

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

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

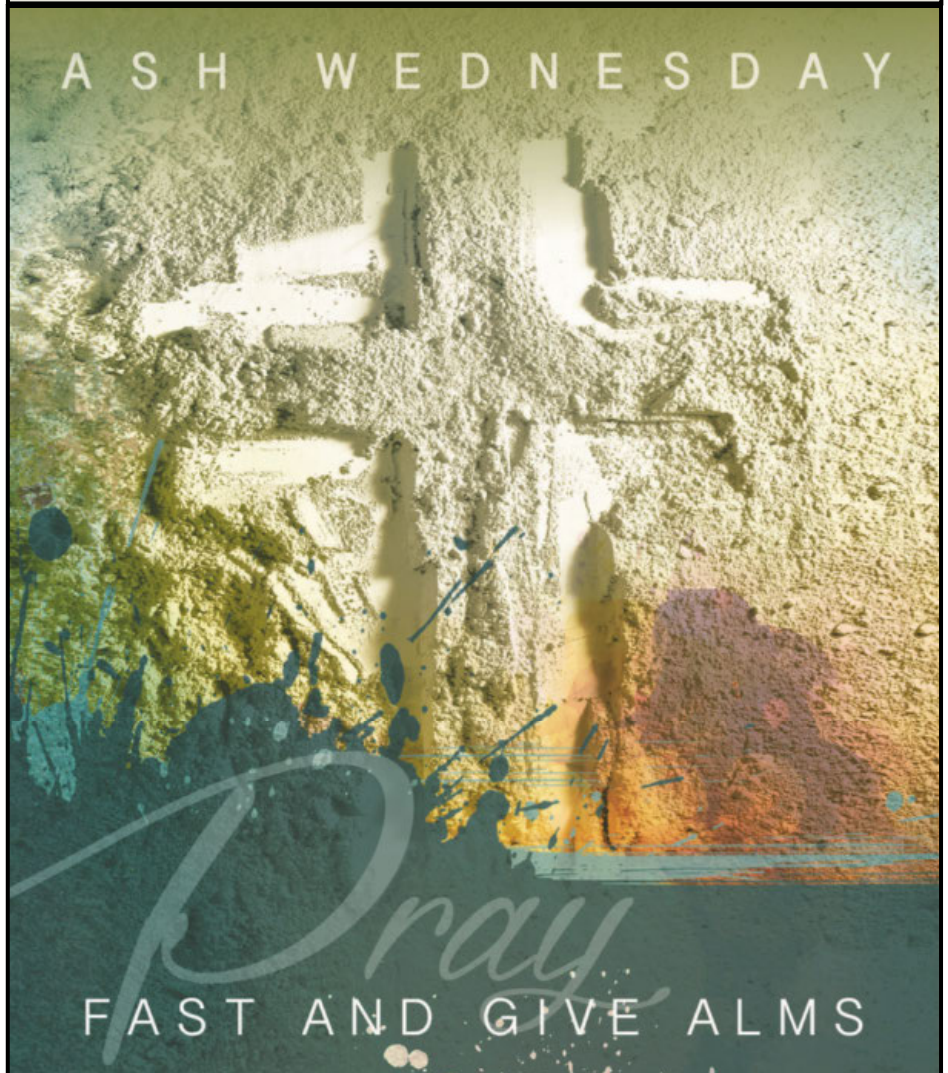
Ryszard Witkowski
Paul Siro
Maintenance



March 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A S H W E D N E S D A Y



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.

<p>Parish Information</p> <p>Parish Office: 608 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL Denise Duda, Operations Director (630) 257-2776; (630) 257-9372 Fax rectory@stcyril.org website: www.stcyril.org www.facebook.com/SSCMLemont</p>	<p>Minister of Music: Mira Sojka-Topor musicmin@stcyril.org (630) 257-2776</p>
<p>School: 607 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL Shirley Tkachuk, Principal (630) 257-6488; shirleyt@stcyril.org</p>	<p>Polish School: www.polschool.com Halina Szyrzyna Principal: (630) 669-9058</p>
<p>Religious Education: Monika Leja, Religious Education Administrator (630) 257-9314; mleja@sscmlmont.org</p>	<p>Polish Club: John Lichacz, President (773) 216-1108 polishclub@stcyril.org</p>
<p>Mass Schedule:</p>	<p>Minister of Care: Dave Smietanski (630) 257-2776</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Parish Council: Stan Brzezniak, President Bulletin: bulletin@stcyril.org Helping Hands: helpinghands@stcyril.org</p>
<p>Special Masses:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</p> <p>Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM First Fridays: 6:00 - 7:00 PM Also available by appointment.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: Following the Monday morning 7:00 AM Mass</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>



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

"The defects of a man appear in his talk" (Ecclesiasticus 27). "A man's words flow out of what fills his heart." (Luke 6) These two phrases from our Mass today certainly push

us to watch our tongues. Let's consider a simple issue that concerns our speech. Let us consider the problem with being either a "Debbie Downer" or a "hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil Ellmore". (I'm not sure why I picked Ellmore here, it just seemed logical to give it a name, since poor Debbie is saddled with the other.). I'm not sure who you identify with more. I am sure that there are many who qualify for both titles. We would all do our neighbors a favor if we analyzed our comments about others.

