

# 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 8, 2024

*Second 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,**

A friend recently showed me some pictures of the sidewalk windows on State Street in what used to be Marshall Field's. She couldn't believe her eyes. After looking at the window displays, I wondered just why she couldn't believe her eyes. The windows were so simple, so plain and unimaginative. A big star, a simple teddy bear, and one with just some streamers of different colors. "What's so spectacular about that?" I inquired. "Nothing," she replied. "Nothing?" I answered. "Those windows used to be half the fun of going downtown to do some Christmas shopping. As children, we'd stand in front of them for a long time, looking at all the intricate animals and animations and there was always the most spectacular nativity scene imaginable. Now look at them. Nothing spectacular. I took my grandchildren there hoping to recreate some of the wonderful Christmas memories of days gone by. But they weren't impressed. They walked by them as if they were walking by the windows of a gas station, covered with a few sale posters. Coke for \$5 a case. Two hot dogs for \$3. I tell you it is sad, really sad. What have we done to our culture?" lamented my friend.

St Luke in our Advent gospel goes overboard to make sure we, his readers, can pinpoint exactly the historical fact that Jesus Christ was born in a certain place on a certain date. They didn't have calendars back then, but Luke did the best he could by explaining who ruled where and when. It's as if he needed to convince his readers that all the wonderful societal improvements that Jesus and the Christians who follow him brought are real. Christ really came. Christ is really still with us. Let's return to the Marshall Field's windows. Why are the windows so plain? Why don't the children stop and admire them? Our modern society, with its absolute reverence for Thomas Jefferson's doctrine of the separation of church and state, requires public spaces like sidewalks in downtown cannot offend any passersby. It takes effort today to keep Christ in Christmas. We all need to prepare ourselves to be a little obnoxious in public, just to remind others that the birth of Christ really happened. Without a little "in your face Christmas" the most magical time of the year turns into a "ho hum" shopping season. I doubt very much that Thomas Jefferson thought his doctrine would ruin the spectacular windows of Main Street USA but there is a direct link between the two.

A couple of years ago there was a Christmas movie out called "Spirited", starring Will Ferrell and

Ryan Reynolds. It had potential to be a classic. It told the story of a "reformed saintly" Scrooge who now had the assignment of converting other scrooges. But it failed because it ignored and even ridiculed the connection between Christmas trees and nativity scenes. An obnoxious salesman sings about artificial Christmas trees and the artificial baby Jesus dolls whose main purpose is to help him sell more trees. The message is obvious: get past those things and you'll find the better meaning of Christmas. Give me a break. As a kid, I marveled at every nativity scene, thinking about my Savior shivering in the cold. The theme of the movie turned out to be a politically correct mildly interesting love story that got it wrong. The simple big red star, all alone in a store window means nothing to children because it is ripped apart from what is below. The stars in the heavens might be neat, but God in a manger is spectacular.

**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.
- This weekend, December 7th & 8th, there will be a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please support those who have given a lifetime. Please see the bulletin for more information.
- SS. Cyril & Methodius' Food Pantry is once again collecting donations for Christmas Breakfast and Dinner meals to be delivered to those in need in our community. Please see the bulletin for information and our website for the links to sign up to donate.
- In today's bulletin, you will find the Annual Financial Reports for both SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish and St. James at Sag Bridge Mission. The reports are for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and were prepared pursuant to Archdiocesan guidelines. Fr. Valdi, Fr. Tom and the Finance Committee appreciate your generous financial support which helps to support the mission and ministries of our communities.
- Please see the bulletin for the Christmas Season Mass and Reconciliation Schedule for SSCM and St. James.
- Monday, December 16th, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 5:00-8:00 PM in SSCM Church.
- **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.**





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

*SS. Cyril & Methodius School*  
*2019 National Blue Ribbon School*

Dear Parents,

Our school family is moving into the Second Week of Advent. The excitement surrounding this beautiful time of year is beginning to rise throughout the entire building! Beautiful decorations are appearing each day, Christmas songs are heard, and classrooms are beginning to practice for Christmas pageants and concerts.

For service during December our students are donating to help both the "Tree of Love" and collecting coats to help those in need during the winter months.

The beginning of a new calendar year will not find us slowing down. We will start the 2025-2026 school year registration process for existing families in January. That will be followed by registration for families who are interested in joining our school. Guided tours and shadow days are available. Please call our office at 630-257-6488 to schedule a tour or shadow day, or to receive more information regarding SS. Cyril and Methodius National Blue Ribbon School!

Thank you to our entire parish for your continued support and commitment to SS. Cyril and Methodius School!

