



# Jednota®

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA

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NUMBER 6045

*The officers and members of the Board of Directors extend their most sincere Thanksgiving Greetings*



## Update From The President

As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate this season of gratitude, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and to appreciate the community and connections we cherish.

I would like to take a moment to thank our veterans for their invaluable service to our country. Your unwavering dedication, courage, and commitment to safeguarding our freedoms do not go unnoticed. It is because of your sacrifices that we are able to enjoy the liberties we hold dear. To all our veterans' members, thank you for your extraordinary service and for embodying the spirit of resilience and duty.

Thank you to our members for playing a pivotal role in building our Society to be as financially sound as it is today. To keep our Society growing I also want to remind parents and grandparents of the importance of securing memberships for your dependents. It is an investment in their future that can provide significant returns. To help you get started, we are currently offering a Christmas Special of a \$100 minimum annuity, which is a fantastic way to begin their savings journey. By doing so, you ensure that they will be eligible to apply for scholarship funds along with the many other benefits our fraternal offers.

Out with Toys. In with Savings. This is our tagline of the new special. We all get to the point that our children or grandchildren don't need any more toys or gadgets. Therefore, we offer you a great opportunity to give them a gift they will be thankful for in the future.

The Coverdell Education Savings Account can be started for anyone under the age of 18. Additional funds may be added up to \$2,000 per year. Money from a Coverdell account can be used in many ways towards educational expenses. Tuition, books, housing, even cars and computers can be purchased using tax-free funds from this account. Remember, it is never too early to start saving for school expenses.

Six and eight year flexible annuities are also available during this special qualifying window. This product is a long term investment to subsidize retirement plans. While you can open the account for \$100 now, we encourage you to continue investing in this policy throughout the years. There is no cap to the amount that can be deposited and no age restrictions. These are both great options for opening and adding to loved ones accounts for birthdays, Christmas and other special milestone occasions.

We encourage you to open one of these accounts before the offer ends on December 31, 2024. This initiative is designed to instill the values of financial planning and foresight from a young age, setting the foundation for a secure and prosperous future.

I am proud of the incredible efforts displayed by our branches through the Fraternalism in Action program. Your dedication to serving your communities exemplifies the true spirit of our organization. Through your efforts, you have donated food, clothing, and services to those in need, making a tangible difference in the lives of many.

When following the Fraternalism in Action guidelines, branches and districts are able to secure an additional \$250 donation from the home office for their charity. This gesture is a testament to our desire of fostering a spirit of giving and support within our communities. It is through these acts of kindness and generosity that we strengthen the bonds that hold us together and extend our reach to those who need it most. I look forward to seeing how the branches and districts expand this program in 2025.

As part of the Giving Back program, we are encouraging branch members to collect brand new socks to help stomp out cold, wet feet this winter. That is a top requested item at homeless shelters. Please contact your local homeless centers and join us in the Sole Mates Across the Americas Program. Please see page 20 for more information.

In this issue, we have the return of our popular coloring contest. There are seven categories so everyone who is young, or young at heart, has an opportunity to participate. All of the coloring sheets will be available on-line. They will be easy to print, color and submit. We are looking forward to seeing how creative you are!

Thank you for your continued support and for embodying the spirit of our fraternal organization. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am deeply grateful for everything you do to support our shared values and mission. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and memorable Thanksgiving celebration! May this season bring you peace, joy, and an abundance of blessings.



**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
President, CEO

**Out with Toys  
In with Savings**



*See our  
Christmas Special  
on the last page!*

**FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD**



Father Stephen Furdek and twelve other men formed the First Catholic Slovak Union in 1890. The Jednota branches were instrumental in the founding of hundreds of Catholic parishes in the United States and Canada. The first edition of its renowned bilingual newspaper was published

in 1891. Today, *Jednota* is still read by members and people interested in Catholic and Slovak life all over the world.



**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada**  
 FCSU Corporate Center  
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
 Independence, OH 44131-2398  
**800-533-6682**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Since 1890 the FCSU mission has been to provide financial security for our members through competitive investment products, while offering fraternal and cultural benefits through community-based member events.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:  
**Shannon Trivise • editor@fcsu.com**

First Catholic Slovak Union, Attn: "JEDNOTA"  
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**Message from the National Chaplain**

Many of us will be spending part of our Thanksgiving Day expressing gratitude to God for the favors, blessings, and good things we have received throughout the course of our lives. We not only thank the Lord in that day for our lives and our families, but also for the graces of mercy, love, and freedom.

Two verses from the Scriptures invite us to look at Thanksgiving Day from another perspective. From Job 2:10, we read: "We accept good things from God, and should we not accept evil?" Later on in Luke 9:23, Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps."

We know well that life is not just filled with joys; sorrows are part of life, too. The consent a man and woman give to each other on their wedding day from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony expresses this so well: I take you to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Jesus tells us bearing hardships for the sake of the Gospel is essential if we are to be his disciple.

Although we are apt to view hardships, sorrows, pains and difficulties as negatives and to be avoided at all costs, they can be means for us to call upon God for his help to endure them, for the increase of the virtues of patience and perseverance. Enduring difficulties in the name of Christ can enable us to grow in holiness and unite ourselves closer with the Lord.

