM, 7:45 PM (Polish)

First Friday: 7:00 AM (English), 7:00 PM (Polish)

First Saturday: devotions at 7 PM (Polish),
 9:00 PM (Polish)

Holy Days of Obligation: As announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM

First Fridays: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Also available by appointment.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:

Following the Monday morning 7:00 AM Mass

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:

Located in the Divine Mercy Chapel in the Parish Life Building. Please contact: Lottie (630) 4442-9441, Mark (773) 727-7934, Margaret mtsniesz@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours: Each weekday the office will be closed between the hours of 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.

Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday Closed

Minister of Music: Mira Sojka-Topor
 musicmin@stcyril.org
 (630) 257-2776

Polish School: www.polschool.com
 Halina Szyrzyna
 Principal: (630) 669-9058

Polish Club: John Lichacz, President
 (773) 216-1108
 polishclub@stcyril.org

Minister of Care: Dave Smietanski
 (630) 257-2776

Parish Council: Stan Brzezniak, President

Bulletin: bulletin@stcyril.org

Helping Hands: helpinghands@stcyril.org

New Parishioners: Download the new parishioner form online on our website. The form can be handed into the donation basket at Mass, mailed in, or brought into the parish office

Baptisms: Parents need to be registered, active and supporting parishioners prior to arranging a baptism at St. Cyril's. If this is a firstborn child, the parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class. Both sponsors should be adults and one an active, practicing Catholic.

Marriage: The bride and groom are encouraged to be registered, active, contributing parishioners of SS. Cyril & Methodius. Arrangements are to be made with a priest or deacon as soon as possible. A Marriage Preparation Program is a requirement of the Archdiocese. To schedule a wedding, please contact the parish office.

Social Media: In an effort to enhance communication with our parishioners and visitors, please visit these websites to stay better connected with the many events and ministries of our parish.

Parish Website: www.stcyril.org

School Website: www.school.stcyril.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SSCMLemont

School Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SSCMComets



**From the desk of Father Koys
Dear Parishioners,**

"The child left in her womb." Moms have a unique insight into this miracle of Christmas. Let's thank God that some young couples bravely welcome children these days. Those of us who are not at that time of life, need to help

those who could use a little help. It's a very Christmasy thing to do.

The reading from Hebrews 10 draws us into the high ideals of living our faith too. Although St Paul reminds his Jewish friends that God is not so much pleased with holocausts, we are supposed to pray, "Here I am, coming to obey your will."

On this, the Sunday before Christmas, I wish to encourage as many people as possible to invite, bribe or otherwise fenagle loved ones to come to Christmas Mass who don't usually go to church. For such people, attending Mass is primarily seen as a favor to the one who invited them. For them it feels like a sacrifice of their precious time and energy. So, even if their attendance isn't driven by the higher virtue of the love of God made present in the Eucharist at least they are offering a sacrifice in His name.

This is where Hebrews 10 comes in. Look closely at what St Paul says. "This will was for us to be made holy..." Whose will is St Paul talking about? God's will for us of course. What is His ultimate will for us? To obey His laws, not out of mere obedience but out of love. We need to see there is a stark difference between "just obeying laws" and "doing another's will out of true love". In other words, there is a stark difference between going to church out of obedience to a friend, or even to God and wanting to run to Mass out of a love for the one you encounter there. St Paul knows this distinction all too well. Yet, he masterfully connects our feeble acts of obedience to His commandments and what truly is the

highest act of love humanly possible. What's the highest act of love humanly possible? To lay down your life for your friends of course. St Paul uses the word katargeō when he says, "God is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second." It can seem like obedience is being abolished to make room for love. But katargeō also means, "setting aside" or "make room for" as in "step aside from something lower to make room for something or someone higher".

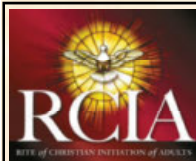
You must be blind as a bat not to see that when Jesus offers His life on the cross out of obedience He is at one and the same time showing us an example of obedience and an example of ultimate love. "Works matter".

This theme is so important for our reluctant friends who maybe "dragged" to church because they always feel that the sacrifice that going to church requires isn't worth the effort. Everyone knows the meaning of sacrifice. Every time we do something we don't want to do, like going to work or doing the laundry, we experience sacrifice. But there's a slight chance that in going to church they will see what St Paul saw. God came to earth to die for our salvation. Knowing this, looking at the manger should move us to tears.

Fr Thomas Koys, M.A.,S.T.L.