All the best,  
Mrs. Shirley A. Tkachuk  
Principal



### 3rd Grade Leading Us In Prayer!



**SSCM WINTER COAT DRIVE**  
SPONSORED BY NJHS

Items to Donate:

- HATS
- GLOVES/MITTENS
- Coats
- Scarves

All donations will be given to local families in need :)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12



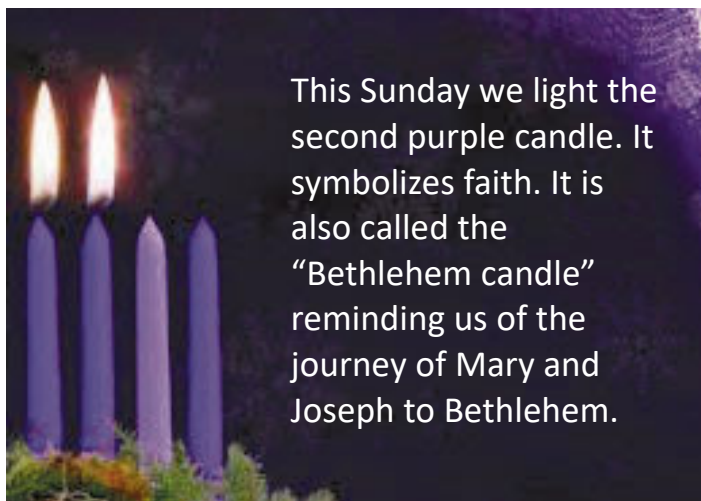
SS Cyril & Methodius  
Religious Education Program  
[stcyrilre@sscmlmont.org](mailto:stcyrilre@sscmlmont.org)  
(630)257-9314  
[www.re.stcyril.org](http://www.re.stcyril.org)

Mrs. Monika Leja – RE Administrator



### The Second Sunday of Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Thine only-begotten Son, that through His coming we may be worthy to serve Thee with purified minds. Who lives and reigns, with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.



This Sunday we light the second purple candle. It symbolizes faith. It is also called the “Bethlehem candle” reminding us of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

#### REMINDER:

Monday Session: OFF 12/16/2024  
Christmas break for all sessions is the week of 12/23/24 and 12/30/24.

*\*Please refer to the session calendars for details.*

**Mark your calendar: RE Advent Confessions are 12/17/2024 from 5:00—6:30PM.**

#### WHAT DOES ADVENT MEAN?

Advent derives from the Latin *adventus* meaning ‘arrival’ or ‘approach’. For thousands of years the world waited for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and to save the human race, restoring mankind’s relationship to God.

We, too, experience this same longing for the coming of Christ. Spiritually, we long for the coming of Christ into our hearts as the Holy Spirit draws us into ever deepening relationship with Him; we also long for Christ in his Second Coming, when He will return physically to earth—as He promised—to restore all things to Himself.

**Adwent** / z języka łacińskiego „adventus” znaczy przyjscie

Adwent to okres pobożnego a zarazem radosnego oczekiwania na przyjscie Jezusa Chrystusa. Adwent trwa od 23 do 28 dni i obejmuje 4 Niedziele. W tym roku okres Adwentu rozpoczynamy w dniu 28 Listopada, 2021.

Do symboli Adwentu zalicza się Fioletowy kolor Szat Liturgicznych, Roraty, Wieniec Adwentowy, Kalendarz Adwentowy, Lampion Adwentowy, Świeca Roratnia jak również wędrująca Figurka Matki Bożej. Podczas okresu Adwentu wśród wiernych kościoła Katolickiego często praktykowanym zwyczajem jest podejmowanie postanowień.

Postanowienia adewntowe to forma duchowego przygotowania się do ponownego przyjscia Jezusa poprzez określone sobie wyrzeczenie lub zobowiązania.



Poznajmy niektóre symbol Adwentu:

**Wieniec Adwentowy** – sombolizując okres Adwentu często wykonany jest z gałązek drzewa iglastego. Kształt wieńca adwentowego także nie jest przypadkowy. Okrągły wieniec symbolizuje nieskończoność i życie wieczne. Również najważniejszymi elementami są 4 świece. Każda świeca zapalana jest w kolejne Niedziele Adwentu. Wszystkie świece posiadają także określoną nazwę oraz symbolikę.