After all, is that not to what we aspire in our spiritual lives? So, let us praise the Lord and give him thanks.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta  
 Chaplain**

**SS. Cyril and Methodius November Appeal**

Thank you to all Branches, Districts, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who donated to the 46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The final totals will not be known for a few weeks, but as of **November 1, 2024, this year's appeal has raised \$27,288 from 189 donors.** Money raised goes to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations.

A solicitation for the 47th Annual Appeal is being prepared and will be mailed sometime in January to members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, Branches and Districts of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, and previous donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2024 will be credited toward the 2025 Appeal.** Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

*The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.*

**46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:  
 Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President  
 Slovak Catholic Federation  
 Our Lady of Grace Church • 225 Bellevue Avenue • Penndel, PA 19047-4052

**NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES**

All copy is due by 4:30pm, THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated because of special holiday scheduling. All articles are reviewed for possible publication. FCSU reserves the right to edit and format submitted articles and pictures. Remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY. Submit your articles in ample time for them to be received at the home office.

**ISSUE DEADLINES**

**DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE**  
**COPY DATE - Monday, December 2**  
**ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, December 11**

**JANUARY 2025 ISSUE**  
**COPY DATE - Monday, January 6**  
**ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, January 15**

## Executive Secretary's Message

Thanksgiving means so much to everyone, and in so many different ways.

For me, it is a time to reflect on the past year. A time to think about all our friends and family we have been able to meet and break bread with. It also allows me time to reflect on the members or my friends who might BE LONELY this upcoming holiday season. Thanksgiving is more than watching a football game. It is about focusing on "How can I help someone who is alone or lonely during the upcoming Holiday Season"?



**Kevin J. Collins**  
Executive  
Secretary, COO

I am also proud to announce that we are in the process of launching our NEW ONLINE GIFT SHOP. All PROFITS will go directly to the FCSU Scholarship Fund. This will be a great place to purchase gifts for your families and friends. Watch your email for the link to the Gift Shop once the site is available. We will be adding more items in the future. Remember each purchase will help someone further their education.

We have also kicked off a new Holiday Christmas Special on 6- and 8-year Flexible Annuities. Look for more details about our "Out with Toys, In with Savings" offer on the back page of this newspaper. This special is a great way to encourage new members to join FCSU. Our financial stability, our dedication to fraternalism and pride in our history are just a few reasons to join. Do you know anybody who would benefit from our organization? Sign them up and let's become bigger and stronger together.

Happy Thanksgiving to all! I wish all our members, Board of Directors, staff and families a happy and blessed holiday.

**COMING  
SOON**  
STAY TUNED!

**FCSU GIFT SHOP!**  
Hats • Apparel • Backpacks • Water Bottles • More  
All Profits Will Benefit Our **SCHOLARSHIP FUND!**

*The Home Office Will be Closed to  
Celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas!*

<p><i>Closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th</i></p>	<p><i>Closed for Christmas Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th</i></p>
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### JEDNOTA MAILING LIST UPDATES

We are updating our Jednota newspaper mailing list. Please let us know if you would like to update your mailing status:

- You want to receive a newspaper but don't
- You prefer not to receive a newspaper but do
- You receive multiple newspapers at your household
- Address label has an incorrect name

Email any changes to [editor@fcsu.com](mailto:editor@fcsu.com) or call 800-533-6682 ext. 123.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## DECEMBER 2024

- 12/1 Branch 45 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY
- 12/1 Branch 89 - Christmas Party, Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP by 11/25)
- 12/1 Branch 162 - Meeting (Election), Uniontown, PA
- 12/1 Branch 372 - Meeting (Election), Beaverdale, PA
- 12/1 Branch 484 - Meeting (Election), Indiana, PA
- 12/1 Branch 581 - Meeting (Election), Hobart, IN
- 12/1 Branch 587 - Meeting and Christmas Party (Election) Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP by 11/23)
- 12/1 Branch 721 - Meeting (Election), Bannister, MI
- 12/1 Branch 743 - Meeting (Election), Sterling Heights, MI
- 12/1 District 3 - Vilija, Greensburg, PA
- 12/4 Branch 259 - Meeting (Election), Coitsville, OH
- 12/4 Branch 290 - Meeting (Election), Middlesex, NJ (RSVP by 11/27)
- 12/5 Branch 200 - Meeting (Election), Ford City, PA
- 12/5 Branch 260 - Meeting (Election), Struthers, OH
- 12/6 Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 12/7 Branch 6 - Meeting (Election), Streator, IL
- 12/7 Branch 173 - Meeting, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- 12/8 Branch 213 - Meeting (Election), Pittsburgh, PA
- 12/8 Branch 320 - Meeting (Election), Monessen, PA (RSVP)
- 12/8 Branch 756 - Meeting, Owosso, MI
- 12/8 St. Andrew Abbey - Vilija - Cleveland, OH
- 12/8 St. Paul Cathedral Parish - Vilija - Pittsburgh, PA
- 12/9 Branch 228 - Meeting (Election), Lorain, OH
- 12/10 Branch 682 - Meeting and Christmas Party (Election), Austintown, OH (RSVP)
- 12/10 District 14 - Meeting and Christmas Party, Austintown, OH (RSVP by 12/1)
- 12/12 Branch 410 - Meeting (Election), Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 12/9)
- 12/14 Branch 2 - Christmas Party, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 12/15 Branch 35 - Zoom Meeting (Election)
- 12/15 Branch 112 - Meeting (Election), Mahanoy City, PA (RSVP by 12/7)
- 12/15 Branch 157 - Meeting, Catasauqua, PA
- 12/15 Branch 173 - Meeting (Election), Mountain Top, PA
- 12/15 Branch 199 - Meeting (Election), Latrobe, PA
- 12/15 Branch 393 - Meeting, Greensburg, PA
- 12/15 Branch 857 - Meeting (Election), Penndale, PA
- 12/15 Slovak J Club - Vilija, Akron, OH
- 12/21 Branch 628 - Meeting (Election), Penn Hills, PA
- 12/22 Branch 157 - Meeting (Election), Catasauqua, PA
- 12/22 Branch 746 - Meeting (Election), Clark, NJ
- 12/22 Branch 756 - Meeting (Election), Owosso, MI
- 12/24 Home Office Closed for Christmas
- 12/25 Home Office Closed for Christmas