And now a few things the Parish wants you to know:

- Join Father Valdi in May of 2025 for a sentimental journey to Poland. Don't miss out on this meaningful experience. Please see the bulletin for more details.
- Please see the bulletin for the Christmas Season Mass schedule for SSCM and St. James.
- **Effective immediately, the Parish Life Building has new office hours. Monday through Friday the offices will be open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We will still be closed on Saturday and Sunday.**



The Rite of Welcoming for the RCIA Program took place on Sunday, November 24. Erin Povalish will be baptized and receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Her sponsor is her husband, John Povalish. Please pray for Erin as she learns about our Catholic faith and prepares to be baptized and receive her sacraments.





SS. Cyril & Methodius School
"Strength for the Journey"

SS. Cyril & Methodius School
2019 National Blue Ribbon School

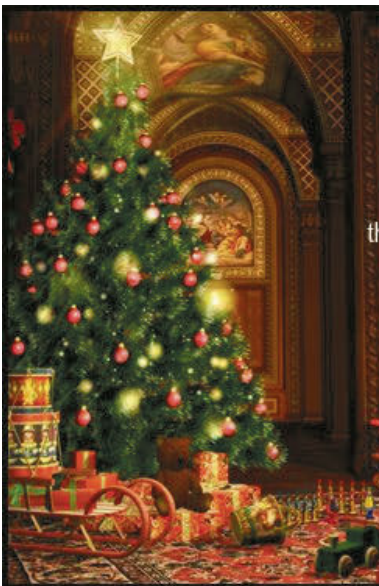
Dear SS. Cyril and Methodius Parishioners,

Merry Christmas!

May this Christmas be a most blessed and joyous one for all, filled with love and warmth, surrounded by family and friends! Our entire National Blue-Ribbon School Family holds you in prayer and thanks you for your guidance and support. We are blessed to be a part of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish!

Thank you for your generous support of our school! We hold you each day in our prayers.

The Students and Staff of SSCM School
Mrs. Shirley Tkachuk
Principal



May God's Blessings
be with you and your family
on Christmas and always!

May you experience
the wonder of His abiding love,
as He guides you,
through each day
of the coming year.

Merry
Christmas!

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Interested in finding out
about SS. Cyril and
Methodius School? We are
offering personal, private
tours of our school along
with shadow days! Please
call 630-257-6488, ext. 21
for more information.
Visit and see all we have
to offer!





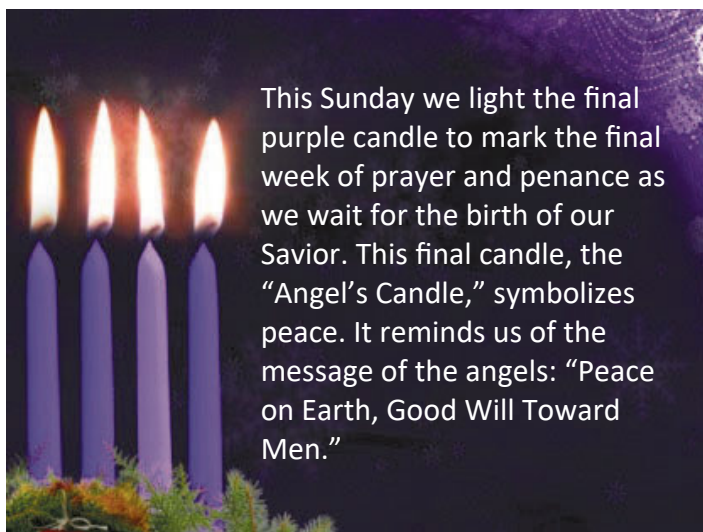
SS Cyril & Methodius
Religious Education Program
stcyrilre@sscmlmont.org
(630)257-9314
www.re.stcyril.org

Mrs. Monika Leja – RE Administrator



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mother Mary, pray for us, that we might be inspired by the way you received your life and God's. Draw us close to your Son, that we might trust Him with our lives, as He learned to trust His Father by His trust in you. Amen.



This Sunday we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The (optional) fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle."

It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.



Wishing you a season of blessings from heaven above. May your world be filled with warmth and good cheer this Holy season, we wish you a joy-filled Christmas. A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love. A Merry Christmas to all of our RE families!

Merry Christmas!



Śnieg okrył ziemię puszystą bielą, wokół się wszyscy ludzie weselą. Spłynęła z niebios dla nas nowina Najświętsza Panna powiła Syna. I my Dzieciątku dziś hołd oddajmy wspólnie Kolędę Mu aśpiewajmy. Niech śpiew przy żłobku nasze serca jednoczy w tym pięknym czasie wyjątkowej nocy....