If you find yourself always, or almost always criticizing and complaining and seeing the defects of others, chances are that others consider you a Debbie, even if your name is Sam. Truly, it is hard to live with a Debbie Downer. I believe Our Lord would caution you. He would ask you to put away the tendency to automatically point out the faults of others and the impossibility of even trying to get started with a task. But the Ellmores can be just as destructive to a good relationship with their "speak no evil" attitude. If our only choice was between a Debbie and Ellmore, most of us would choose Ellmore, just because positive people are more pleasant to be around. Positive people are more pleasant to be around for the most part. But such a "hear no evil" attitude can really be obnoxious too. The "I don't want to hear any bad news" person often lacks that virtue we know as "compassion". In other words, when we hurt or when we are really worried about something, Ellmore gives us no comfort.

One of my favorite lines in a movie comes from Dolly Parton in Steal Magnolias. A friend who comes to her shop shares the pain of a bad marriage. She comforts the friend by saying, "Now don't cry honey. I have a strict policy that no one cries alone in my presence." Dolly wants the friend to know that she can share her worries and hurts. She is saying, "If you are hurt than I will cry with you." That has always reminded me of Jesus on the cross. Our Lord shares our hurts. He suffers with us even though he didn't have to. He knows evil and bad things happen and they cause us many tears. The popular radio

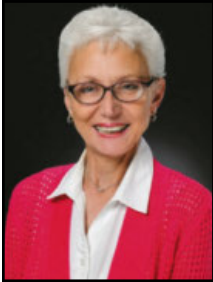
personality, Dennis Prager often says, "If sorry was water, we'd all drown." The Ellmores, or the overly positive people, tend to run away from others when they are down. They are not interested in what is hurting them. It is like they are allergic to troubles and so they say things like, "Oh it's nothing." or "Get over it". Dolly is willing to shed a tear with her friend, even though she may not know what it's all about.

We should all practice saying from time to time to a hurting friend, "That must really hurt. But God never abandons us. Somehow, we must accept God's will." "Blessed are they who are sorrowful, they will be consoled". "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, for the just will flourish like the palm trees."

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

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

- Please remember to answer the Annual Catholic Appeal call, "Together we bring hope." Please return your pledge envelope. Our parish Annual Catholic Appeal goal for 2025 is \$72,276.00. Please see details in the bulletin.
- **Attention Parishioners ~ Please do not take the laminated collection cards with you, please leave them in the pew rack after you make your donation. Thank you!**
- Wednesday, March 5th, is Ash Wednesday. Please join us as we start the Lenten season. See the bulletin for a complete list of SSCM Masses, where ashes will be distributed.
- The Ash Wednesday collection on Wednesday, March 5th, will be for Aid for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. More details are in the bulletin.
- Congratulations to our Parish School and RE 8th grade students on making their Confirmation Saturday, March 8th. May they hold a love for Jesus in their hearts forever.
- Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays at 6:30 PM in English and 7:30 PM in Polish with a Bi-Lingual Mass at 7:00 PM, beginning on Friday, March 7th. Please see the bulletin for more information regarding Stations.
- There will be a second collection the weekend of March 9th, for our parish school. Please consider making a donation to help keep SSCM School Excellent.



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

SS. Cyril & Methodius School
2019 National Blue Ribbon School

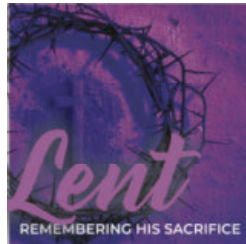
Dear Parents,

Congratulations to the members of the SSCM Class of 2025, their parents and teachers. They have worked hard, and on Saturday, March 8th they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are very proud of them!

This week we will enter the solemn season of Lent. As a family of faith our entire school will attend the 8:15 Mass on Ash Wednesday. We will receive ashes and then work to sacrifice, think of others, and spend more time in prayer. This will include reflecting on the Stations of the Cross each week.

Everyone is welcome to join us at the school's Stations of the Cross during Lent. We will begin at 1:30. Here are the dates:

- Friday, March 7th
- Thursday, March 13th
- Wednesday, March 19th
- Monday, March 24th
- Tuesday, April 1st
- Friday, April 11th



We ended our second trimester on Friday, February 21st. Students received their report cards on Thursday, February 27th, and we will also offer parents a second parent teacher conference on Friday, March 14th.

Our first Lenten Fish Fry will take place in the school's gym this coming Friday, March 7th. Join us for a great fish dinner and an evening with friends! Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school!

Mrs. S. Tkachuk
Principal

SS. Cyril and Methodius
National Blue Ribbon School!

Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 School Year. Please call our school at 630-257-6488, ext. 19 for more information and to arrange for a private tour or shadow day. Please visit and see all we have to offer!

Financial assistance is available.