For more information, go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

## November Reflection

During November the Souls in Purgatory become our prayer focus. Our beloved Slovak Prayer is, “Odpočinutie večné daj im Pane, a svetlo večné nech im svieti.” –Grant eternal rest to them, Jesus Lord, we pray, and let perpetual light shine upon them. This is now our prayer for our dearly departed — as reflected in this month’s chosen hymn.

November also concludes with a gratitude celebration on its fourth Thursday. This act of giving thanks is in reality a gift to both its giver and the receiver.

In reading St. Luke’s Gospel we learn how Jesus appreciated thankfulness. As He entered a village, ten lepers met Him. They called out, “Master, have pity on us.” Jesus said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” As they were going they were cleansed. One of them, realizing he had been healed, returned glorifying God. He fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said, “Ten were cleansed were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” (cf. Luke 17: 12-18).

This month’s hymn is a great favorite for Slovak Masses. It opens resounding with thanks to our Lord for being our Savior, blessing us with faith and so many of its gifts. How precious for us to realize and appreciate the gifts with which we are blessed by God. In great or small ways His love overflows daily into our lives. How do we return to thank and praise Him for such generous blessings?

*Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.*

### LET US THANK

(English poetic translation to match Slovak melody)

1. Let us thank our Lord and Savior.  
Praise Him with resounding song  
and honor.  
For with torture, nailed and dying,  
He obtained the ransom for our sinning.
2. Heaven’s Lord came down from glory,  
Born and raised by humble Virgin Mary,  
Deigned to labor thirty-three years,  
After these a cross His life completes.
3. Heartfelt wrenching, Mother reaching,  
Sees her Son’s great pain and agonizing.  
Her dear Child, her one beloved Son,  
Nailed to wood—the cross where  
He is hung.
6. Christ because by Your great suff’ring  
Grant forgiveness for our faults  
and sinning.  
Help us gain eternal peace and joy,  
Grateful for the mercy you will bestow.

### POĎAKUJME

1. Poďakujme Kristu Pánu  
a vzdajme Mu slušnú česť  
i chválu.  
On skrz Svoje umučenie  
račil nám dať hriechov odpustenie.
2. Nebeský Pán ponižil sa  
a z Márie Panny narodil sa.  
Triatridsať liet pracoval,  
pokým sa na kríži obetoval.
3. Spínala hor’ Matka ruky,  
vidiac Syna, vidiac Jeho muky.  
Syna svojho jediného  
a na drevo kríža  
pribitého.
6. Kriste, pre Tvoje mučenie  
daj nám všetkým hriechov  
odpustenie.  
Nech nás minie večný plameň,  
uchovaj nás, ó Ježišu. Amen.

Please enjoy the YouTube version from Slovakia: violin, organ, and young adult male and female soloists - <https://tinyurl.com/Violin24>

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

### On the Feast of Christ the King

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers’ Board of Directors

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. In his 1925 encyclical *Quas Primas*, which established this feast as a response to growing secularism among nations around the world, Pope Pius XI declared Jesus Christ “is very truth, and it is from Him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind.”

When the Church invokes the image of Christ the King, we must realize that Jesus defies the earthly notions of a king. Rather than a ruler who is full of ego, Jesus comes as a humble servant who models love and mercy, especially towards the poor, the outcasts, and the forgotten. And Jesus expects us to model these behaviors as well. Encouraging the faithful to remain steadfast in their orientation towards Christ in all aspects of life, Pius XI wrote, “He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to Him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls.”

In modern times, one of the ways that efforts to put Christ first manifests itself is in the area of religious freedom. Identifying this struggle in our own nation, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the American bishops in 2012, noting, “Many of you have pointed out that concerted efforts have been made to deny the right of conscientious objection on the part of Catholic individuals and institutions with regard to cooperation in intrinsically evil practices. Others have spoken to me of a worrying tendency to reduce religious freedom to mere freedom of worship without guarantees of respect for freedom of conscience. Here once more we see the need for an engaged, articulate and well-formed Catholic laity endowed with a strong critical sense vis-à-vis the dominant culture and with the courage to counter a reductive secularism which would delegitimize the Church’s participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society.”