**Pierwsza Świeca** - świeca Nadziei, symbolizuje ona proroków którzy zapowiedzieli narodzenie Mesjasza.



<b>SS. Cyril &amp; Methodius Annual Financial Report - 2024</b> <b>Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024</b>
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<b>Church</b>		<b>School</b>	
Collections	\$1,032,509	Tuition	\$1,025,513
Sacramental Fees	125,410	Outside Funding Sources	115,070
Stipends and Votives	53,219	Fees	104,779
Other Collections	41,630	Fund Raising	87,319
Miscellaneous Income	34,823	Church Subsidy	35,000
Auxiliary Organizations	15,996	Donations	15,525
Interest	10,695	Invest Gain/Loss	11,232
		Miscellaneous Income	6,209
		Auxiliary Organizations	(1,131)
<b>Church Income</b>	<b>\$1,314,282</b>	<b>School Income</b>	<b>\$1,399,516</b>
<b>Church</b>		<b>School</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$574,385	Salaries & Benefits	\$1,195,172
Assessments & Insurance	214,990	Instructional Materials & Tech	104,149
Maintenance & Utilities	111,022	Maintenance & Utilities	87,896
Administrative Expenses	45,917	Assessments & Insurance	53,263
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	39,277	Administrative & Equipment	29,112
Liturgical & Offertory Supplies	38,192	Other Miscellaneous Expenses	15,370
School Subsidy	35,000		
Food Service & Meals	16,435		
Furnishings & Equipment	11,672		
<b>Church Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,086,890</b>	<b>School Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,484,962</b>
<b>Net Church Operating Income</b>	<b>\$227,392</b>	<b>Net School Operating Deficit</b>	<b>(\$85,446)</b>
<b>Church Extraordinary Income</b>		<b>Religious Education</b>	
Casualty Income from Insurance	\$45,420	Tuition & Fees	\$81,862
Arch Req'd Collections	36,929		
Other Extraordinary Income	30,500		
Sharing-Missionaries of Poor	11,286		
Forward in Faith Camp-TTWCI	9,200		
Capital Improvements	8,072		
<b>Church Extraordinary Income</b>	<b>\$141,407</b>	<b>Religious Education Income</b>	<b>\$81,862</b>
<b>Capital &amp; Extraordinary Expenses</b>		<b>Religious Education Expenses</b>	
Casualty Exp-partially covered by insuran	\$49,420	Salaries & Benefits	\$114,506
New School Gym roof	38,875	Books, Supplies & Admin	14,819
Distr. of Arch Req'd Collections	36,929	Utilities	2,860
Seal Coat all Lots	15,075	Other Miscellaneous Expenses	2,793
Church & School LED Lighting	14,264		
Sharing-Missionaries of Poor	2,450		
<b>Capital&amp;Extraordinary Expenses</b>	<b>\$157,013</b>	<b>Religious Education Expenses</b>	<b>\$134,978</b>
<b>Net Extraordinary Income</b>	<b>(\$15,606)</b>	<b>Net Religious Education Deficit</b>	<b>(\$53,116)</b>
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>\$211,786</b>		
<b>Net Income Church,RE &amp; School</b>	<b>\$73,224</b>		

St. James at Sag Bridge  
Parish Financial Report  
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Ordinary Income	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Sunday/Holy Day collections	\$394,737	\$451,145
Fundraising/Net Auxiliary Income/Misc	\$30,715	\$45,593
Return on Investments:		
Stock/Mutual Fund	\$1,467	\$475
Fixed Income Fund	\$8,796	(\$1,028)
Balance and Growth Funds	\$33,728	(\$544)
Religious education (C.C.D.)	<u>\$3,965</u>	<u>\$4,721</u>
<b>Total Ordinary Income</b>	<b><u>\$473,408</u></b>	<b><u>\$500,362</u></b>
Ordinary Expense	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Salaries & related costs	\$185,817	\$162,748
Books & Supplies	\$5,484	\$6,582
Administrative Expense	\$21,498	\$22,584
Utilities, Gas & Electric	\$49,667	\$49,467
Maintenance & Buildings	\$23,727	\$25,314
Altar & Liturgical Supplies	\$8,611	\$8,751
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$46,104	\$45,696
PRMAA	\$16,140	\$15,996
Insurance	\$20,689	\$18,273
Furnishings & Equipment	\$8,414	—
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 25,242</u>	<u>\$30,692</u>
<b>Total Ordinary Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$411,393</u></b>	<b><u>\$386,103</u></b>
<b>TOTAL NET ORDINARY OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$62,015</u></b>	<b><u>\$114,259</u></b>
Other Extraordinary Income	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Arch 2nd Collections	\$6,586	\$7,728
Sharing Collections:		
Zacchaeus Hse/Women's Center/Food Pantry	\$11,953	\$11,506
Uganda	\$14,220	\$28,220
Fund Collections-TTWCI	\$2,675	\$3,359
Other Misc-Ins Recovery/Memorials	<u>\$525</u>	<u>\$3,386</u>
<b>Total Other (Extraordinary) Income</b>	<b><u>\$35,959</u></b>	<b><u>\$54,199</u></b>
Other Extraordinary Expense:	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Arch 2nd Collections	\$6,836	\$7,574
Zacchaeus House/Women's Center/Food Pantry	\$11,884	\$11,551
Uganda	\$15,520	\$28,700
Capital Improvements	<u>\$10,550</u>	<u>\$51,026</u>
<b>Total Other (Extraordinary) Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$44,790</u></b>	<b><u>\$98,851</u></b>
<b>TOTAL NET EXTRAORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b><u>(\$8,831)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$44,652)</u></b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u>\$53,184</u></b>	<b><u>\$69,607</u></b>
Statement of Financial Position	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Cash/CD/Building Fund Savings	\$371,028	\$362,186
Investments	\$622,493	\$579,591
TTWCI/Regular Operating Savings	\$33,157	\$30,230
Other Assets-Prepaid Expense	\$0	\$0
Liabilities (Accounts Payable)	<u>(\$5,748)</u>	<u>(\$4,262)</u>
<b>Net Asset Balance (Equity)</b>	<b><u>\$1,020,930</u></b>	<b><u>\$967,745</u></b>



**2025 FLOWER SIGNUP CHART:**  
 Now available in the back of Church.  
 There are two flower arrangements  
 per date & each bouquet is \$35.00.