Z okazji Świąt Bożego Narodzenia dzieląc się z Wami wigilijnym Oplątkiem pragniemy wszystkim złożyć najserdeczniejsze życzenia. Aby nowonarodzony Chrystus wypełnił nasze serca pokojem oraz wzajemną miłością która wszystko zwycięża.

St. James at Sag Bridge Mission

10600 S. Archer Avenue | Lemont, Illinois 60439-9344 | (Ph) 630.257.7000 |
Email: stjames1833@att.net | Website: www.historicstjames.org

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, December 24:
Christmas Eve Masses
5:00 pm & Midnight

Wednesday, December 25:
Christmas Day Masses
8:15am, 10:00am and 12pm

Tuesday December 31:
New Year's Eve Mass
5:00pm Vigil Mass

Wednesday, January 1:
New Year's Day Masses
10am and 12:00pm



Our Lady of Fatima Statue

You may host our beautiful statue for one week (Sun to Sun). Scan to sign up or go to historicstjames.org.

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY
OPENINGS BEGINNING JAN 5**



**The rectory office will be closed from
Monday, Dec 23 to Friday, Dec 27,
and Wednesday, January 1.
In case of an emergency, call the rectory.
There is an emergency phone number on
the greeting that you may call.**

Don't miss the adventures at this year's
St Stephen's Day Hike ~ Thurs, Dec 26 ~ 10am
Gather in St James' parking lot for the ~2hour hike.

Wine & Wisdom – Christmas Break
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all those who have shared of themselves – as presenters or participants in one of our Wednesday night gatherings. Our next session will be Jan 8 when we will touch on the topic of euthanasia

Christmas Pageant!
The children of St James' CCD program will present the Christmas Story. Don't miss it!
Sun, Dec 22, 3pm, Chesterton Academy of the Holy Family, 5205 Kingston Ave., Lisle

2025 FLOWER SIGNUP CHART:
Now available in the back of Church.



One Table of Christmas Revelers

Huge thanks to the Altar & Rosary Society for hosting a fabulous gathering on December 8. A full hall enjoyed great food, company, music, sing-a-long & fun! See our website for the complete photo album.



As we continue with reflections of this advent season, peace, love, joy and hope are at the center of our hearts. The Altar & Rosary Society is blessed with so much support within our parish family. We are so very grateful!! The generosity we witnessed at our recent Christmas dinner was a joyful outpouring of love. Thank you to all who supported our Christmas dinner by attending the dinner, purchasing raffle tickets, and donating beautiful raffle baskets. A huge thank you, also, to the ladies who planned, decorated, cooked and made this festive event possible. Altar & Rosary Society wants to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas!! May your homes be filled with Christ's light.



My dear precious Jesus, I did not mean to take your place, I only bring toys and things and you bring love and grace.

People give me lists of wishes and hope that they came true; But you hear prayers of the heart and promise your will to do.

Children try to be good and not to cry when I am coming to town; But you love them unconditionally and that love will abound.

I leave only a bag of toys and temporary joy for a season; But you leave a heart of love, full of purpose and reasons.

I have a lot of believers and what one might call fame; But I never healed the blind or tried to help the lame.

I have rosy cheeks and a voice full of laughter; But no nail-scarred hands or a promise of the hereafter.

You may find several of me in town or at a mall; But there is only one omnipotent you, to answer a sinner's call.

And so, my dear precious Jesus, I kneel here to pray; To worship and adore you on this, your holy birthday.

In the Christmas Season?

Even as we prepare for the birth of the infant Jesus with joy, there are mothers facing a crisis pregnancy who think that abortion is the solution. It is estimated that more than 80 babies were lost at Access Health during the first week of Advent. How Mary must cry for those sweet innocents! And for their mothers & fathers! Please join us at 1700 75th Str, Downers Grove each Friday at 3pm to pray for changed hearts & saved babes.



