

# *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**

Mirosława Sojka-Topor  
*Music Director*

#### **Administration**

Denise Duda  
*Operations Director*

Lynn Bailey  
Ann Noonan  
*Assistant Business Managers*

Monika Bochenek, 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 10, 2023*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

*Joyfully anticipate the birth  
of our Lord*



#### **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.**

<b>Parish Information</b>		<b>Minister of Music:</b>	Mira Sojka-Topor musicmin@stcyril.org (630) 257-2776
<b>Parish Office:</b>	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	<b>Polish School:</b>	www.polschool.com Halina Szyrzyna Principal: (630) 669-9058
<b>School:</b>	607 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL Shirley Tkachuk, Principal (630) 257-6488; shirleyt@stcyril.org	<b>Polish Club:</b>	John Lichacz, President (773) 216-1108 polishclub@stcyril.org
<b>Religious Education:</b>	Monika Leja, Religious Education Administrator (630) 257-9314; mleja@sscmlemont.org	<b>Minister of Care:</b>	Dave Smietanski (630) 257-2776
<b>Mass Schedule:</b>		<b>Parish Council:</b>	Joe Martello, President
Monday thru Saturday: 7:00 AM		<b>Bulletin:</b>	bulletin@stcyril.org
Saturday: 5:00 PM Sunday Obligation		<b>Helping Hands:</b>	helpinghands@stcyril.org
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)		<b>New Parishioners:</b> 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	
<b>Special Masses:</b>		<b>Baptisms:</b> 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.	
Tuesday PM: devotions at 7 PM, 7:45 PM (Polish)		<b>Marriage:</b> 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.	
First Friday: 7:00 AM (English), 7:00 PM (Polish)		<b>Social Media:</b> 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.	
First Saturday: devotions at 7 PM (Polish), 9:00 PM (Polish)		<b>Parish Website:</b> www.stcyril.org	
Holy Days of Obligation: As announced		<b>School Website:</b> www.school.stcyril.org	
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</b>		<b>Parish Facebook Page:</b> www.facebook.com/SSCMLemont	
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM		<b>School Facebook Page:</b> www.facebook.com/SSCMComets	
First Fridays: 6:00 - 7:00 PM			
Also available by appointment.			
<b>Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:</b>			
Following the Monday morning 7:00 AM Mass			
<b>Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration:</b>			
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			
<b>Parish Office Hours: Each weekday the office will be closed between the hours of 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.</b>			
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday			
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM			
Tuesday			
9:00 AM to 8:00 PM			
Friday			
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM			
Saturday & Sunday			
Closed			



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

Dec 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many dismiss this wonderful devotion because of its close connection with Mexico.

However, Our Mother under this miraculous title and image should be high on the list of all people who love Christianity. Read on as I share only a few amazing facts about this image of Guadalupe.

The Spanish rulers of the native Mexican Indians were brutal, and war between them seemed inevitable. In 1531, the archbishop of Mexico City, Juan de Zumárraga prayed to Our Lady for peace. As a sign that his petition would be granted, he asked to receive roses native to his home region of Castile, Spain. Many know that the Bishop was impressed by the roses, but his utter astonishment was precipitated by the fact that he was receiving exactly what he was praying for. In a matter of months, Our Lady ended the Aztec culture's cult of death. The Aztec religion involved human sacrifice on an unthinkable scale. In the decade following her appearance, ten million Indians converted to Catholicism.

Jose Aste Tonsmann, a Peruvian ophthalmologist, examined Mary's eyes at 2,500 times magnification. He was able to identify thirteen individuals in both eyes at different proportions, just as a human eye would reflect an image. It appeared to be the very moment Juan Diego unfurled the tilma before Bishop Zumárraga. Dr. Jorge Escalante Padilla a surgical ophthalmologist considers these reflections to belong to the type which have been described on the back surface of the cornea at the center of the lens. Such reflections are very difficult to detect. Dr. Escalante also reported the discovery of small veins on both eyelids of the image. In the 1970s, a Japanese optician who was examining the eyes fainted. Upon recovering he stated: "The eyes were alive and looking at him." Incredibly, when Our Lady's eyes are exposed to light, the pupils contract. When the light is withdrawn, they return to a dilated state.