**Marian Feasts**  
 Celebrate the  
 Immaculate Conception  
 (Dec 9 due to 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sunday of Advent) &  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 (Dec 12) Masses at 8am  
 & 7pm on both days.



**Wine & Wisdom – Dec 11**  
 Come examine some famous prophecies of  
 years ago: Our Lady at Fatima & Lasalette,  
 & Julie Marie Jahenny, a mystic. What are  
 their messages for us today?

*Wine & Wisdom – Dec 18*  
 Francis Thomas, Anchor member and movie director &  
 producer will share his film, "A Strange Encounter" &  
 answer our questions about the film & the process.  
 Wednesdays join us for: Adoration 5 to 7pm. Confessions  
 6 to 7pm. Mass 7pm, Wine & Wisdom –8 to –9:15pm



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

**Together We Stand For  
 The Unborn**

Fr Koys has magnanimously agreed to once  
 again take a busload of teenagers to Washing-  
 ton DC for the National March for Life. This is an  
 invaluable pilgrimage for our young people!  
 Registration is now open for St James families  
 only. Go to [historicstjames.org](http://historicstjames.org) to register.



Our  
 Weekly Offering

Our weekly *Offertory* collection from  
 November 24, 2024 was \$4,709. Online giving  
 (Give Central) for regular and maintenance  
 collections totalled \$1,710.

Our weekly *Offertory* collection from  
 December 1, 2024 was \$4,494. Online giving  
 (Give Central) for regular and maintenance  
 collections totalled \$1,005.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!**



**Mass Intentions**

*Note: Please allow 2 weeks notice to book Mass intentions*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
**8:00AM** For all assisting to make St James liturgies so  
 †Laura Rebello reverent

**7:00PM** Birthday Blessings—Kelley Rice  
 †Loretta Macfarlane

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
**8:00AM** Birthday Blessings—Kelly Pienkos  
 For all assisting to make St James church  
 so beautiful

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
**7:00PM** Blessings on all those involved with St James'  
 †Libania Rebello CCD program

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12—OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**  
**8:00AM** †Russell Wenzel, Sr.  
 †Piotr Gacek

**7:00PM** Blessings on all involved with Sag Bridge  
 Mission Society

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
**6:00PM** Birthday Blessings—Daniel Slowik  
 †Anthony D'Souza

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
**8:00AM** †Isabel D'Souza  
 Birthday Blessings—Madeleine Stoll

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
**8:15AM** Living/Deceased Members-Altar & Rosary Soc.  
 Birthday Blessings—Sophie Obrochta

**10AM:** †Joseph Curry  
 Living/Deceased Members-Lahart/Lustig Families

**12:00PM:** Blessings for Fr. Scott Haynes  
 Health & Healing—Steve Rohrbacher

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

MONICA PIOTROWSKI—IN MEMORY OF NATHAN JOHN  
 AND  
 THE PEARMANS—IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE STACH

**VOTIVE OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/8/24**  
 St. James Altar & Rosary Society  
 All the Poor Souls in Purgatory  
 United States of America  
 For Our Children—Heather, Ryan & Colleen

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
8:15am	Joe Beecher, Aden Burke, Alex Pawlikowski, Eric Delactorre
10am	Matthew & Max Naglak, Christian Cozzi, Matthew Rebello, Daniel Newsom



**A Time to Say Farewell**

For 13 years you have seen the smiling face of Monika Bochenek at the front desk of the parish office. Monika has laughed, cried, rejoiced and celebrated with all the people who have visited our office whether it was to book a mass, baptism, wedding, funeral, or just to say "HELLO"! Monika has done a wonderful job inspiring the faith in our parishioners and she has touched many lives in her work here at the parish.

Monika has accepted a new job and her last day at the parish office was December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and as sorry as we are to see her go, we are just as happy for her to begin the next phase of her career.

We wish her the best in her future endeavors and hope she knows how much she will be missed. Thank You, Monika, for your dedication and your warm presence all these years.

**Czas się pożegnać**

Drodzy parafianie przez ostatnie 13 lat wchodząc do biura witała Was uśmiechnięta twarz Moniki Bochenek w recepcji biura parafialnego. Monika śmiała się, płakała, cieszyła i świętowała z każdą osobą, która odwiedziła nasze biuro – czy to w celu zamówienia Mszy św, chrztu, ślubu, pogrzebu, czy po prostu, by powiedzieć „Dzień dobry”! Sumiennie wykonywała swoją pracę inspirując tym samym wiarę w każdym z nas. To osoba, która dotknęła wiele serc w naszej parafii.

Monika przyjęła nową pracę, a jej ostatni dzień w biurze parafialnym przypadł na 2 grudnia. Chociaż trudno się nam z tym pogodzić, że odchodzi, to jednak bardzo cieszymy się, że rozpoczyna kolejny etap swojej kariery.