Mass Intentions

Note: Please allow 2 weeks notice to book Mass intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00AM Birthday Blessings—Veronica Pienkos
 Birthday Blessings—Jackson Rice

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00AM ✠Joseph E. Slowik
5:00PM—VIGIL MASS ✠Joseph M. Slowik
12AM—MIDNIGHT Blessings for Tim Frisby

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

8:15AM Blessings for Our Lady of Fatima Travelling Statue Participants
10:00AM ✠Connie Navarro
 Health & Healing—Sr Maria Paulina Sterling
12:00PM ✠Loretta Macfarlane

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00AM ✠Gregory Kuhlman

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:00PM ✠Randy Ragain
 Birthday Blessings—Chris Pienkos
 Jim & Lisa Beecher—35th Wedding Anniv

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00AM Health & Healing—Steve Rohrbacher
 ✠Isabel Hughes

Feast of the Holy Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:15AM ✠Louis Quinn
 Health & Healing—Steve Rohrbacher
10AM ✠Loretta Macfarlane
 Birthday Blessing—Kelley Rice
12:00PM ✠Elvia Solis

Our beautiful bouquets of flowers surrounding our altar were made available by:
THE PARISHIONERS OF ST JAMES



Our reporting of the weekly *Offertory* collection from December 15, will be delayed due to early submission to the bulletin publisher.
 Our weekly *Offertory* collection from December 8, 2024 was \$5,423. Online giving (Give Central) totalled \$3,293.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
8:15am	Joe Beecher, Alex Pawlikowski, Christos & Frankie Latsonas
10am	Christian Cozzi, Daniel Newsom, Marty & Tommy Comer



Dear Friends of SS. Cyril and Methodius School,

Our entire school family hopes you are doing well! We are into the beautiful Season of Advent. It is a most special time of year as we think and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the greatest gift anyone has ever received!

As a school, we are deeply thankful for all our families and parishioners. Your constant guidance and support are truly a blessing! Please know we hold you in our prayers every school day.

This year our school has faced the challenge of a \$300,000 budget shortfall. It is a large, but not insurmountable amount. The shortfall is the result of families leaving our school over the summer months.

Representatives from the Archdiocese of Chicago met with Father Valdi, Denise Duda, and myself to develop a plan to help our school. Everyone's goal is to not just help the school this year, but to continue as we always have, to be financially sound for the future.

The result of this meeting was to begin the "SS. Cyril and Methodius School-Keep SSCM Excellent"- \$600,000 Challenge. The school has been challenged to raise \$300,00. The parish is offering a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$300,000 over the next two years.

Thanks to the hard work of Father Valdi, and his commitment to the success of our school, several parishioners and school families who were contacted have already responded and are helping us to reach our goal. Our school is extremely grateful for their support! We are more than two-thirds of the way to achieving our goal!

Now we are reaching out to all parishioners and school families to contribute what you can to help us get to \$300,000. A pledge card is included. Please consider how you can help and return the card to the collection basket or to school.

Whether you are a current or former school family, a parishioner, an SSCM Alum, or someone who is the product of Catholic education, you have the chance to give back, for all the blessings you have already received in your life!

Catholic schools in our nation have been paramount in teaching the values that parents seek to instill in their children. At SS. Cyril & Methodius School, we have worked hard and take pride in teaching a well-rounded education that has served as a foundation for a better future since 1884.

Thank you all for your support!

Shirley Tkachuk
Principal

***Please see the "Keep SSCM Excellent"
Pledge Card on Page 9.**

*Christmas Season Schedule
of Services 2024*

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th
in Church**

1:00 PM (English)
3:00 PM Children's Mass (English)
5:00 PM (English)
8:00 PM Children's Mass (Polish)
10:00 PM (Polish)
12:00 Midnight Mass (English)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

7:00 AM (English)
8:00 AM (Polish)
9:30 AM (English)
11:00 AM (Polish)
12:30 PM (English)
2:00 PM (Polish)

New Year's Masses



Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God Vigil Mass
Tuesday, December 31st

4:00 PM (English)
5:30 PM (Polish)

New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

8:00 AM (Polish)
9:30 AM (English)
11:00 AM (Polish)
12:30 PM (English)



*Holiday Parish Life Building
Office Closings*

*Tuesday, December 24th
Wednesday, December 25th
Thursday, December 26th
Wednesday, January 1st*



**Feast of St. Stephen
Thursday, December 26th**

7:00 AM (English)
11:30 AM (Polish)
7:00 PM (Polish)

*On behalf of Father Valdi,
Father Koys and the entire
SS. Cyril & Methodius
Parish & St. James at Sag
Bridge Mission Staff we
wish you a...*

Oplatki



We have oplatki available on
tables in the back of church.
A free will offering for the oplatki
is greatly appreciated.



"KEEP SSCM EXCELLENT"
PLEDGE CARD

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____

I COMMIT TO GIVE \$ _____ by March 1st.
Thank you for your generosity!!

I believe this is a defining moment and I will not hold back.
 I prayerfully commit to step out in faith and pledge this generous amount.