And perhaps a detail us modern Americans must contemplate most is the fact that on April 24, 2007, an unusual luminosity in the famed image

immediately after that city legalized abortion became visible. The picture below is from an eye witness: "At the end of the Mass, which was offered for aborted children... While many of us were taking photographs of the tilma, this image of the Virgin shows how it began to erase itself, to give place to an intense light which emanated from her abdomen, constituting a brilliant halo having the form of an embryo. All we can say is: "America, wake up, for God's sake wake up"

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



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

- This weekend, December 9th & 10th, 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 we are sharing the results from the Disciple Maker Index Survey. Please take a minute to go over them.
- Please see the bulletin for the Christmas Season Mass and Reconciliation Schedule for SSCM and St. James.
- Monday, December 18th, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 5:00-8:00 PM in Church. Also, on Saturday, December 23rd from 3:00-4:30 PM.





**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 "Helping Hands".

Congratulations to six of our junior high students. They recently competed and were winners in the "Patriot's Pen" Essay Contest.

<u>Grade 8:</u>	<u>Grade 7:</u>	<u>Grade 6:</u>
Victoria Lotz	Amelia Sowa	Amelia Glod
Enzo LoCoco	Nick Tomala	Michael Bialis

\*Victoria Lotz will now move on to the district level finals!



The beginning of a new calendar year will not find us slowing down. We will start the 2024-2025 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!

You may have heard that the Tax Credit Scholarship Program is ending. This program has helped many students attend our school over the past several years. The Archdiocese of Chicago is working to help sustain some type of scholarship program. If you are interested in more information or donating, please contact the Office of Stewardship and Development at the Archdiocese of Chicago at 312-534-7959. You can designate SS. Cyril and Methodius School to receive your donation! 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





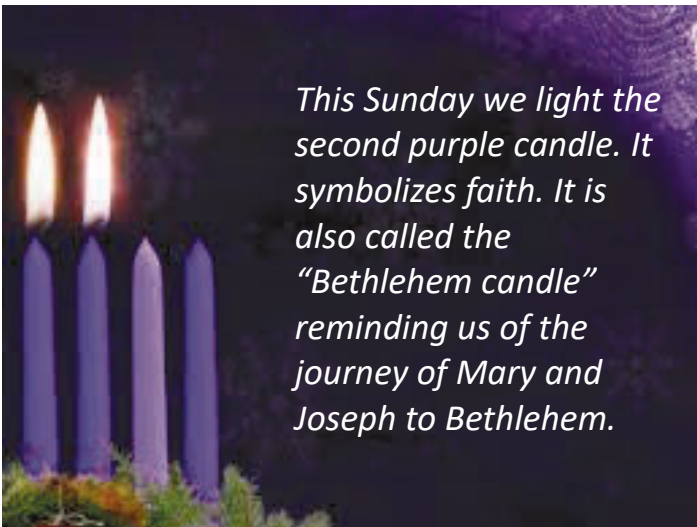
**SS Cyril & Methodius  
Religious Education Program**  
[stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org](mailto:stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org)  
 (630)257-9314  
[www.re.stcyril.org](http://www.re.stcyril.org)

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.



Monday Session: OFF 12/11 and 12/18

Wednesday Session: OFF 12/13, and 12/20.

Friday Session: OFF 12/22

\*Please refer to the session calendars for details.

**Mark your calendar: RE Advent Confessions  
are 12/19/2023 from 5:00—7:00PM.**

### 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 przyjsie

Adwent to okres pobożnego a zarazem radosnego oczekiwania na przyjsie 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 adwentowe to forma duchowego przygotowania się do ponownego przyjsia Jezusa poprzez określone sobie wyrzeczenie lub zobowiązania.