JOIN US FOR THE SS CYRIL & METHODIUS SCHOOL'S

fish fry-days

MARCH 7, 21, & APRIL 4 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SSCM GYM

OPTIONS INCLUDE

FISH/SHRIMP, FRIES, COLESLAW, KIDS MENU

CASH BAR

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

RAFFLES AND STUDENT BAKE SALE

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SS CYRIL & METHODIUS SCHOOL

SSCM

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

MARCH 7 5PM-8PM OR UNTL SOLD OUT

Dinner Menu

Fish Dinner Plate: \$15
2 pieces of Fresh Beer Battered Cod

Shrimp Dinner Plate: \$15
8-10 Breaded Shrimp

Combo Dinner Plate: \$15
1 piece of Fresh Beer Battered Cod & 4 Breaded Shrimp

Pasta: \$8
Rigatoni noodles with butter or marinara sauce. Served with bread.

Dinners include the choice of French Fries or Baked Potato, Cole Slaw & Bread

Kids Menu

Fish Dinner Plate \$8
1 piece of Fresh Beer Battered Cod

Shrimp Dinner Plate \$8
4 Breaded Shrimp

Combo Dinner Plate \$10
1 piece of Fresh Beer Battered Cod & 2 Shrimp

Pasta Dinner \$5
Rigatoni noodles with butter or marinara sauce. Served with bread.

Dinners include french fries & apple sauce

ALSO AVAILABLE:

50/50 Split the Pot Raffle
SSCM Student Bake Sale

CASH BAR*

*BEER, WINE, AND SELTZERS- NO OUTSIDE DRINKS PERMITTED

SSCM Faith, Family...Future! www.school.sscyril.org 2019 National Blue Ribbon School



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

Mrs. Monika Leja – RE Administrator

8th Grade Confirmation Retreat February 23, 2025

Please keep our 2025 Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they are getting ready for this meaningful Sacrament.



Thank you to Father Pawel Komperda for leading our 8th grade Retreat. Also, thank you to Father Thomas Koys for celebrating the Holy Mass with our Confirmation Candidates. Thank you Father Waldemar Stawiarski for your constant support and for being with us on this day!

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

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

The Spring campaign begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Palm Sunday. Access Health, 1700 75th Str, Downers Grove. Our standard Friday 3pm prayer hour will continue & many more pray-ers are needed for the daily 12 hour vigil. 40daysforlife.com



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.



Ash Wednesday—March 5

Masses: 7am & 7pm
Ashes distributed at both Masses, and also at 4pm

Adoration 5 to 7pm
Confession 6 to 7



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

Pray the rosary daily & in public when possible!

No Wine & Wisdom – March 5, Ash Wednesday

*Water & Wisdom – March 12
We forego food & drink as a Lenten discipline. But conversation on current events is important! Paul Devitt will introduce the topic & lead the discussion.*

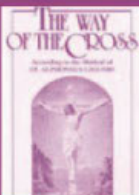
Wednesdays join us for: Adoration 5 to 7pm. Confessions 6 to 7pm. Mass 7pm, Wine & Wisdom ~8 to ~9:15pm

Lenten Program! Eucharistic Consecration

You are invited to join Fr Koys & the Sag Bridge Mission Society on a spiritual journey this Lent. Distribution of this free book will begin on Mar 5 & the program will kick off on Mar 16. The program will lead to individual consecration to the Eucharist on Holy Thursday. Weekly discussions will occur at Wine & Wisdom. Book is free to those who join the program. Do something important this Lent!



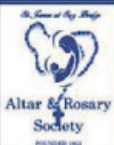
Illinois March for Life
Tuesday, March 25 Springfield
10am – Mass w/Bp Paprocki (tix req'd)
Noon – Rally at the Capitol
1pm – March around the Capitol



Stations of the Cross – Fridays 7pm
A beautiful Lenten tradition!
Join us after 6pm Mass each Friday during Lent to pray St Alphonsus Ligouri's Stations of the Cross. Walk with Jesus!

Learning from Tradition

In the traditional calendar of the Roman Catholic Church (used for most noon Masses at St James, but not the 1st Sunday of the month), today is **Quinquagesima Sunday**. Continuing the countdown to Easter, the word is derived from the Latin for "fiftieth" which is roughly the number of days until Easter & this is the last Sunday before Lent. Soon we will be immersed in the penitential purple at all Masses. And hopefully we will be ready on Wed, knowing the disciplines we will exercise during Lent. Let's make it a fruitful season to grow closer to Jesus. He gave His all for us – He deserves our all in return.



The Altar and Rosary Society monthly meeting is next Saturday, March 8th, at 9:30 am. All ladies of the parish are cordially invited to share in this beautiful ministry. We will be planning and preparing for our annual St. Joseph table dinner, also known as Father & Charlie's birthday dinner on March 23rd. Details to follow. Time spent together as a parish family deepens and strengthens not only our fellowship with one another, but also our love and appreciation for our Lord. Please think about joining the A & R Society, and you can be part of the plan for this great celebration.



Congratulations to Christopher & Stephanie (Bauer) Booth on the baptism of Melania Lucia. She joined God's family on February 22, 2025. Many blessings always to her, her parents, Godparents & extended family.