Życzymy jej wszystkiego najlepszego w przyszłych przedsięwzięciach i mamy nadzieję, że wie, jak bardzo będzie nam jej brakować. Dziękujemy Ci, Moniko, za Twoje zaangażowanie i ciepłą obecność przez te wszystkie lata.

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**2nd Collection  
This Weekend**

Please consider making a donation to **The Retirement Fund for Religious**. Your donation helps religious communities care for senior members today & tomorrow.

**Oplatki**

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

**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)

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

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

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

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

**New Year's Day, Monday, January 1st, 2025**

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

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation-Advent**

**St. Cyril's: Monday, December 16th:  
Individual Confessions  
(English & Polish)  
5:00-8:00PM**



**Szczęść Boże,**

Gorące pozdrowienia z Kenii! Jestem o. Maciek Zieliński, misjonarz kombonianin i od 11 lat posługuję jako misjonarz w Kenii. Swoją wiarą i doświadczeniem misyjnym będę dzielił się z Wami podczas tegorocznych **Rekolekcji Adwentowych** - na które już teraz wszystkich zapraszam. Będą one nieco inne niż zwykle, z wieloma akcentami misyjnymi, a także ze zdjęciami i filmami z Afryki.

Program Rekolekcji:

**Niedziela – 15 Grudnia:**

W prowadzenie do rekolekcji

**Poniedziałek - 16 Grudnia:**

11:30 AM – Msza i nauka rekolekcyjna

8:00 PM – Nauka rekolekcyjna

**Wtorek - 17 Grudnia:**

11:30 AM – Msza i nauka rekolekcyjna

7:00 PM – Msza i nauka rekolekcyjna

**Środa - 18 Grudnia:**

11:30 AM – Msza i nauka rekolekcyjna

7:00 PM – Msza i nauka rekolekcyjna



Parafia św. Cyryla i Metodego zaprasza na

**Adwentowe Warsztaty dla Bezsilnych**

z Grzegorzem Górnym i Rafałem Porzezińskim



Grzegorz Górny – pisarz, publicysta, założyciel i redaktor naczelny kwartalnika „Fronda”, były redaktor naczelny tygodnika „Ozro”, autor ok. 40 książek tłumaczonych na kilkanaście języków, obecnie publicysta tygodnika „Sfera” i portalu politycznej oraz stały kolumnista Radia Maryja.



Rafał Porzeziński – dziennikarz radiowy i telewizyjny, twórca i redaktor naczelny, były dyrektor i redaktor naczelny Programu I Polskiego Radia, twórca i gospodarz programu „Ocaleni” w TVP, rzecznik „Wspólnoty św. Jakuba 12 brzołów dla chrześcijan”, autor wielu książek, kolumnist Zespołu Komisji Episkopatu Polski ds. Apostolstwa Trzeźwości i Osób Uzależnionych.

**12 grudnia (czwartek): godz. 7 pm**

Grzegorz Górny: Kto chce ukraść dusze naszych dzieci?  
 Rafał Porzeziński: Kim jest człowiek? Opowieść o bezsilności.

**13 grudnia (piątek): godz. 7 pm**

Grzegorz Górny: Chryścjanin między wiarą a rozumem  
 Rafał Porzeziński: Kim jest mój Bóg? Między obrazem a obrazą.

**14 grudnia (sobota) godz. 7 pm**

Grzegorz Górny: Wojna o duszę świata według Jana Pawła II.  
 Rafał Porzeziński: Zawierzenie. Wierzyć w Boga a zawierzyć Bogu.

608 Sobieski Street, Lemont

Po konferencjach możliwość zakupu książek Grzegorza Górnego i Rafała Porzezińskiego

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### **Z biurka wikariusza pastora**

#### **Drodzy Parafianie,**

Niedawno znajoma pokazała mi zdjęcia witryn byłego Marshall Field's na State Street w Chicago. To co zobaczyła nie mogła uwierzyć własnym oczom. Kiedy spojrzałem na te zdjęcia przedstawiające scenerie świąteczną, zastanawiałem się, dlaczego była tak zaskoczona. Witryny były proste, zwyczajne i pozbawione wyobraźni. Duża gwiazda, zwykły miś i trochę różnokolorowych wstążek. „Co w tym spektakularnego?” zapytałem. „Nic” – odpowiedziała. „Nic?” – powtórzyłem zdziwiony. „Te witryny były kiedyś inspiracją nadchodzących świąt, frajdą wyjazdu do miasta na świąteczne zakupy. Jako dzieci staliśmy przed nimi przez długi czas, podziwiając te misternie wykonane zwierzęta i animacje. Zawsze też była tam najpiękniejsza szopka, jaką można sobie było wyobrazić. A teraz? Nic spektakularnego. Zabrałam tam moje wnuki, chcąc odtworzyć te wspaniałe wspomnienia ze Świąt Bożego Narodzenia sprzed lat. Ale one nie były pod wrażeniem. Przeszły obok nich, jakby przechodziły obok okien stacji benzynowej z kilkoma plakatami promocyjnymi; Coca-Cola za 5 dolarów za zgrzewkę, dwa hot dogi za 3 dolary. To naprawdę przynębiające co zrobiliśmy z naszą kulturą?” – lamentowała moja znajoma.