SSCM  *With Family Values
and a Mission to Inspire*

Oplątek 2024

22 grudnia
Niedziela 12 PM
 sala gimnastyczna SSCM

- ★ Tradycyjne dzielenie się opłatkiem
- ★ Jasełka w wykonaniu dzieci i młodzieży Małej Oazy Dzieci Fatimskich
- ★ Występ zespołu tanecznego "POLANIE"
- ★ Kolędowanie
- ★ Poczęstunek



Klub Polski w Lemont

Polish Carols

& some American Carols too!

THE LIRA SINGERS & LIRA CHAMBER PLAYERS

NARRATED BY LUCYNA MIGALA

FRIDAY, DEC 27 | 7 PM


SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CHURCH
 608 SOBIESKI ST. LEMONT, IL

TICKET INFORMATION
 Adults \$30 | Seniors \$25
 Clergy/Children/Students with ID's - FREE

BUY TICKETS at: polishconcerts.org

A carols concert like no other, with Lira's own, exclusive arrangements plus music of Chopin, Moniuszko and Lutoslawski.





The Blessed Sacrament candle that burns above the altar 24/7 is available to be sponsored for an intention or in memory of loved ones. This candle is replaced every Monday morning. We also have a Blessed Sacrament candle in our Divine Mercy Chapel which is available for intentions. Please call our parish office to make arrangements to book your week and to specify which Blessed Sacrament candle you would like to sponsor. A donation of \$100 is requested, and the intention along with the name of the donor will be acknowledged in our bulletin.

KOLEDOWANIE

28 grudnia, 2024
GRUPA KOLEDNICZA KLUBU POLSKIEGO W LEMONT
 będzie odwiedzać domy naszych parafian z Koledą. Można zaprosić Koledników, dzwoniąc: 773-216-1108

December 28th, 2024
 A group of Christmas carolers from the Polish Club of Lemont will be Christmas caroling to the homes of our parishioners. Please welcome them as they sing for you! You can call: 773-216-1108

29 grudnia, 2024
 Zaprasza na tradycyjne Koledowanie przy Szopce Po każdej Mszy Świętej

December 29th, 2024
 will be Christmas caroling outside at SSCM Church by the nativity set after all Masses.



Za kolędę dziękujemy, zdrowia, szczęścia wieszujemy, byście sobie długo żyli, zdrowi i szczęśliwi byli na ten Nowy Rok!

Merry Christmas

Z okazji świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz zbliżającego się Nowego Roku życzymy Wam obfitości łask Bożych, zdrowia, radości i szczęścia.

Zyczy: Prezes Klubu Polskiego wraz Zarządem



"O Shew Cullen Sip Slob"



**Z biurka wikariusza pastora
Drodzy Parafianie,**

„Dziecię poruszyło się w jej łonie.” Muszę przyznać że nasze mamy mają wyjątkowy sposób zrozumienia cudu Bożego Narodzenia. Podziękujmy Bogu za to, że niektóre młode pary odważnie wkraczają w macierzyństwo i przyjmują dzieci

w dzisiejszych czasach. Natomiast Ci z nas, którzy przeszli już ten etap życia, powinni ich wspierać gdy borykają się ze swymi problemami i potrzebują pomocy. Okazanie takiego wsparcia jest wyjątkowo Bożonarodzeniowe.

Dzisiejsze czytanie z Listu do Hebrajczyków (Hbr 10) zachęca nas także do życia w najwyższych ideałach naszej wiary. Nawet gdy św. Paweł przypomina swoim żydowskim przyjacielom, że Bóg nie znajduje upodobania w zagładzie ludzkiego życia, to jednak powinniśmy modlić się słowami: „Oto idę, aby spełnić Twoją wolę.”

W tę niedzielę przed Bożym Narodzeniem chciałbym zachęcić jak najwięcej osób, aby zaprosili, namówili, a nawet „podstępem” sprowadzili swoich bliskich na Bożonarodzeniową Mszę Świętą, szczególnie tych, którzy zwykle nie chodzą do kościoła. Dla takich osób uczestnictwo we Mszy jest przede wszystkim przysługą wyświadczoną temu, kto ich zaprosił. W ich oczach to ofiara ich cennego czasu i energii. Nawet jeśli ich obecność nie wynika z wyższej cnoty miłości do Boga obecnego w Eucharystii, to przynajmniej składają ofiarę w Jego imieniu.