Poznajmy niektóre symbol Adwentu:

**Wieniec Adwentowy** – symbolizując 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.



# St. James at Sag Bridge Mission

10600 S. Archer Avenue | Lemont, Illinois 60439-9344 | (Ph) 630.257.7000 |

Email: [stjames1833@att.net](mailto:stjames1833@att.net) | Website: [www.historicstjames.org](http://www.historicstjames.org)

*Venite, Venite! Share in  
the Joy to the World -  
A Savior is born!*

St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church  
cordially invites you to our

## Christmas Celebration

*with beautiful music,  
children's nativity, & prayers  
of the season.*

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

7pm-8pm

10600 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439

*The Free Will offering will go  
to the Sag Bridge Mission Society.*



### Happy birthday spiritually adopted baby!

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - nine months after his/her mother conceived him/her. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is just like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved his/her life.

### For Young Ladies

We will offer a formation-  
al program to enrich the  
spiritual lives of St James'  
young ladies beginning  
Jan 8. For more info & to  
register, visit our website.  
You may also register in  
back of Church & meeting  
details will follow.



### Ministry of Care

If you or a loved one is homebound & would like to receive the Eucharist, please sign up online or via paper form in Church, or call Fr Koys or rectory.



### Attention Young Married Couples

Follow this code & send a message to Kamile to learn more about a community for "recently" marrieds to help navigate marriage while making Christ the center of the home. They meet the **first** Monday of each month 7:00 pm in SSCM Parish Life Building.

### Wednesday, Dec 13

Adoration 5-7pm

Confessions 6-7pm Mass 7pm

Wine & Wisdom 8pm: Reactions to & implications of the recently completed Synod on Synodality

Dec 20 - A little Christmas cheer!

### 2024 FLOWER SIGNUP CHART:

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

St. James at Sag Bridge



Altar & Rosary  
Society

FOUNDED 1888

Today we will celebrate the holiday season together at our St. James Christmas Dinner. Raffle winners will be chosen, taking home a Samsung 65" TV or a collector's quality Beatles poster from 1964. There will be raffle baskets to be won, a delicious meal to enjoy and toe tapping music in the air. The Altar & Rosary Society would like to thank each of you who have supported St. James Mission by purchasing raffle tickets and attending the dinner. We thank the donors of our "Super Raffle" prizes, B & L Distributors and Mike & Ragen Gillam. Last but not least, I must mention the ladies who planned, decorated, cooked and made this festive event possible. The Altar & Rosary Society Ladies certainly know who to throw a party! Thank you Bernice! Your cooking talents remain unsurpassed.





**Congratulations to Erik and Linda Cozzi on the blessing of their marriage, Nov 26, 2023**

Don't miss the adventures at this year's  
**St Stephen's Day Hike ~ Tues, Dec 26 ~ 9:30am**



Looking for faith, service and fun for your daughter? AHG is looking for families with girls ages 5-12 to charter a troop in Spring 2024. Come to the info meeting on **Mon., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** in the St. Mary, Mokena Church Hall or contact [dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org](mailto:dkuboushek@stmarymokena.org)



Our weekly *Offertory* collection from December 3, 2023 was \$6,034. Online giving (Give Central) for regular and maintenance collections totalled \$893.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!**



## Mass Intentions

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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00AM ✠Walter M. Bonnet

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:00AM ✠Russell Wenzel, Sr.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00PM Birthday Blessings—Daniel Slowik

✠John Lyon

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00AM ✠Jeanne Christensen

Blessings for the Guzior Family

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00PM Birthday Blessings—Sophie Obrochta

Health & Healing—Jose Velasco

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00AM ✠Marianne Koys

## Third Sunday of Advent

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:15AM Birthday Blessings—Steve Donovan

✠John Lyon

10AM: ✠Joe Curry

✠Thomas Johns

**For Our Lady of Fatima Travelling Statue**

**Hosts—May Our Lady of Fatima & the Sacred Heart of Jesus grant them blessings and all graces**

12:00PM: ✠John Henze

## Upcoming Weddings:

*Francesca Daversa & Logan Baum*

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

**IN MEMORY OF RUSSEL WENZEL, SR.**

## VOTIVE OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/10/23

St. James Altar & Rosary Society

All the Poor Souls in Purgatory

United States of America

In Memory of Elvia Solis

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17	
8:15am	Christos Latsonas, Christian Cozzi, Matthew Sullivan, Alex Pawlikowski	
10am	Daniel Newsom, Marty, John, Tommy Comer	