That same year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the statement *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty*, which opens with these words: “We are Catholics. We are Americans. We are proud to be both, grateful for the gift of faith which is ours as Christian disciples, and grateful for the gift of liberty which is ours as American citizens. To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other. Our allegiances are distinct, but they need not be contradictory, and should instead be complementary.”

This statement highlights the opportunity we have to show how a free people can hold Christ up as the center of our lives while remaining fully engaged in a pluralistic society. We can respect the rights and faiths of others while still modeling Christ for them and potentially allowing them to be drawn to His light that they see within us. We must never be complacent. We must move forward in love and peace, with a commitment to rational discourse, because it is only in this way that conversion can take place in each human soul, where the true kingdom that Christ wishes to reign over exists within us all.

## Advent Begins December 1st

This year, Advent will begin on Sunday, December 1st, and end on Tuesday, December 24th. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. It can start as early as November 27th or as late as December 3rd. Beginning the Church’s liturgical year, Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation that directs hearts and minds to Christ’s second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord’s birth on Christmas.

The Catholic Church has been using Advent wreaths since the Middle Ages. Lighting candles to prepare for Christmas reminds us that Christ is the light of the world. And the evergreen boughs remind us of new and eternal life in Christ, the eternal son of the Father. As his Advent, or “coming,” draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more.

**SHAPE:** The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

**NUMBER:** The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior — from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament.

**COLOR:** While green and red are typically associated with Christmas, the period

leading up to December 25 is all about purples or violets. Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent. Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.



- The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes **HOPE** with the purple “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes **FAITH** with the purple “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes **JOY** with the pink “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes **PEACE** with the purple “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

# VETERANS DAY ≡ Honoring All Who Served ≡

## Ohio Veteran's Plaza – Freedom Is Not Free

Submitted by Shannon Travise, Editor

Several years ago, while visiting Columbus, OH, I wandered around the state capitol building. I discovered an area I later learned was the Ohio Veteran's Plaza. I wasn't planning to stop, but something caught my eye and I was compelled to stay. On the wall beside me was a letter from a veteran to a loved one. Then another letter. And another. The memorial pulled me in and made me want to read on. As I looked around, I noticed another wall, full of more letters.

As we honor Veteran's Day, I thought back to that day and wanted to learn more about the memorial's history. The Ohio Veteran's Plaza was dedicated on August 22, 1998 by then-governor George Voinovich. The highlight of the plaza is the two curved 10 foot tall by 40 foot wide walls that are inscribed with actual correspondence sent home to families, friends and loved ones by members of the armed forces involved in conflicts. Over 1500 letters were submitted for consideration, with 70 being chosen to be featured on the wall. Many who wrote the letters did not make it home from war.

Other design components of the plaza include two fountains surrounded by benches and annual flowers, plaque designations of the five branches of the armed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard), flagpoles displaying American, Ohio and POW/MIA flags and a large grassy lawn to commemorate the traditional parade ground atmosphere of a military post.



“The Ohio Veterans Plaza stands as a lasting tribute to the veterans of this state and to this country. It's a monument of historic proportion. It's meaning transcends any one war, combines all branches of armed forces and is the first memorial to tell the story of military service in soldier's own words. It's a plaza for remembrance, reflection and hope. It's a lasting tribute for those who made and continue to make tremendous sacrifices to protect our way of life.”

OhioStateHouse.org website

All 70 letters and a video about the history of the plaza can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/OHVetPlaza>.

*Dear Dad,  
I thought I'd write you because I want to tell you some things I don't want Mom to hear. We can hear the bombs and artillery. I get worried at times but then I stop and think of everything you and the Corps taught me. You surprise yourself how far back you can go and remember things you have been taught. And I had one hell of a teacher (you).*

*I love ya, Dad  
Ponch*

*Dear Eileen,  
I was appointed squad leader position today, which means my hard work is being noticed. Everything I learn here will help me later in life. 1. Never assume anything. 2. No matter how bad you don't want to do something, see it through and make the best of it. 3. Home is where you make it. 4. Make things happen for yourself. Take charge of your life. 5. Don't take little things in life for granted. 6. If you really love someone, they're always with you no matter where you are. 7. Teamwork. 8. Friends are invaluable. 9 Trust in yourself and your first instinct. 10. Don't lose touch with your Creator.*

*Love, Dave (Killed in Action)*

*Dear Ernestine,  
Many of us gathered around the radio at the Service Club to hear the President's prayer for the invasion. Darling, this date the whole world has been waiting for; and we know it brought sorrow to many a person – sister, brother, mother and father, friends, relatives. There are men shedding blood for our freedom. How fortunate we are here in the States. Let us not be unmindful that over there men are giving their lives in order that we may have freedom of religious, speech, fear, and want.*

*Love, Wayne*

*Dear Mom and Dad,  
Well, I know why I'm fighting. It's the same thing Dad did in 1917 and 1918, so we wouldn't have to fight, but we are. I'm fighting so my kids, or the rest of the fellows like me's kids won't have to do it. I want to have a family. I want Louise as my wife. She's the one I love, Mom, and always will. You knew that a long time ago. In case I never see her again, please tell her that I really have loved her and we would have been happy together, that I'll be waiting for her always. Also tell her to find a swell fellow who can love her 1/2 as much as I did and live happy with him.*

*I remain loving you always and forever,  
Jack (Killed in Action)*

## Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu

On November 17, 1939, Nazi forces brutally suppressed a peaceful demonstration organized by Czech students in Prague. The protest was a manifestation of the students' opposition to the occupation of their country. Nazi repression resulted in the executions of student leaders, the arrests of hundreds of other students, internment in the concentration camps, and the closing of Czech universities.