**MORNING OF REFLECTION
"Growing in Grace and Holiness"
Wednesday, March 12th 10:00-1:30**

- * Includes prayer, meditation, and time for sharing.
 - * Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served.
 - * \$30 Donation requested.
 - * Mount Assisi Center (13860 Main Street, Lemont).
- Please RSVP by 3/7 to carriepeters2@sbcglobal.net or Bernadette (Bernie) Smigielski 630-257-7844 ext.



Remember to pray for the baby you spiritually adopted.



Clark Forsythe, Pro-life Leader
Sat, Mar 15 7pm - Sag Hall
The Sag Bridge Mission Society is proud to invite you to a presentation and Q&A session with Clark Forsythe, Senior Counsel for Americans United for Life, author, teacher & lawyer.

Forsythe has argued cases before federal & state courts & has testified before Congress and state legislatures. He is also a prolific writer on pro-life law issues, having published 2 books, more than 15 law review articles & book chapters, as well as numerous articles. He has been featured in leading newspapers such as the New York Times & Wall Street Journal. Go to our website for the link to register to let us know you're coming.

Coats & blankets for homeless still needed!

You can help a homeless man through a donation of blankets & coats, new or in good condition, placed in Charlie's Chapel. (Please no women's or children's.)
Thanks for your kindness!



VOTIVE OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 3/2/25

St. James Altar & Rosary Society
All the Poor Souls in Purgatory
United States of America
For Our Children—Heather, Ryan & Colleen
In Loving Memory—Joseph M. Slowik



Mass Intentions

Note: Please allow 2 weeks notice to book Mass intentions

MONDAY, MARCH 3

8:00AM Birthday Blessings—Pat Walsh
✠William Channell

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

8:00AM ✠Margaret Lawson
✠Dennis Warfield

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5—ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00AM ✠Rochelle Haklin
7:00PM Health & Healing—Sr Maria-Paulina Sterling

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

8:00AM Birthday Blessings—John Noonan
✠Bill Schafer

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

6:00PM Birthday Blessings—Lucas Slowik
Blessings for the Kwak Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

8:00AM Birthday Blessings—Matthew Slowik
Health & Healing—Sr Maria-Paulina Sterling

First Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

8:15AM ✠Kay McNally
✠Barbara Miller
10AM Birthday Blessings—Anna Raj
Birthday Blessings—Nancy Cimino
12:00PM ✠Richard McKay
Health & Healing—Sr Maria-Paulina Sterling

Altar Flowers

Our beautiful bouquets of flowers surrounding our altar were made available by:

**CHRIS SLOWIK—IN LOVING MEMORY
OF JOSEPH M. SLOWIK**



Our weekly *Offertory* collection from February 23, 2025 was \$3,857. Online giving (Give Central) for regular and maintenance collections totalled \$2,155.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS SUNDAY, MARCH 9
8:15am	Joe Beecher, Alex Pawlikowski, Christos & Frankie Latsonas
10am	Matthew & Max Naglak, Christian Cozzi, Ricky, Peter & Luke Gomez

Our collection on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, will go towards helping:

Aid for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe serves essential pastoral needs in more than 25 countries.


SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE



PREPARE FOR LENT



Lenten Regulations (Ash Wednesday, to the Paschal Triduum)



Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Those who have a medical condition in which fasting may be considered harmful, are not obliged. The special Paschal fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

Collection & Burning of Palms



We will be collecting your old palms the weekend of March 1st and 2nd to be used in the Rite for Burning of Palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday. This service will take place on Tuesday, March 4th immediately following the 7:00 AM Mass in front of the church. Palms can be placed in the baskets in the back of church.

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025
Schedule of Services


Ashes will be distributed at all services.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish

7:00 AM English Mass
11:30 AM Polish Mass
4:30 PM English Prayer Service
6:00 PM English Mass
7:30 PM Polish Mass

Distribution of Ashes only
10:00 AM-11:00 AM
3:00 PM-4:00 PM

The Parish Life Building offices will be closed on Monday, March 3rd in observance of Casimir Pulaski Day.




Casimir Pulaski Day

Deaths **May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them**

In your prayers, please remember the souls of **Gregory A. Pawlikowski & Teodora Cupial**. May their souls and the soul of all our faithfully departed family and friends rest in everlasting peace.

Stations of the Cross Every Friday During Lent
March 7th and April 11th



6:30 PM English Stations
7:00 PM Bilingual Mass
7:30 PM Polish Stations



Hope's On The Way Buckets of Hope 2025 Campaign

Each year, the deacons of the Archdiocese of Chicago along with lay volunteers serving in the Hope's On The Way (HOTW) Ministry deliver Buckets of Hope filled with emergency cleaning supplies to victims of natural disasters throughout the United States. Since 2013, HOTW has shipped 8,000 buckets to people stricken by hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding in locations including Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, and many others. HOTW relies on the generosity of parishioners to support this ministry by purchasing cleaning supplies to fill five-gallon buckets that HOTW provides and picks up.