Przyjrzyjmy się uważnie czytaniu, 10 rozdział Listu do Hebrajczyków. Zwróćmy uwagę na słowa św. Pawła: „Tę wolą jest nasze uświęcenie...” Czyją wolą? Oczywiście wolą Bożą wobec nas. Jaka jest Jego ostateczna wola wobec nas? Byśmy przestrzegali Jego przykazań, nie z czystego posłuszeństwa, ale z miłości do Boga. Musimy dostrzec wyraźną różnicę między „po prostu przestrzeganiem praw” a „spełnianiem woli wypływającej z prawdziwej miłości.” Innymi słowy, istnieje wyraźna różnica między chodzeniem do kościoła z posłuszeństwa wobec przyjaciela lub Boga, a pragnieniem uczestnictwa we Mszy z miłości do Tego, kogo tam spotykamy. Św. Paweł doskonale zna tę różnicę. Jednak w mistrzowski sposób łączy nasze słabe akty posłuszeństwa z Jego przykazaniami i tym, co naprawdę jest najwyższym aktem miłości możliwym dla człowieka.

A co jest najwyższym aktem miłości możliwym dla człowieka? Oczywiście oddanie życia za przyjaciół. Św. Paweł używa słowa *katargeō*, gdy mówi: „Bóg znosi to pierwsze, aby ustanowić to drugie.” Może się wydawać, że posłuszeństwo zostaje zniesione, aby zrobić miejsce miłości. Ale

katargeō oznacza również „odstawić na bok” lub „zrobić miejsce”, to tak, jak „ustąpić czemuś lub komuś wyższemu”.

Trzeba być ślepym jak kret, by nie zauważyć, że gdy Jezus oddaje swoje życie na krzyżu z posłuszeństwa, jednocześnie pokazuje nam przykład posłuszeństwa i przykład najwyższej miłości. „Dobre uczynki mają znaczenie.”

Jest to ważny temat dla naszych opornych przyjaciół, którzy być może zostali „zaciągnięci” do kościoła, bo zawsze czują, że ofiara związana z pójściem na Mszę nie jest warta wysiłku. Wszyscy rozumiemy, czym jest ofiara. Za każdym razem, gdy robimy coś, na co nie mamy ochoty – idziemy do pracy czy robimy pranie – doświadczamy ofiary. Ale jest szansa, że podczas pójścia do kościoła zobaczą to, co zobaczył św. Paweł. Bóg przyszedł na ziemię, by umrzeć dla naszego zbawienia. Mając to na myśli i wpatrując się w żłóbek powinniśmy wrzucić się do łez.

Fr Thomas Koys, M.A.,S.T.L.

Kilka spraw z życia parafii:

- Dołącz do pielgrzymko-wycieczki z ks. Waldemarem „Valdi” w maju 2025 roku i wybierz się na jedną z najpiękniejszych podróży do Polski. Więcej strzegółów w biuletynie.
- W biuletynie zamieszczony został harmonogram Mszy św. i okresu świątecznego w parafii ŚŚ. Cyryla i Metodego i parafii Św. Jakuba.
- **Uwaga! Zmiana godzin otwarcia parafialnego.** W trybie natychmiastowym biuro będzie otwarte od poniedziałku do piątku w godzinach 8:00AM – 4:00PM. Soboty i niedziele biuro nieczynne.

Prezent dla siebie i dla innych!

Auto Magnet:

Klub Polski sprzedaje magnesy po Mszach w każdą niedzielę Adwentu oraz podczas Rekolekcji Adwentowych.

Logos and magnets shown include: GOD BLESS AMERICA, KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS, Every family needs a stable foundation, Jesus is the Reason for the Season, and KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS.

JESUS is the reason

Mass Intentions

Monday — December 23rd

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GUZIOR FAMILY
 † ALLAN WISNIEWSKI
 by Family
 † EDMUND JR., ELEANOR & MARGIE POVALISH
 by Family
 † ADAM CHOLEWA
 by Family

Tuesday — December 24th (Christmas Eve)