The historical importance of November 17th gained renewed significance and led to the Velvet Revolution of 1989. On that day, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of International Students Day, students once again took to the streets of Czechoslovakia. Non-violent protests continued for several days. As the media was controlled by the Communist government, protestors spread the word by posting homemade signs in public places. On November 24, 1989, all of the top leaders of the Communist Party resigned. The revolution ended on December 29, 1989, and Czechoslovakia became a parliamentary republic, ending forty-one years of Communist rule.

The atmosphere of the holiday matches the gravity of the historical events being commemorated. People also light candles and lay wreaths at locations associated with the tragic events of 1939.

The day also serves as an opportunity to reflect on the importance of academic freedom, the role of students in shaping societal change, and the value of education as a tool for empowerment.



**Veterans Day honors all who have served in the military and recognizes their contributions to the country.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL FCSU MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED HERE AND ABROAD.**

# An Abundance of Frolicking, Food & Fun at the Family Fall Outing

Our first Fall Family Festival was held on Saturday, October 5th at Simmons Farm in McMurray, PA, just 40 minutes south of Pittsburgh. The farm was huge with a lot of activities to offer. The market featured fresh produce, jellies, a bakery and seasonal goodies for purchase. Our group took up 2 areas of private space in the attached greenhouse. There were photo backdrops on every corner inside and outside of the building. You could hear a chorus of, "Say Cheese" as cameras snapped to the chagrin of kids and the delight of parents. Inside was great conversation, delicious food and competitive rounds of bingo. There was a "guess the number of candy corns in the vase" game. Our winner, Dolly Andersen (Branch 38), guessed 715...so close to the 727 pieces in the candy jar! Outside, a hayride took guests down to the field where pumpkins and more fun awaited. There were slides, hamster wheels, a pig race, climbing on tires, roping a calf, duck races, cornhole and more to keep the kids (and adults) entertained. There were beautiful dahlia and sunflower fields, along with wooden face cutouts for more photo opportunities. Finally, each person in the field got to pick their own pumpkin. It was wonderful to see so many members with their families. We got to meet a new member, Silas John Shope, the grandson of Gary Matta, FCSU General Counsel. His mother, Langley Matta Shope, brought her son who was only three weeks old at the time! To see more photos of this event, go to [www.fcsu.com/events](http://www.fcsu.com/events).



# Slovak Professionals Share Success Stories in New York City

Submitted by Lucia Kapogiannopoulos

On September 24, 2024, Slovak PRO, a community-based non-profit organization that offers professional, business and educational opportunities for Slovaks in North America, hosted the Slovak PRO Summit 2024 in New York, NY.

Over 100 accomplished Slovak professionals came to New York for two days of learning, inspiration, and building relationships. The theme of the summit was "From Goals to Greatness: Celebrating Slovak Success and Giving Back." The goal was to create a space where leaders could connect, exchange ideas, and collaborate. These interactions will lead to new partnerships, businesses, and initiatives that strengthen ties between the U.S. and Slovakia. The Summit kicked off with a keynote from Marian Gaborik, the Slovak hockey legend and former New York Ranger, who shared how hard work propelled him to NHL success. TedX-style talks provided our guests with inspiration about space research, AI, and Slovak civic society. Dominika Durovcikova, an astronomer at MIT, delved into the mysteries of the universe. Maria Bielikova, CEO of the KlnIT, discussed how AI can transform Slovakia. Martina Kolesarova from Pontis Foundation focused on the critical role of civic engagement in shaping the country's future. Dado Slezak and Jakub Jurovych discussed how to succeed in U.S. business during our first panel. In the second panel, moderated by Lucia Kapogiannopoulos (Branch 746), Barbara Pivnicka (Slovak Honorary Consul), Sabina Sabados (FCSU Region 1 Director, Branch 746), Joseph Seliga (Branch 153) and Michal Simkovic talked about the importance of giving back to both local communities and Slovakia. Lubos Pastor, Professor at the University of Chicago and Board Member at Vanguard, engaged in a fireside chat about how Slovak professionals and experts abroad can make a meaningful impact on Slovakia's future.

For a second year, the Slovak PRO Summit was attended by the President of Slovakia. Peter Pellegrini joined us for a discussion about the engagement of our community to help Slovakia. We talked about brain drain, including Slovak professionals abroad in the creation of a long-term vision of Slovakia, and how to increase participation of Slovaks abroad in Slovakia's democracy.

The true strength of the Slovak PRO Summit was in the relationship building that took place. The connections that were built will lead to deeper relationships and collaborations benefiting our communities and Slovakia. Looking ahead, Slovak PRO will keep growing our network in the U.S. and expand to more cities in 2025. They are committed to providing opportunities for Slovak professionals to connect, collaborate, and contribute to Slovakia's progress.