For those parishioners who would like to help fill HOTW Buckets, here is the process:

- Pickup a Product Purchase List after all Masses the weekends of **March 1st & 2nd or March 8th or 9th**. The products to fill the buckets are sorted into five products lists based on the first initial of your last name. The total costs of the products on each products list are similar.
- Purchase the cleaning supplies (typically around \$35 per products lists), and return the products to Church the weekends of **March 15th & 16th or March 22nd & 23rd or March 29th & 30th**.

Thanks in advance for your generosity,
 Hope's On The Way Ministry

Pope's Prayer Intention for March 2025

Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of praying for families in crisis.



Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Together we bring hope

Please Make Your Gift To The 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal ~

Together we bring hope
 Our Parish Goal is ~ \$72, 276.00

Our parish is conducting our campaign for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

The new Annual Catholic Appeal theme, "Together we bring hope," is an important theme as we prayerfully consider our support for the Appeal but also important for embracing the life that the Lord wants us to live. Each pledge makes a difference! All parish communities participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our parishes, schools and ministries to deliver needed services. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response. To make your gift, you can complete the mail-in giving envelope available at church or make a gift online at annualcatholicappeal.com.

2nd Collection March 8th & 9th SSCM Parish School

There will be a second collection for SSCM School. Please support our parish school & help them to continue to keep providing an excellent Catholic education.





Klub Polski w Lemont



20TH POLISH HERITAGE DAY



XX Dzień Polski w Lemont to wielkie wydarzenie! Dziękujemy Parafii SSCM, Księdzu Proboszczowi Waldemarowi Stawiarskiemu, Gościom Honorowym, Sponsorom oraz Komitetowi Organizacyjnemu Dnia Polskiego za wspólne przeżycie XX Dnia Polskiego pt. „Zbrodnia Katyńska”. Pan Jan Zołtek, Polonijna Orkiestra Chicago, Konrad Stankiewicz, Bartosz Karkoszka, Hanna Lichacz, Gabrysia Koszarek oraz para konferansjerów – Monika Bochenek i Daniel Janosik – to nasi wspaniali wykonawcy, którzy z wielkim sercem i pokorą, w patriotycznym duchu, uświetnili tegoroczne obchody. Przez kilkadziesiąt minut, w milczeniu, zadumie i ze łzami w oczach, na nowo przeżywaliśmy katyńską tragedię polskich Patriotów. Gratulujemy Panu Andrzejowi Stopie, który wraz z żoną Reginą został uhonorowany tytułem Polaka Roku 2025.

Po więcej informacji zapraszamy na stronę internetowa: <https://klubpolskilemont.org/lubFB>

POLE OF THE YEAR 2025 - ANDRZEJ STOPA CONGRATULATION!



Proclamation

MAYOR
John Epilio

Village Clerk
Charles Smollen

TRUSTEES
Isabelle Kozlowski
Dawn Miller
Lisa McClintock
Lorella Slagter
Rick Szymanski
Ryszard Szymanski

WHEREAS, on this Sunday of February 23, in the Year of our Lord 2025, the Polish Club of Lemont celebrates its 20th Annual Polish Heritage Day at which outstanding citizens of Polish descent are recognized for achievements and contributions to the legacy of Polish Heritage, and today we proudly honor Andrzej Stopa; and

WHEREAS, Andrzej was born in Sopot in 1939 and graduated from the Technical School of Mechanics. He worked at the Ship Equipment Plant, participated in the "Solidarity" strikes for 11 days, then drafted for two years into military service; and

WHEREAS, Andrzej arrived in the United States and co-founded the "Solidarity" Circle in Chicago where he has participated in meetings of the Polish American Congress in the State of Illinois and was a member of the Jan Olszyc's Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, Andrzej Stopa has been an active member of the parish of St. Cyril and Methodius Church supporting the parish life, standing as a guard at the tomb on Easter, participating in the Corpus Christi procession home-guard; he is a member of the Association of Friends of the Polish Children, served as President and participates in patriotic ceremonies, parades, banquets, performing honor guard throughout the year;

WHEREAS, Andrzej collaborates with the Polish American Congress, the council of the Republic of Poland, the Association of Polish Clubs, and the Polish Scouting Association along with many other Polish groups, to promote the history of the Polish Military and the hero of two nations, General Tadeusz Kosciuszko;

WHEREAS, Andrzej Stopa has been married to Regina for 37 years, fathered two daughters, Anna and Maria, and recently became a grandfather;

NOW, THEREFORE, I JOHN EGOFSKE, on behalf of the Village Board and all citizens of Lemont, hereby express our pride for Andrzej Stopa for his continued and outstanding contributions to Polish Heritage in our Village, and hereby extend congratulations to the entire community to Andrzej Stopa as "Pole of the Year 2025".