Ewangelia według św. Łukasza na czas Adwentu stara się dokładnie wskazać historyczny fakt narodzin Jezusa Chrystusa w określonym miejscu i czasie. Choć nie mieli wtedy kalendarzy, Łukasz zrobił, co tylko mógł, opisując kto i gdzie panował w tamtym okresie. Jakby musiał przekonać swoich czytelników, że wszystkie wspaniałe przemiany społeczne, które przyniósł Jezus i chrześcijaństwo, są rzeczywistością. Chrystus naprawdę przyszedł. Chrystus naprawdę jest z nami.

A więc wróćmy do witryn w Marshall Field's. Dlaczego są takie proste i bez życia? Dlaczego dzieci się nimi nie zachwycają? Nasze nowoczesne społeczeństwo, z jego absolutnym szacunkiem dla doktryny Thomasa Jeffersona o rozdzieleniu kościoła od państwa, wymaga, by przestrzenie publiczne takie jak chodniki w centrum miasta nie obrażały przechodniów. Smutne jest, że w dzisiejszych czasach potrzeba wysiłku, aby zachować Chrystusa w Bożym Narodzeniu. A więc wszyscy musimy dołożyć wszelkich starań dając dowód publicznym miejscom że narodziny Chrystusa naprawdę miały miejsce. Bez odrobiny „magicznych świąt z Jezusem” ten wyjątkowy czas w roku staje się sezonem zakupów bez emocji, tylko z odgłosem w przestrzeni słów „ho ho ho”. Wątpię, by Thomas Jefferson myślał, że jego doktryna zniszczy spektakularne witryny Main Street USA, ale może istnieje prawdopodobieństwo przedstawiające bezpośredni związek między jednym a drugim.

Kilka lat temu pojawił się film świąteczny „Spirited (Porywający)” z Willem Ferrellem i Ryanem Reynoldsem. Miał potencjał, by stać się klasykiem. Opowiadał historię nawróconego świętego Scrooge'a, który teraz miał za zadanie

nawracać innych skąpców. Niestety film zawiódł, bo zignorował i nawet wyśmiewał związek między choinkami a szopkami. W jednej scenie irytujący sprzedawca śpiewa o sztucznych choinkach i plastikowych figurkach Dzieciątka Jezus, których głównym celem jest zwiększenie sprzedaży. Przekaz jest jasny: odrzuć to wszystko, a znajdziesz głębszy sens świąt. Jako dziecko, podziwiałem każdą szopkę, myśląc o moim Zbawicielu drżącym z zimna. Tematem filmu stała się politycznie poprawna, mało interesująca historia miłosna, która całkowicie chybiła sedna. Samotna, wielka czerwona gwiazda w witrynie sklepowej nie znaczy dla dzieci nic, bo jest oderwana od tego, co najważniejsze. Gwiazdy na niebie mogą być piękne, ale Bóg w żłóbku jest spektakularny.

**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.
- Podczas najbliższego weekendu, 7 i 8 grudnia, druga kolektka zbierana będzie na rzecz Fundusz Emerytalny Księży. Proszę wesprzyj tych, którzy poświęcili swoje życie w posłudze innym. Więcej informacji znajdziesz w biuletynie.
- Spizarnia w naszej parafii, ŚŚ. Cyryla i Metodego po raz kolejny zbiera darowizny na świąteczne śniadania i kolacje, które będą dostarczone potrzebującym rodzinom w naszej wspólnocie. Więcej informacji można znaleźć w biuletynie, a na naszej stronie internetowej znajdują się linki umożliwiające rejestrację i przekazywanie darowizn.
- Zapraszamy do zapoznania się z rocznym sprawozdaniem finansowym obydwu parafii, SS. Cyryla i Metodego oraz Misji św. Jakuba w Sag Bridge. Sprawozdania dotyczą roku podatkowego kończącego się 30 czerwca 2024 r. zostały sporządzone zgodnie z wytycznymi Archidiecezji. Ks. Waldemar wraz z ks. Tom i Komitetem Finansowym wyrażają głębokie podziękowanie za Wasze zaangażowanie i hojne wsparcie finansowe, które pomaga w naszej posłudze.
- W biuletynie zamieszczony został harmonogram Mszy św. i spowiedzi okresu świątecznego w parafii ŚŚ. Cyryla i Metodego i parafii Św. Jakuba.
- Spowiedź przedświąteczna odbędzie się w poniedziałek, 16 grudnia, w kościele SS. Cyryla i Metodego od godz. 5:00PM - 8:00PM.
- **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.