Slovak PRO Summit was attended by the following FCSU members: Kevin J. Collins (FCSU Executive Secretary, Branch 112); Sabina Sabados (FCSU Region 1 Director, Branch 746); Lucia Kapogiannopoulos (Slovak PRO Board Secretary, Branch 746); Joseph Seliga (Branch 153); Marcus Gurega (Branch 45); Julie Ann Gurega-Koval (Branch 45), and Federik Koval (Branch 45).

Thank you to the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York for co-organizing the event. Additional thanks to FCSU Financial®, Slovak-American Cultural Center and Friends of Slovakia for their sponsorship of the event along with several corporate sponsors. Finally, a huge thank you to the dedicated Slovak PRO leaders for their hard work in making this Summit a success. Slovak PRO has chapters in seven cities in the United States and if you would like to get updates about their events, please sign up at [www.slovakpro.org](http://www.slovakpro.org).



Evening Slovak PRO Social Event - Sabina Sabados with the President of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini.



Evening Slovak PRO Social Event - Lucia Kapogiannopoulos and Sabina Sabados.



From left Lucia Kapogiannopoulos, Marian Gaborik - former NHL Player; Sabina Sabados and Jana Trnovcova Ragucci (former Slovak Consul General in New York).



Jednota members at the Slovak PRO Summit - from left Federik Koval, Sabina Sabados, Julie Ann Gurega-Koval and Marcus Gurega pictured with Ivica Labuda (second left) - Professor and Program Director at Georgetown University



Jednota members - Kevin Collins, Sabina Sabados, Joseph Seliga, Julie Ann Gurega-Koval and Federik Koval



## Annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day

Submitted by John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director of the Toronto Area District and Branch Jednota

Jednota members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day at Centennial Park Golf Course in Toronto on Sunday, September 22, 2024. 24 people participated with prizes to Frank Bokor and Bill Goodyear in the men's member division, Christine Goodyear and Jennifer Lindsay in the lady's member division and Drew Lindsay in the guest division. Closest To The Hole was won by Dusan Dorich. Afterwards members and guests enjoyed a BBQ meal, beverages and camaraderie. Special thanks to Edward Bajus Jr. for prize donations. Stay tuned for details about next year's Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day!



# Christmas Coloring Contest 2024

FCSU members, it's time to break out your crayons and sharpen your colored pencils to enter the 2024 Christmas Coloring Contest. This year's competition will be fun for all ages, as members can now participate in one of seven age categories. Best of luck to all.

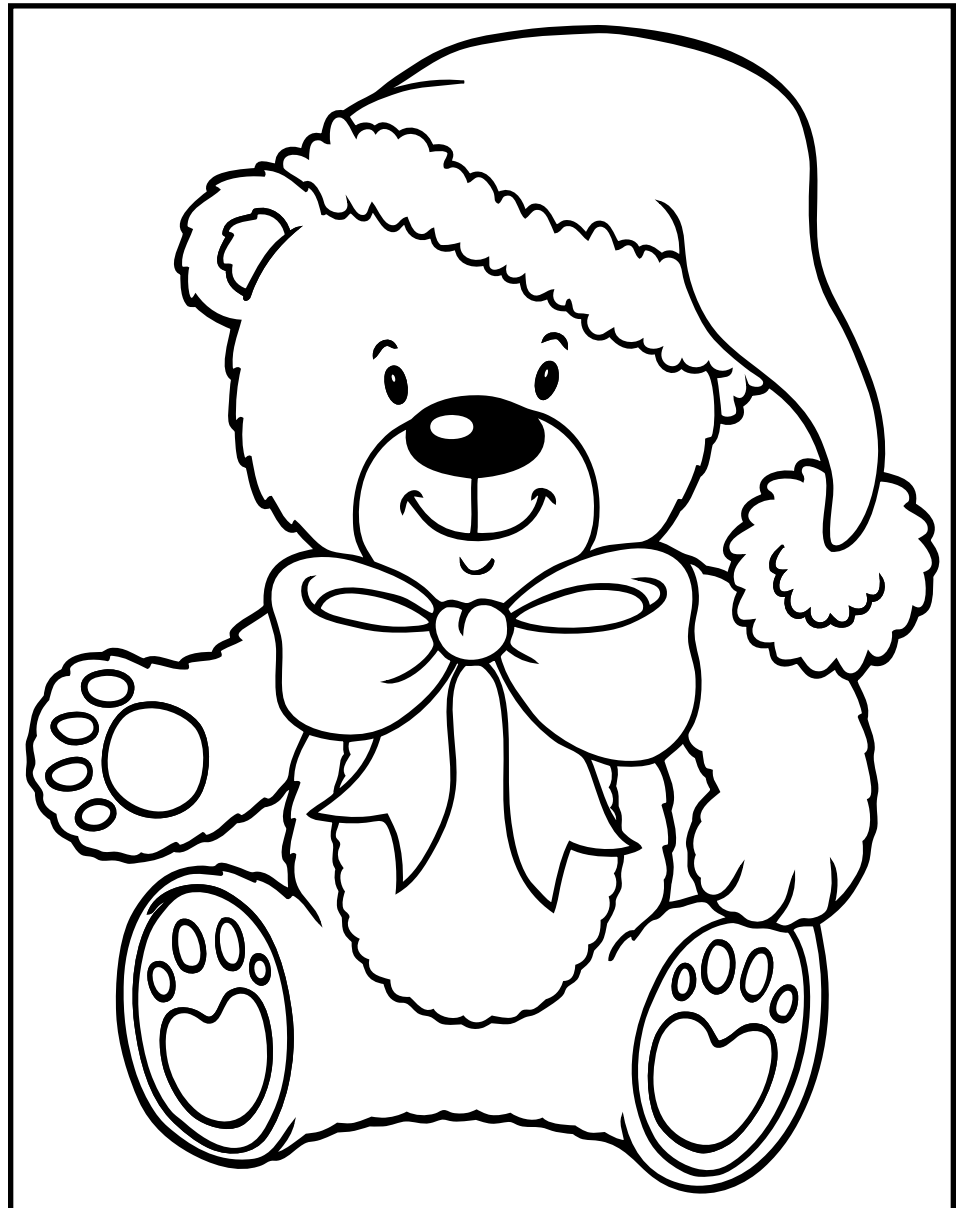
## CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