John Egofske
JOHN EGOFSKE, Mayor

Attest: *Charlene Smollen*
CHARLENE SMOLLEN, Village Clerk



**Z biurka wikariusza pastora
Drodzy Parafianie,**

„Wady człowieka ujawniają się w jego mowie” (Syr 27). „Z obfitości serca mówią usta” (Łk 6). Te dwa fragmenty z dzisiejszej Mszy św. zdecydowanie zachęcają nas do uważnego

kontrolowania naszych słów. Rozważmy prostą kwestię dotyczącą naszej mowy. Weźmy pod uwagę dwa różne problemy: bycie „Marudną Martą”, albo „nic nie słyszącym, nic nie mówiącym i nic nie widzącym Edkiem” (Nie wiem, dlaczego wybrałem akurat imię Edek, ale wydawało się logiczne nadać mu jakieś imię, skoro biedna Marta już została nim obciążona). Nie wiem, z którą z tych postaw się identyfikujesz. Wiem jednak, że wielu ludzi mogłoby pasować do obu tych określeń. Z pewnością przysłużylibyśmy się naszym bliźnim, gdybyśmy dokładnie analizowali nasze komentarze na temat innych.

Jeśli zauważasz, że niemal zawsze krytykujesz, narzekasz i dostrzegasz jedynie wady innych, istnieje duża szansa, że ludzie wokół ciebie uważają cię za „Marudną Martę”, nawet jeśli masz na imię Adam. Życie z taką osobą bywa naprawdę trudne. Wierzę, że nasz Pan by Cię przed tym przestrzegł. Zachęciłby Cię do porzucenia skłonności automatycznego wytykania cudzych błędów oraz rezygnowania z działania, zanim jeszcze się ono rozpocznie. Ale Edki mogą być równie destrukcyjni dla relacji międzyludzkich ze swoją postawą „nic złego nie powiem”. Gdybyśmy mieli do wyboru jedynie Martę i Edka, większość z nas wolałaby to drugie, ponieważ pozytywne osoby są na ogół przyjemniejsze w towarzystwie. Jednak taka postawa „nie chcę słyszeć złych wiadomości” potrafi być równie irytująca. Ludzie, którzy nie chcą przyjmować złych wieści, często nie wykazują cnoty, którą znamy jako „współczucie”. Innymi słowy, gdy cierpimy lub naprawdę czymś się martwimy, Edek nie daje nam żadnego pocieszenia.

Jedną z moich ulubionych filmowych scen pochodzi z filmu *Stalowe Magnolie*. Bohaterka grana przez Dolly Parton pociesza przyjaciółkę, która zwierza się jej z trudnego małżeństwa, mówiąc: „Nie płacz, kochanie. Mam zasadę, że nikt nie płacze samotnie w mojej obecności.” Dolly chce, by jej przyjaciółka wiedziała, że może podzielić się z nią swoimi troskami i bólem. W rzeczywistości mówi jej: „Jeśli cierpisz, będę płakać razem z tobą.” To zawsze przypomina mi Jezusa na krzyżu. Nasz Pan dzieli z nami nasze cierpienia. Wie, że w życiu zdarzają się zło i smutek, które przynoszą nam wiele łez. Popularny prezenter radiowy Dennis Prager często mówi:

„Gdyby przeprosiny były wodą, wszyscy byśmy się utopili.” Edki, czyli osoby przesadnie pozytywne, często uciekają od ludzi w trudnych chwilach. Nie interesuje ich to, co ich przygnębia. Zachowują się tak, jakby byli uczuleni na cudze problemy i mówią rzeczy w rodzaju: „To nic takiego” lub „Po prostu się z tym pogódź”. Dolly jest gotowa uronić łzę ze swoją przyjaciółką, nawet jeśli do końca nie rozumie, o co chodzi.

Powinniśmy od czasu do czasu powiedzieć cierpiącemu przyjacielowi: „To musi być naprawdę bolesne. Ale Bóg nigdy nas nie opuszcza. W jakiś sposób musimy przyjąć Jego wolę.” „Błogosławieni, którzy się smucą, albowiem oni będą pocieszeni.” „Dobrze jest dziękować Panu, bo sprawiedliwy zakwitnie jak palma, rozrośnie się jak cedr na Libanie.”

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

Kilka spraw z życia parafii:

- Pamiętajcie, aby odpowiedzieć na wezwanie Dorocznej Kwesty Katolickiej: „Razem niesiemy nadzieję.” Prosimy o zwrot koperty z deklaracją wsparcia. Nasz parafialny cel Dorocznej Kwesty Katolickiej na rok 2025 wynosi \$72,276.00. Więcej informacji w biuletynie.
- **Uwaga parafianie ~ Prosimy nie zabierać laminowanych kart zbiórkę. Po dokonaniu darowizny prosimy o pozostawienie ich na stojaku w ławkach. Dziękuję!**
- W środę, 5 marca, przypada Środa Popielcowa. Zapraszamy do biuletynu po pełen rozkład Mszy św. w parafii St. Cyryla i Metodego.
- Gratulacje dla naszych ośmioklasistów i studentów nauki religii z okazji otrzymania Sakramentu Bierzmowania. Niech Duch Św. prowadzi ich przez życie.
- Kolekta w Środę Popielcową, 5 Marca, przeznaczona jest na potrzeby Kościoła w Europie Środkowej i Wschodniej. Szczegóły w biuletynie.
- Począwszy od piątku, 7 marca, droga Krzyżowa będzie odprowadzana w piątki o 6:30PM po angielsku i o 7:30PM po polsku, z dwujęzyczną Mszą Świętą o 7:00PM. Więcej informacji w biuletynie.
- Podczas weekendu, 9 marca, druga kolekta będzie przeznaczona na rzecz pomocy naszej parafialnej szkoły. Prosimy o wsparcie, aby utrzymać wysoki poziom szkoły im. SSCM.