7:00 AM † MICHALINA BIALAS
 by Family
 1:00 PM † JOZEF & TERESA TYMINSKI
Fr. Valdi by Birakdar & Caradima Families
 3:00 PM † EMILY REMIASZ
Fr. Valdi by Family
 † PAUL CIMINO
 by Wife & Family
 † DECEASED MEMBERS OF DROZDZ & GRAND FAMILIES
 by Family
 † CHESTER TOMALA SR.
 by Kathy Tomala & Family
 5:00 PM † DECEASED MEMBERS OF RUMCHAKS FAMILY
Fr. Jason by Toth Family
 † RITA LUDWIG
 by Jim & Diane Sniegowski
 8:00 PM † JÓZEF MILAN
Fr. Valdi by Rodzina Milan
 10:00 PM O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA RODZIN GRELE
Fr. Valdi I ŁABOJEWSKI
 O BOŻE BŁ. DLA RODZINY JANOWSIK
 DZIĘKCYNNNO-BŁAGALNA W INT. RODZINA PRĘDKI
 † WITOLD GASIOR
 by Rodzina
 12:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR KALATA-KEDZIOR FAMILIES
Fr. Valdi by Marie
 † MALGORZATA & ANDRZEJ BIZUB
 by Family
 † VERONICA SKRZYPCZAK (Anniv.)
 by Joan
 † ANIELA & MICHAL HARLA
 by Family

Wednesday — December 25th (The Nativity of the Lord-Christmas)

7:00 AM † JEAN SROKA
Fr. Jason by Daughter Joann
 GOD'S BLESSINGS, HEALTH & HEALING FOR
 STANLEY KOPERA
 by Maria Malewski
 † STANLEY & VICTORIA LAYMAN
 by Marc & Rita Gimbel
 8:00 AM † JOHN I CHRISTINA BUDZ
Fr. Valdi by Rodzina
 † ZBIGNIEW LUCARZ (Rocznica Śmierci)
 by Siostra z Rodziną
 † ALOJZY WONTORCZYK
 by Alex i Dominika
 † FRANCISZKA DZIĄBA
 by Rodzina
 9:30 AM † AMELIA & FRANCESCO PERFETTI
Fr. Valdi by Family
 † STANISŁAW NOWOBILSKI
 by Tim & Kathy Aurricchio
 † SHARON MCCARTHY & HARRY KIELMA
 by Family
 † LINDA AURRICCHIO
 by Tim & Kathy Aurricchio

11:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA MARI, MONIKI
Fr. Valdi I STANISŁAWA
 by Rodzina
 † JÓZEF SMOLEN
 by Monika Bochenek z Rodziną
 † JÓZEF CUDZICH
 by Rodzina
 † ANNA LACIAK I SYN RICHARD
 by John Laciak z Rodziną

12:30 PM † TONY RUZICH
Fr. Valdi by Judy Bezjak
 † JAKUB CHLEBEK & BEATA KOWALSKI
 by Elizabeth Chlebek
 † ADAM SOCHACKI & JOSEPH SIUCIAK
 by Family
 † STANLEY & KENNETH KEDZIOR
 by Marie

2:00 PM † WLADYSŁAW ZAPALA I ANNA LIGENZA
Fr. Valdi by Zapala i Pustulka Rodzina
 † JULIA I SEBASTIAN BAGIELSKI
 by Zapala i Pustulka Rodzina

Thursday — December 26th (Feast of St. Stephen)

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR PASCIAK, SOKOL &
 WALKOSZ FAMILIES
 by Parents
 FOR ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY
 † LOUIS ZIOLKOWSKI
 by Marge Berger & Family
 11:30 AM ZA WSZYSTKICH PARAFIAN, ŻYJĄCYCH I ZMARŁYCH
 7:00 PM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED

Friday — December 27th

7:00 AM † CHARLES WICKEY
 by Kevin & Lisa Hayes

Saturday — December 28th

7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONER LIVING & DECEASED
 5:00 PM † JANE GRZYBOWSKI
Fr. Noga by John & Rose Wilczewski
 † DONALD BUHLE
 by Robert Todd Jelinski
 † DANEK KRZYMINSKI
 by Family

Sunday — December 29th

7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED
Fr. Valdi
 8:00 AM DZIĘKCYNNNA W INT. DANUTI I PETERA SKRZYPEK
Carmelite † WLADYSŁAW MROŻEK
 by C.W. Mrozek
 9:30 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED
Fr. Valdi † PAUL ROMANOWSKI
 by Grace Romanowki (Mom)
 † MARYBETH NOLAN
 by Maria Pardol
 11:00 AM † JOHN CHLEBEK I SYN STANISŁAW
Carmelite by Maria Chlebek
 12:30 PM † MALGORZATA & ANDRZEJ BIZUB
Fr. Valdi by Family
 † HELENA TORRES & SON ANDRZEJ
 by Family
 † ANIELA & MICHAL HARLA
 by Family
 † JOZEF GARB & JAN KARKOSZKA
 by Maria Garb
 2:00 PM O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA HELENY
Carmelite I STANISŁAWA KOS (40 Rocznica Ślubu)
 by Dzieci
 † JÓZEF NIEMINSKI (5 Rocznica Śmierci)
 by Rodzina
 † KAZIMIERZ I ZOFIA OLEJARZ I ROMAN
 by Rodzina