- Children and youth categories are based on age groups 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, and 13-17. Three winners will be chosen per age group within each region. Prizes for first, second, and third place are \$50, \$35, and \$25 respectively.
- Adult categories are based on age groups 18-39, 40-64, and 65+ Three winners will be chosen from each adult age group. Prizes for first, second, and third place are \$100, \$75, and \$50 respectively.

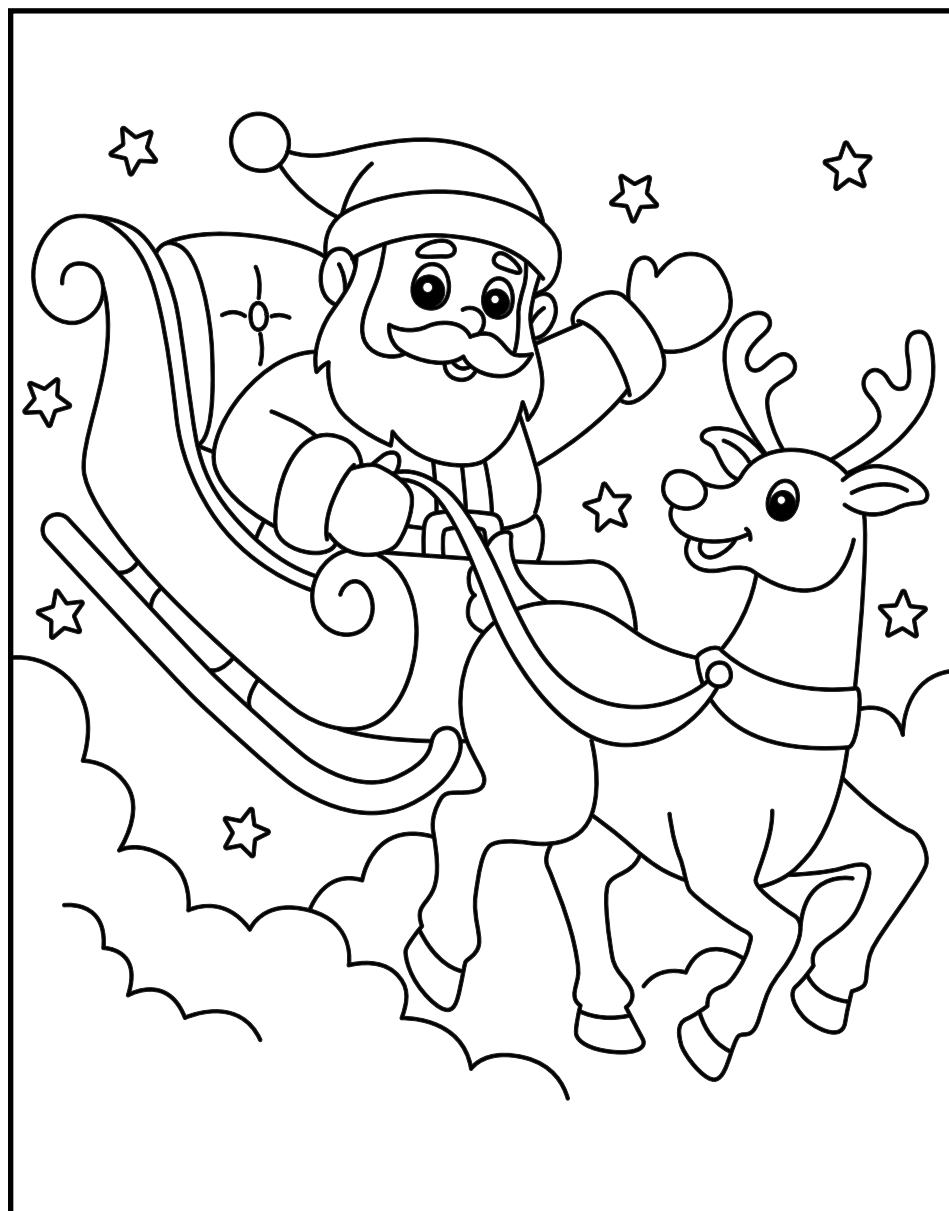
## OFFICIAL RULES

1. Contest entry is limited to current FCSU members, with one entry per member.
2. Complete all information on the entry form. Entries without age and branch number will be disqualified.
3. Cut out and color the Christmas picture for your age. Pictures are printed in the November and December issues of the Jednota.