## Mass Intentions

**Monday — December 9th**  
7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GUZIOR FAMILY

**Tuesday — December 10th**  
7:00 AM † DENNIS LEE  
by Dianna Gliwa  
7:00 PM ZA WSZYSTKICH PARAFIAN, ŻYJĄCYCH I ZMARŁYCH

**Wednesday — December 11th**  
7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED

**Thursday — December 12th**  
7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR CHRIS ZAKHEM (birth)  
† L. GASIOR  
by Friend  
† LOUIS ZIOLKOWSKI  
by Mary Balash

**Friday — December 13th**  
7:00 AM † EMILY REMIASZ  
by Troutman Family

**Saturday — December 14th**  
7:00 AM FATHER'S DAY NOVENA  
5:00 PM † MARCELLA SAVALA & ELIZABETH SCHULER  
**Fr. Noga** by Peggy & Rick Sniegowski  
† ANNA KOWALKOWSKA  
by Family  
† JANE GRZYBOWSKI  
by SSCM Spred

**Sunday — December 15th (Third Sunday of Advent)**  
7:00 AM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED  
**Fr. Noga** † ROZALIA KOWALCZYK (Anniv.)  
by Family  
† RUSSELL DOUCET  
by Mom & Dad  
† STEFANIA LESNICKI  
by Walter & Sophie Lesnicki  
8:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA KAZIMIERZA  
**Fr. Valdi** ZAGRANICZNY (urodziny)  
by Mama  
† HELENA I JÓZEF BYRDAK  
by C.W. Mrozek  
† MAX I STEFNIA GOSTKIEWICZ  
by Rodzina Gostkiewicz  
† ZA ZMARŁYCH CZŁONKÓW KLUBU POLSKIEGO  
W LEMONT

9:30 AM † EMILY REMIASZ  
**Fr. Noga** by Family  
† JULIA KOZIEL  
by Walter & Lottie Koziel  
† PAUL CIMINO  
by Sharon & Henry Boe  
† DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SNIEGOWSKI  
FAMILY  
by Mark Sniegowski Family  
11:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA MATEUSZA  
**Fr. Valdi** MATURSKIEGO  
O BOŻE BŁ. I ZDROWIE DLA ALOJZY KURCZAK  
(90 birth)  
by Dzieci i Wnuki  
† ALOJZY WONTORCZYK  
by Rodzina Hage  
† MICHAŁ CISKAL  
by Monika Bochenek

12:30 PM GOD'S BLESSINGS HEALTH & HEALING FOR  
**Fr. Rataj** STANLEY KOPERA  
by Maria Malewski  
† MARIAN CWIK (6 Anniv.)  
by Wife  
† JOANNA & JOZEF KALATA  
by Weronika Kalata & Children

† MARIA BOZEK  
by Krystyna Cwik  
2:00 PM † ELŻBIETA MAZUR (2 Rocznicza Śmierci)  
**Fr. Valdi** by Rodzina  
† EMILY REMIASZ  
by Little Academy  
† MARIA I STANISŁAW TYRAŁA  
by Teresa Bleka z Rodziną  
7:30 PM FOR ALL PARISHIONERS LIVING & DECEASED  
**Fr. Rataj**

## English Advent Mission

Warm greetings from Kenya! I am Fr Maciek Zielinski, a Combonian Missionary and I have been serving as a missionary in Kenya for 11 years. I will be sharing my faith and my missionary experience with you during this year's **Advent Mission** - to which I already invite you all. It will be a bit different than usual, with many missionary accents, photos and videos from Africa.

Advent Mission program:

**Sunday — December 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Introduction to Mission Talk during weekend Masses

**Monday — December 16<sup>th</sup>:**

6:00 PM — Mission Talk (Parish Life Building)

**Tuesday - December 17<sup>th</sup>:**

6:00 PM - Mission Talk (Parish Life Building)

**Wednesday - December 18<sup>th</sup>:**

6:00 PM - Holy Mass (Church)



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
Charlie Wickey	Alexander Dziaba
Guy Martin	Hieronima Palasiewicz
Carol Preis	Joan Albert
Irene Forst	Ray Przezdziecki
Terry Hallandworth	William Podborny
Nick Gorisch	Stanislaw Kopera
Mark Malewski & Family	Cindy Evankoe
Malgorzata Bies	

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  
 November 23 & 24, 2024**

Envelopes	527	12,559.00
Children's Envelopes	3	4.00
GiveCentral (11/18-11/24)	124	<u>3,052.00</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,615.00</b>

*Budgeted: \$15,700.00 / Actual: 15,615.00/ (\$85)*

527 envelopes plus 124 GiveCentral Sunday donations represent 31% of 2,100 registered parishioner families.

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

**Parish Contributions  
 November 28, 30 & December 1, 2024**

Envelopes	536	15,134.00
Children's Envelopes		.00
GiveCentral (11/25-12/1)	116	<u>2,537.00</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,671.00</b>

*Budgeted: \$15,700.00 / Actual: 17,671.00/ \$1,971*

536 envelopes plus 116 GiveCentral Sunday donations represent 31% of 2,100 registered parishioner families.

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

*Congratulations and God's Blessings*



*Maria Zieba and Kyle Spinks  
 Married November 23, 2024*



**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.*



*May Perpetual Light  
 Shine Upon Them*

In your prayers, please remember the souls of **Janina Kasperek, Leo M. Wojciechowski & Stanislaw Beda & Christine A. Klaer.** May their souls and the soul of all our faithfully departed family and friends rest in everlasting peace.