Mass Intentions

Monday — March 3rd

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GUZIOR FAMILY

Tuesday — March 4th

7:00 AM † FRANCESCO PERFETTI

by Family

† WOJCIECH BIALAS

by Family

7:00 PM † CZESŁAW ZAGRANICZNY

by Maria Zagraniczny

† AUGUSTYN PRĘDKI

by Rodzina Prędko

† WŁADYSŁAW ZAPĄŁA I STANLEY STROZAK

by Zapąła Family

† JÓZEF MILAN

by Rodzina

Wednesday — March 5th (Ash Wednesday)

7:00 AM † STANLEY LAYMAN

by Marc & Rita Gimbel

† FRANK WOZNIAK

by Mary Beth Rudis

† MARY BETH RUDIS

by John & Rose Wilczewski

11:30 AM † HELENA FLORYN

by Rodzina i Przyjaciele

† AGNIESZKA KARKULA

by Córka Aniela Jagiełło

† JOHN CHLEBEK I SYN STANLEY

by Mary Chlebek

6:00 PM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED

7:30 PM ZA WSZYSTKICH PARAFIAN, ŻYJĄCYCH I ZMARŁYCH

Thursday — March 6th

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR MARGARET BUJAK (birth)

† BRENDAN O'ROZCO

by David & Beverly O'Rozco

Friday — March 7th (First Friday)

7:00 AM ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

7:00 PM O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA JÓZEFA ZAGRANICZNY

Fr. Valdi

by Mama

† ALOJZY WONTORCZYK

by Alex & Dominika

Saturday — March 8th

7:00 AM FATHER'S DAY NOVENA

† TED FLORYNSKI

by Wife & Family

† MARY & JOSEPH CIELESZ

by Joan & Family

5:00 PM † JANE GRZYBOWSKI

Fr. Valdi

by Peter & Anna Pawlikowski

† JERRY KAZICH

by Wife & Family

† ANTONIA I FERDINANO BLAZONCZYK

by Blazonczyk Family

† MARY BETH RUDIS

by Doug & Trish Nickleski

Sunday — March 9th

7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED

Fr. Valdi

by Family

8:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA MARI

Carmelite

by Córka

† WANDA CHOLEWA

by Rodzina

† CECYLIA ŁUCARZ

by Siostra z Rodziną

† STEFANIA I CZESŁAW WIELGOSZ

by Rodzina

9:30 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR ULANSKI FAMILY

Fr. Valdi † RICHARD ANTKIEWICZ (1 Anniv.)

by Family

† CHRISTINE & JOHN BUDZ

by Joseph & Ruth Tomala

† WESLEY BAKOWSKI

by Mom & Family

11:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA LENKI

Carmelite

KOWALCZYK (urodziny)

† JULIA I TADEUSZ KUBASZEWSKI

by Rodzina

† CHESTER TOMALA SR.

by Andy i Basia Tomala

† MARIA I JAN DŁUGOPOLSKI

by Wnuk z Rodziną

12:30 PM † RICHARD MARTELLO

Fr. Stan

by Family

† VINCENT BRYJA

† CHESTER TYLKA

by Wife & Family

† JOZEFA & STEFAN DZIABA

2:00 PM † ZOFIA I JAN SKRZYPEK

Carmelite

by Wnuczka

O BOŻE BŁ. I POWRÓT DO ZDROWIA DLA

JULIANKI SEK

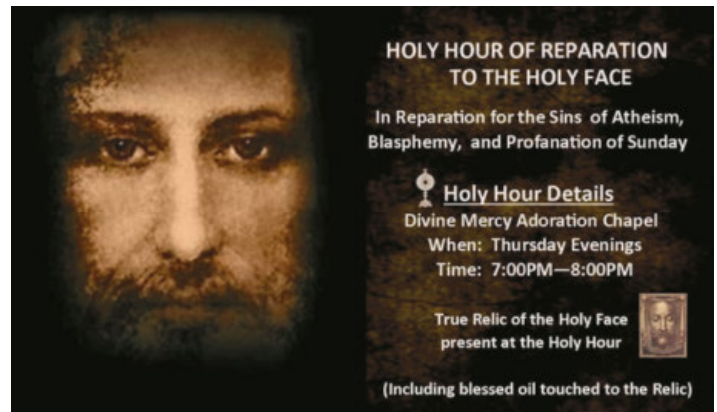
† JAN BYLINA (Rocznica Śmierci)

by Córka Maria z Rodziną

† JÓZEF I ANNA POLAK

by Rodzina Polak

7:30 PM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED

Fr. Koys

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

Emilia Pilecki

Guy Martin

Carol Preis

Joan Albert

Irene Forst

Ray Przedziecki

Terry Hallandworth

William Podborny

Mark Malewski & Family

Cindy Evankoe

Malgorzata Bies

John Dzielski

Grace Dunbar

Joseph Dziekan

Mike Laskowski

Bob & Marge Douset

Bethany Gryfakis

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.