**PLEASE READ IMPORTANT HOLIDAY  
MASS INFORMATION!**

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year which is also the 4th Sunday of Advent. Your obligation is to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas. If you choose to go to a Christmas Eve Mass you will need to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent on Saturday, December 23rd at 5:00 PM or Sunday at 7:00, 8:00, 9:30 or 11:00 AM. There will be no Mass at 12:30 or 2:00 PM that day so we can begin the Christmas Eve schedule at 1:00 PM and any Mass after 1:00 PM will only be for your Christmas obligation not your Sunday obligation. Please plan accordingly so you can fulfill both obligations.



**2nd Collection**  
December 10th & 11th  
The Retirement Fund  
for Religious

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



Please consider using GiveCentral for online parish donations. Sign up at [givecentral.org](http://givecentral.org)

**BAKE SALE!**

Altar & Rosary Society  
Holiday Napoleon  
Pastry Sale  
Saturday, December 16th  
& Sunday, December 17th  
After all Masses

*Christmas Season Schedule  
of Services 2023*

**SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish****Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses December 24th**

7:00 AM (English), 8:00 AM (Polish)

9:30 AM (English), 11:00 AM (Polish)

**\*NO 12:30 PM, 2:00 PM PM & 7:30 PM MASSES****Christmas Eve, Sunday, 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, Monday, 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, Tuesday, December 26th**

7:00 AM (English)

11:30 AM (Polish) &amp; 7:00 PM (Polish)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Sunday, December 31st

7:00 AM (English)

8:00 AM (Polish)

9:30 AM (English)

11:00 AM (Polish)

12:30 PM (English)

2:00 PM (Polish)

**\*NO 7:30 PM MASS****New Year's Day, Monday, January 1st, 2024**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**\*NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

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 18th:**

Individual Confessions

(English &amp; Polish)

5:00-8:00PM





### *The Disciple Maker Index Survey Results*

SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish participated in the DMI Survey during Lent of this year along with all the parishes in the Chicago Archdiocese. We had 126 members of our parish complete the survey. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey and share your thoughts. We appreciate your feedback. Although there were not many who completed the survey the ones who did were very positive when answering the questions about our parish. Below is just some of the results that we received.



#### Parish Strengths

- ⇒ 82% strongly agree that the Eucharist is the Body & Blood of Christ
- ⇒ 78% strongly agree that Scripture is the Word of God
- ⇒ 58% strongly agree that Church is critical in their relationship with God
- ⇒ 78% attend Mass weekly
- ⇒ 71% pray daily

#### Areas for Parish Growth

Answers to the following questions show an opportunity for parish growth:

- ⇒ My parish equips me to have conversations about my faith with family and friends / only 16% strongly agree
- ⇒ My parish helps me grow spiritually by preaching & homilies that connect my faith with everyday life / only 21% strongly agree
- ⇒ My parish helps me grow spiritually by forming me as a disciple of Jesus Christ / only 22% strongly agree

**We look forward to exploring ways to improve in the areas for parish growth that have been presented to us through the survey.**



### 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 Wednesday, December 20th 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>.

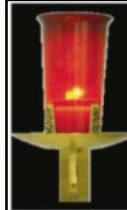
If you, or anyone you know are in need please contact the parish rectory.



### Oplatki

We have oplatki available on tables in the back of church.

\* The cost is \$5.00 for each package.



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.