**Helping Hands of St. Cyril and Methodius**

This year we are helping our families in need providing them with both Christmas Dinner and Christmas Breakfast. We are asking for your assistance in donating supplies for these special holiday meals. Drop off is Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am-8 pm at the Benson house, 1264 Durham Lane, Lemont.

You can access the links to sign up to donate at our website: [www.stcyril.org](http://www.stcyril.org).

Our families appreciate your generosity.

We also provide monthly gift cards to families in need. We are in need of \$25 gift card donations for food or big box stores. Examples include Jewel, Aldi, Pete's, Target, Walmart, Meijer. If you would like to contribute with monetary donations, please drop in the box labeled Helping Hands located in the back of church or electronically at Give Central: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/320/event/14677>.

**About Helping Hands Food Pantry**

SSCM runs a food pantry servicing several local Lemont Area families in need with both food and monetary contributions monthly. We are the only Lemont food pantry who delivers food. Deliveries provide additional assistance to those who are unable to get to the food pantry due to physical disabilities, work schedules, and or lack of transportation. We accept food donations at our parish office during regular business hours and the first week of the month during mass. Monetary donations can be made in the collection area in the back of church or electronically at Give Central:

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/320/event/14677>.

If you, or anyone you know are in need please contact the parish rectory.

## Inspirations on Confession from St. Francis de Sales' *Introduction to the Devout Life*

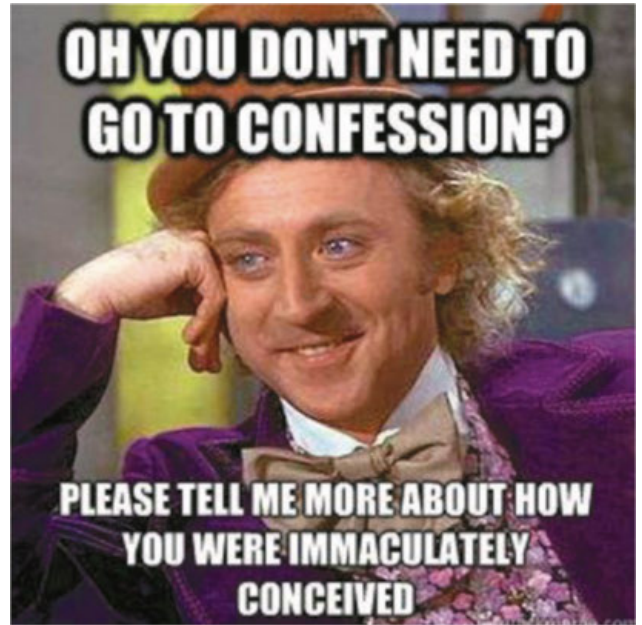
Getting ready for your Advent Confession? Here are some tips from a Saint!

"CHAPTER XIX. On Confession. Our Savior has bequeathed the Sacrament of Penitence and Confession to His Church, in order that therein we may be cleansed from all our sins, however and whenever we may have been soiled thereby. Therefore, my child, never allow your heart to abide heavy with sin, seeing that there is so sure and safe a remedy at hand. If the lioness has been in the neighborhood of other beasts, she hastens to wash away their scent, lest it should be displeasing to her lord; and so the soul which has ever so little consented to sin, ought to abhor itself and make haste to seek purification, out of respect to His Divine Gaze Who beholds it always.

Why should we die a spiritual death when there is a **sovereign remedy** available? Make your confession humbly and devoutly every week, and always, if you can, before communicating, even although your conscience is not burdened with mortal sin; for in confession you do not only receive absolution for your venial sins, but you also **receive great strength to help you in avoiding them** henceforth, clearer light to discover your failings, and abundant grace to make up whatever loss you have incurred through those faults. You exercise the graces of humility, obedience, simplicity and love, and **by this one act of confession you practice more virtue than in any other.**

Be sure always to entertain a **hearty sorrow for the sins you confess, however small they are; as also a steadfast resolution to correct them in future.** Some people go on confessing venial sins out of mere habit, and conventionally, without making any effort to correct them, thereby losing a great deal of spiritual good. Supposing that you confess having said something untrue, although without evil consequences, or some careless words, or excessive amusement; —repent, and make a firm resolution of amendment: it is a mere abuse to confess any sin whatever, be it mortal or venial, without intending to put it altogether away, that being the express object of confession."

The entire book, "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St. Francis de Sales can be found free online in pdf format at the website [www.catholicspiritualdirection.org](http://www.catholicspiritualdirection.org).



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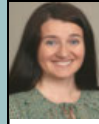
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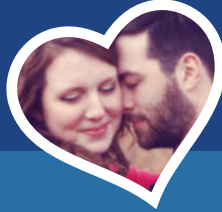
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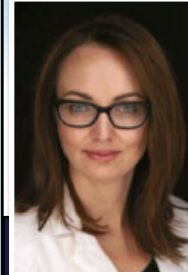
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