**Parish Contributions
 February 22 & 23, 2025**

Envelopes	574	14,376.00
Children’s Envelopes		.00
GiveCentral (2/17-2/23)	121	<u>3,123.00</u>
Total		17,499.00

Budgeted: \$15,700.00 / Actual: 17,499.00/\$1,799

574 envelopes plus 121 GiveCentral Sunday donations represent 33% of 2,100 registered parishioner families.

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



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.



Wedding Banns

Raegan Campbell and Brian Bullington



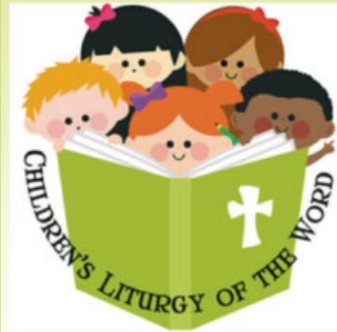
Please pray for...

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; **Lt. Jacob Halon**

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

**Children’s Liturgy
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Please join us for Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30 AM Mass each Sunday for Kindergarten – 4th graders
Join Us!!!



A Note From Cardinal Blasé Cupich

The Church teaches that receiving Holy Communion is not a private action but a communal one, as the very word “communion” implies. For that reason the norm established by Holy See for the universal Church and approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is for the faithful to process together as an expression of their coming forward as the Body of Christ and to receive Holy Communion standing. Processions are an ancient practice of the Church and have been part of the liturgy from the earliest days, assisting the faithful to always keep in mind that we are a pilgrim people, making our way together to the fulness of the heavenly banquet Christ has prepared for us. We process into the church. We process up to bring the gifts. We process to receive Holy Communion. We process out to carry the Lord into the world.

Nothing should be done to impede this sacred ritual of receiving communion or diminish its powerful symbol by disrupting an important moment in which the faithful, in processing together, express their faith that they are called to become the very Body of Christ they receive. Certainly reverence can and should be expressed by bowing before the reception of Holy Communion, but no one should engage in a gesture that calls attention to oneself or disrupts the flow of the procession by assuming another posture. That would be contrary to the norms and tradition of the church, which all the faithful are urged to respect and observe.

Annual Spiritual Check Up – Part 2 – Love of Neighbor

By the C.S. Lewis Institute

Jesus says that if we love Him, we will obey Him (Jn. 14.15), and He calls us to grow in grace and love. Do you have a plan for growing in your love for God and love for your neighbor for Lent this year? Will you prayerfully prepare a plan for self-giving this Lent?

Last week we examined ourselves on the first half of the great commandment of Jesus. This week we will look at the second part. 1) “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. 2) And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 37-40

Loving your neighbor

1. Do I love my neighbor? Am I kind and courteous to all I encounter?
2. Am I loving my family as I should?
 - Husbands, are you loving your wives? How, specifically? Wives, are you respecting your husbands? How, specifically?
 - Parents – are we teaching our children the Commandments, the Bible and Catechism, how to pray, and how to please God?
 - Children, are you honoring your parents? How, specifically?
 - Am I managing my time in a way that reflects God’s priorities and honors my family relationships? What specific changes are needed?
 - Are there any outside influences that are harming my family relationships? If so, what will I do about them?
3. Am I forgiving toward others?
 - Is there anyone among my family, friends, neighbors or co-workers that I refuse to forgive? Am I holding a grudge or feeding a resentment?
 - Do I fully trust that God has forgiven my sins? Do I forgive others as he forgives me?
4. Am I growing in fellowship with other believers?
 - Am I part of a small group? Is it making a difference in the lives of participants?
 - Do I have a godly mentor to help me grow in my walk with Christ?
 - Am I mentoring/discipling a newer believer or welcoming someone back to the faith?
5. Have I personally shared my faith with anyone in the past year? In my neighborhood? In my workplace? Am I prepared to share my testimony? To share the Gospel?
 - Am I fervently praying for and planning opportunities to witness in this coming year? Am I being salt and light in my neighborhood, workplace and social groups? How, specifically?
6. Am I focusing part of my time and money to help the poor and disadvantaged? Am I teaching my children about the importance of helping the poor? How?

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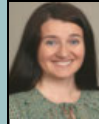
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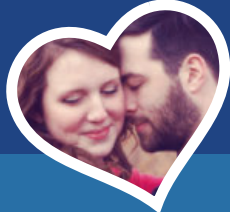


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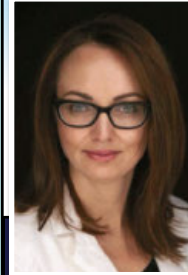
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