## Summer Projects ~ Here are a few pictures of the many projects that were completed at SSCM this summer!

### Church:

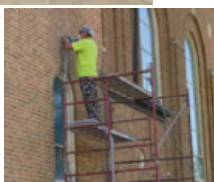
- Repair roof
- Seal coat all 4 parking lots
- Tuckpoint parish building
- Repair and rebuild the historic wall surrounding our church
- Repair water damage in church

### School:

- New roof
- New lighting in gym and vestibule
- New exit signs
- Chimney rebuild & building tuckpointing
- New fence around garbage area
- Repair wrought iron fence around lot 1



THANK YOU



A very special thank you to the Ptaszek Family for donating the stone for the historic wall!  
A very special thank you to the Staszel Family for all of the tuckpoint services and materials!





**Z biurka wikariusza pastora  
Drodzy Parafianie,**

*W dniu 12 grudnia obchodzimy Święto Matki Bożej z Guadalupe. Wielu bagatelizuje tę wspańską pobożność z powodu jej silnego związku z Meksykiem. Niemniej jednak nasza*

*Matka pod tym cudownym tytułem i wizerunkiem powinna zajmować wysokie miejsce na liście wszystkich ludzi kochających chrześcijaństwo. Pragnę podzielić się z kilkoma niesamowitymi faktami dotyczącymi tego wizerunku Guadalupe.*

*Hiszpańscy władcy panujący nad rdzennymi Indianami meksykańskimi byli okrutni, a wojna między nimi wydawała się nieunikniona. W 1531 roku arcybiskup miasta Meksyk, Juan de Zumárraga, modlił się do Matki Bożej o pokój. Jako znak, że jego prośba zostanie wysłuchana, poprosił o otrzymanie róż z jego rodzinnego regionu Kastylii w Hiszpanii. Wielu wie, że Biskup był pod wrażeniem róż, ale jego całkowite zdumienie wywołał fakt, że otrzymywał dokładnie to, o co prosił. Zaledwie w przeciągu kilku miesięcy Matka Boża zakończyła kult śmierci Azteków. Religia ta siała żniwo ofiar ludzkich na nieprawdopodobną skalę. W ciągu dziesięciolecia po jej objawieniu się, dziesięć milionów Indian nawróciło się na katolicyzm.*

*Jose Aste Tonsmann, peruwiański okulista, zbadał oczy Maryi przy powiększeniu 2500 razy. Był w stanie zidentyfikować trzysta osobników o różnych proporcjach w obu oczach, tak jak ludzkie oko odzwierciedlałoby obraz tego wydarzenia. Wydawało się, że przedstawiony jest dokładnie ten moment, kiedy Juan Diego rozwijał tilmę przed Biskupem Zumárraga. Dr. Jorge Escalante Padilla, chirurg okulista, uważał, że te odbicia należą do tego rodzaju wydarzeń, które opisano na tylnej powierzchni rogówki, na środku soczewki. Takie odbicia są bardzo trudne do wykrycia. Dr. Escalante doniósł także o odkryciu małych żyłek na obu powiekach wizerunku. W latach 70 japoński optyk, który badał oczy, zemdlął. Po odzyskaniu przytomności stwierdził: "Oczy były żywe i patrzyły na niego". Niewiarygodne jest to, że gdy oczy Matki Bożej są wystawione na światło, źrenice się zwężają. Gdy światło zostanie wycofane, wracają do rozszerzonego stanu.*

*I być może szczegół, nad którym my, współcześni Amerykanie, powinniśmy się najbardziej zastanowić, to fakt, że 24 kwietnia 2007 roku, tuż po legalizacji aborcji w tym mieście, na słynnym wizerunku pojawiła się*

*niezwykła jasność. Poniższe zdjęcie pochodzi od świadka zdarzenia: "Pod koniec Mszy, która była odprawiona za dzieci nienarodzone... Podczas gdy wielu z nas robiło zdjęcia tilmy, ten wizerunek Matki Bożej zaczynał się zacierać, ustępując miejsca intensywnemu światłu, które wydobywało się z Jej brzucha, tworząc błyszczącą otoczkę w kształcie zarodka. Wszystko, co możemy powiedzieć, to: 'Ameryko, obudź się, z Bożą pomocą obudź się.'"*