✠ BARBARA I LARRY TULEJA I ROBERT
 by Rodzina
 7:30 PM ✠ JOHN SWIATEK
 Fr. Koys by Wontorczyk



*Blessed Sacrament Candle Intention
 For Week of December 23rd Through
 December 29th ~Church*

✠ ZA DUSZĘ Ś.P. ALOJZY WONTORCZYK
 by Żona z Dziećmi

**Parish Contributions
 December 7 & 8, 2024**

Envelopes	528	15,364.00
Children's Envelopes		.00
GiveCentral (12/2-12/8)	140	3,847.00
Total		19,211.00

Budgeted: \$15,700.00 / Actual: 19,211.00/ \$3,511

528 envelopes plus 140 GiveCentral Sunday donations represent 32% of 2,100 registered parishioner families.

Your donations help meet our immediate needs, repairs and improvements. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Due to an earlier publication deadline, the contribution totals for the weekend of December 14th & 15th are unavailable for this bulletin. They will be in next week's bulletin.

Pray for ...

Please call the parish office if you have a loved one you would like our parish community to pray for.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Emilia Pilecki | Arthur Zelezinski |
| Michael Rajski | Jaeann Sangerman |
| Daniel Byrne Szafoni | Bob Duscet |
| Marge Doucet | Mike Laskowski |
| Ann Pere | Denise Johnson |
| Alexander Dziaba | Guy Martin |
| Carol Preis | Joan Albert |
| Irene Forst | Ray Przedziecki |
| Terry Hallandworth | William Podborny |
| Nick Gorisch | Stanislaw Kopera |
| Mark Malewski & Family | Cindy Evankoe |
| Malgorzata Bies | John Dzielski |

The name of an individual will stay on the prayer list for two months. Please contact the parish office if you would like to prolong the prayer request.



Please pray for...

We ask you to please keep in your prayers the following parishioners who are on active duty in the military:

Capt. **Catherine R. Chappell**, Pilot HC130, U.S. Air Force; **Frank Romanowski**, Army Combat Medic; SPC **Ryan Sherwood**; PVT **Robert Kyle O'Hare**, US Army; **Dominic Maiella**, US Marine Corps; **Jonathan Plonka**, US Air Force; **Matas Maleiska**, US Navy; **Cole Kowalczyk**, Army Specialist; LT. Colonel **Ken Hussey**, Army

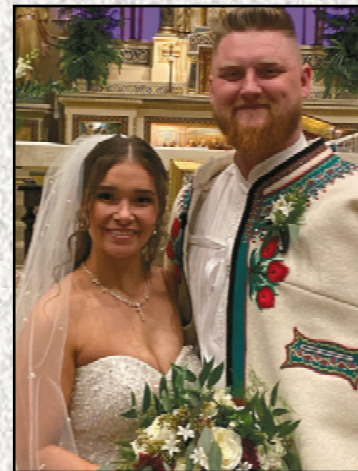
Please inform the parish office if there are any changes or additions to the above list.



Wedding Banns

Jennifer Redmond and Justin Munns

Congratulations and God's Blessings



*Jaycie Shake and Francis Dudek,
 Married December 7, 2024*



Please consider using GiveCentral for online parish donations. Sign up at givecentral.org

Deaths

*May Perpetual Light
 Shine Upon Her*

In your prayers, please remember the soul of **Hieronima Palasiewicz**. May her soul and the soul of all our faithfully departed family and friends rest in everlasting peace.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish is full of FAITH-FILLED KIDS ---Join us!



Our newlyweds are bringing their cute little babies to church and to our marriage enrichment meetings twice a month.



Our "Coffee + Kids + Questions for God" toddlers and preschoolers were 'having a balloon' learning about God's creation at their November 10th breakfast meeting.



Our Children's Liturgy of the Word (Sundays during 9:30 Mass) had a successful start-up Dec 1st for grades K-4 with student helpers from 7th and 8th grade.



Merry Christmas from the Evangelization Team of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish and St. James Mission!
For more information, contact Coleen Mast at cmast@archchicago.org

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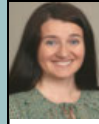
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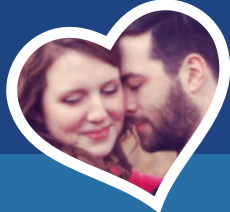


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