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



**Kilka spraw z życia parafii:**

- Podczas najbliższego weekendu, 9 i 10 grudnia, druga kolekta zbierana będzie na rzecz Fundusz Emerytalny Księży. Proszę wesprzyc tych, którzy poświęcili swoje życie w posłudze innym. Więcej informacji znajdziesz w biuletynie.
- Spiżarnia w naszej parafii, ŚŚ. Cyryla i Metodego po raz kolejny zbiera darowizny na świąteczne śniadania i kolacje, które będą dostarczone potrzebującym rodzinom w naszej wspólnotce. Więcej informacji można znaleźć w biuletynie, a na naszej stronie internetowej znajdują się linki umożliwiające rejestrację i przekazywanie darowizn.
- W dzisiejszym biuletynie dzielimy się Wami wynikami ankiety (DMI – Disciple Maker Index), w której wyraziliście opinie odnośnie naszej parafii. Zapraszamy do ich przejrzenia.
- 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, 18 grudnia, godz. 5:00PM - 8:00PM i w sobotę, 23 grudnia, godz. 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

## Mass Intentions

**Monday — December 11th**

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GUZIOR FAMILY  
11:30 AM MARIA I JÓZEF ŁOJEK  
by Córka

7:00 PM ✚ JADWIGA I LEOPOLD DOMAN  
by Rodzina Witkowski  
✚ JOANNA I STANISŁAW ZAGATA  
by Józefa Zagata  
✚ MARIA I ANTONI HIERONICZAK  
by Rodzina Witkowski  
✚ RICHARD WARPIŃSKI  
by Rodzina Witkowski

**Tuesday — December 12th**

7:00 AM GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR CHRIS ZAKHEM (birth)  
11:30 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA ZOSI I KAZIMIERZA  
by Maria

✚ ANNA MAKA  
by Rodzina Remiasz  
✚ STANISŁAW MAKA (Rocznica Śmierci)  
by Wiktoria Para  
7:00 PM ✚ EDWARD DZIEDZIC (1 Rocznica Śmierci)  
by Żona Helena Dziedzic  
✚ AŁOŻY WONTORCZYK I ZYGMUNT KIMEL  
by Rodzina Witkowski  
✚ FRANCISZEK STAFIRA  
by Rodzina Łukanus

**Wednesday — December 13th**

7:00 AM ✚ FRAN WOHEAD  
by Altar & Rosary Society  
11:30 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA MARII CUDZICH  
by Maria

✚ JÓZEF WARGOCKI  
by Rodzina Cisło  
7:00 PM O BOŻE BŁ. DLA LEKTORÓW I SZAFARZY  
EUCHARYSTII  
✚ HENRY I ELIZABETH HIERONIMCZAK  
by Rodzina Witkowski  
✚ WŁADYSŁAW I TERESA PAŁKA  
by Córka  
✚ FRANCISZKA DZIABA  
by Rodzina

**Thursday — December 14th**

7:00 AM ✚ MARIANNE KOYS  
by Trish Nickleski

**Friday — December 15th**

7:00 AM ✚ ANNA MAKA  
by Chet & Heather Tomala

**Saturday — December 16th**

7:00 AM PURGATORIAL SOCIETY  
GOD'S BLESSINGS & HEALTH FOR ZOSIA  
WALKOSZ (birth)

✚ BOB KALKOWSKI (4 Anniv.)  
by Family  
✚ ROBERT SMITH  
by Wife

5:00 PM ✚ ERIC SABANOV  
Fr. Noga by Dan & Suzette Sabanov  
✚ NORBERT MANKOWSKI (Anniv.)  
by Adeline  
✚ JULIA KOZIEL  
by Walter & Lottie Koziel  
✚ MARIAN CWIK (5 Anniv.)  
by Wife

**Sunday — December 17th (Third Sunday of Advent)**

7:00 AM ✚ MIECZYSLAW GERAT  
Fr. Koys by Family

✚ ANTHONY PONZIANO  
by Family

✚ CZESŁAW HANUSIAK  
by Family

✚ MICHAEL MARTIN  
by Friend

8:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. I OPIEKĘ M.B. DLA KAZIMIERZA  
Fr. ZAGRANICZNY (urodziny)

Stawiarski by Mama  
✚ ZA ZMARŁYCH CZŁONKÓW KLUBU POLSKIEGO  
W LEMONT

✚ MAX I STEPHANIE GOSTKIEWICZ  
by Rodzina Gostkiewicz

✚ HELENA KUD  
by Daniel & Rita Suchecki

9:30 AM ✚ JOSEPH KOWAL (30 Anniv.)  
Fr. Noga by Joan & Fred Dust

✚ LORETTA CIMINO  
by Mr. & Mrs. Otto Ortgies

✚ STANISŁAW NOWOBILSKI  
by Daughter & Family

✚ JAN RAFACZ  
by Rafacz Family

11:00 AM O BOŻE BŁ. DLA MATEUSZA (urodziny)  
Fr. ✚ ZUZANNA JASKULA

Stawiarski by Rodzina  
✚ ZMARLI CZŁONKOWIE KLUBU POLSKIEGO  
✚ ANDRZEJ GANCARCZYK  
by Rodzina Wieczorek

12:30 PM ✚ ANN & RUDY KURINEC  
Fr. Noga by Mike & Laura Kurinec

2:00 PM ZA WSZYSTKICH PARAFIAN, ŻYJĄCYCH I ZMARŁYCH  
Fr. ✚ ELZBIETA MAZUR (1 Rocznica Śmierci)

Stawiarski by Rodzina  
✚ ZMARLI Z RODZIN MAZUR, DZIK I WOŁEK  
by Rodzina

7:30 PM ✚ GARY SPEICHER  
Fr. Koys by Rick & Peggy Sniegowski



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

Leon Chmielewski Jr.

Emilia Pilecki

Terri Sowa

Lori Reagan Suski

Anita Anderson

Bob Wheeler

Ria Supan

Karen Singer

Leo Smietanski

Nadia Skrzecz

Elena (Helen) Prew

Dan McNichols

William Casica

Byron Thoren

Matt Przybocki

Don Alleuijka

John Kalata

Jenny Alfano

John Pavlovic

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  
December 2 & 3, 2023**

Envelopes	568	13,827.00
Children's Envelopes	10	31.00
GiveCentral (11/27-12/3)	128	<u>2,958.00</u>
Total		16,816.00

*Budgeted: \$14,200.00 / Actual: 16,816.00 / \$2,616*

568 envelopes plus 128 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.*



*Blessed Sacrament Candle Intention  
For Week of December 4th  
Through December 10th (Church)*

✠ ZA DUSZĘ Ś.P. MICHAŁ CYGAŁ  
W 1 WSZĄ ROCZNICĘ ŚMIERCI

by Rodzice i Brat

**Oplátek**  
**17 grudnia**  
**niedziela**  
**9:00 AM**  
**sala gimnastyczna SSCM**

- . Tradycyjne dzielenie się opłatkiem
- . Sztuka teatralna pt. **"GOŚĆ OCZEKIWANY"**  
(występują Fatimskie Dzieci czyli dzieci i młodzież z Małej Oazy)
- . Występ zespołu tanecznego **"POLANIE"**
- . Kolędowanie
- . Pyszny poczęstunek
- . Zdjęcia ze Św. Mikołajem
- . Prezent dla każdego dziecka

**Klub Polski w Lemont**

**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

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

*Congratulations and God's Blessings*

*Kaitlin Heenan and Matthew Sawickis  
Married December 1, 2023*

*Congratulations and God's Blessings*

*Cherissa Moffett and Matthew O'Donnell  
Married December 2, 2023*



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However, if the effects of the Liturgy stop at the doors of the church, we have not made our prayer and our faith part of our law of living. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that the Eucharist helps us to grow in union with Christ, avoid sin, increase in charity, strengthen communion with our brothers and sisters, and recognize Christ in the poorest and most vulnerable members of society (see CCC, nos. 1391-1397).



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