4. Copies may be made for additional entries for your family. Pictures may also be printed from the FCSU website -- [fcsu.com/events](http://fcsu.com/events). Please print/copy at the original picture size, as enlarging or reducing the image is not allowed.
5. Color your entry using crayons or colored pencils only. The use of markers or glitter is not allowed. Do not add any type of embellishments to the pictures such as borders, stickers or craft items.
6. Mail your colored picture with the entry form taped to the back of the picture to:  
Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director  
1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
7. Deadline: Entries must be received **before January 10, 2025**. Please mail early to ensure timely delivery.
8. Decisions from the independent judges will be final. Winners will be announced in the March 2025 issue of the Jednota.

See page 10 for the 65+ coloring image.



**SANTA BEAR - AGES 4-6**



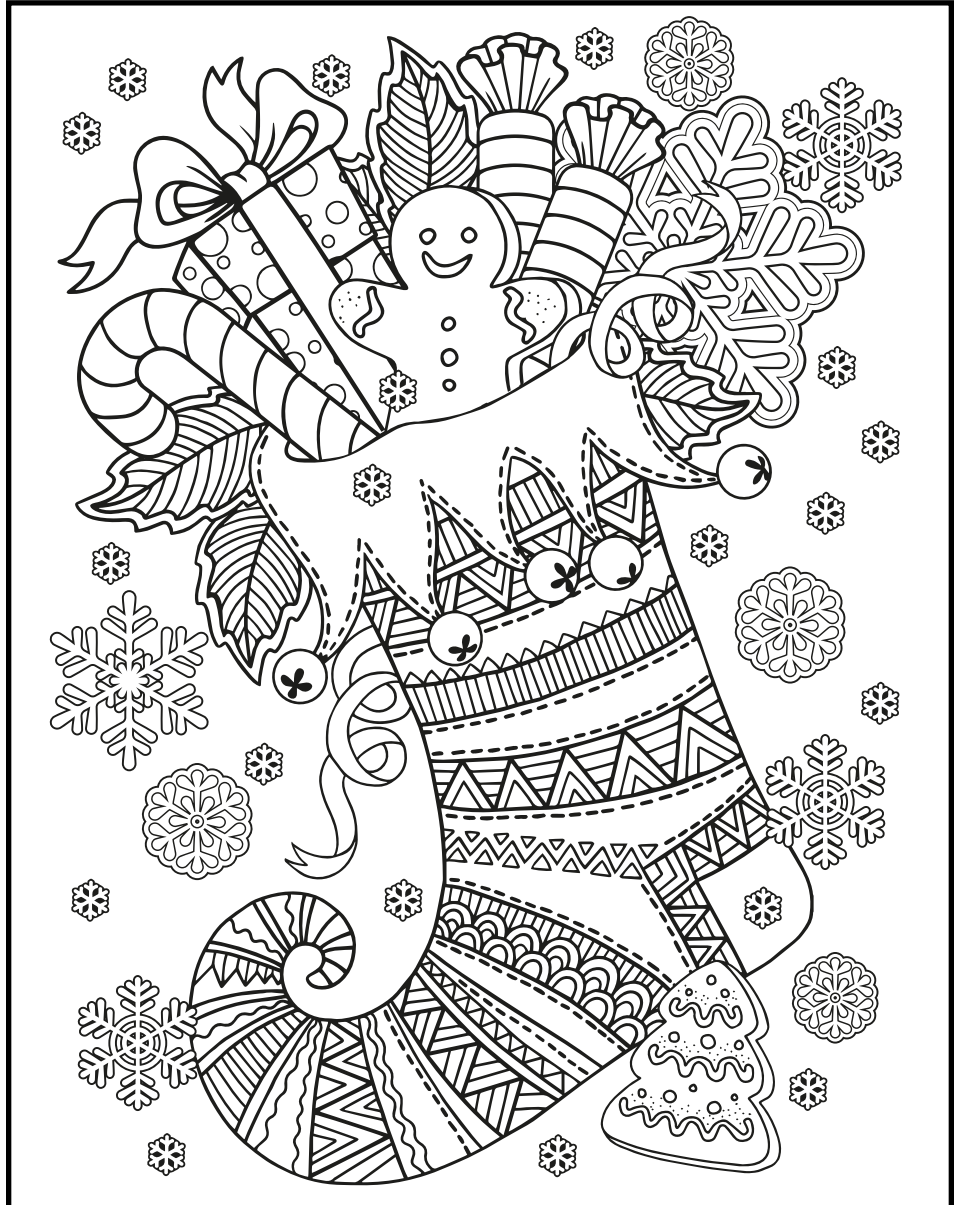
**SANTA AND RUDOLPH - AGES 7-9**



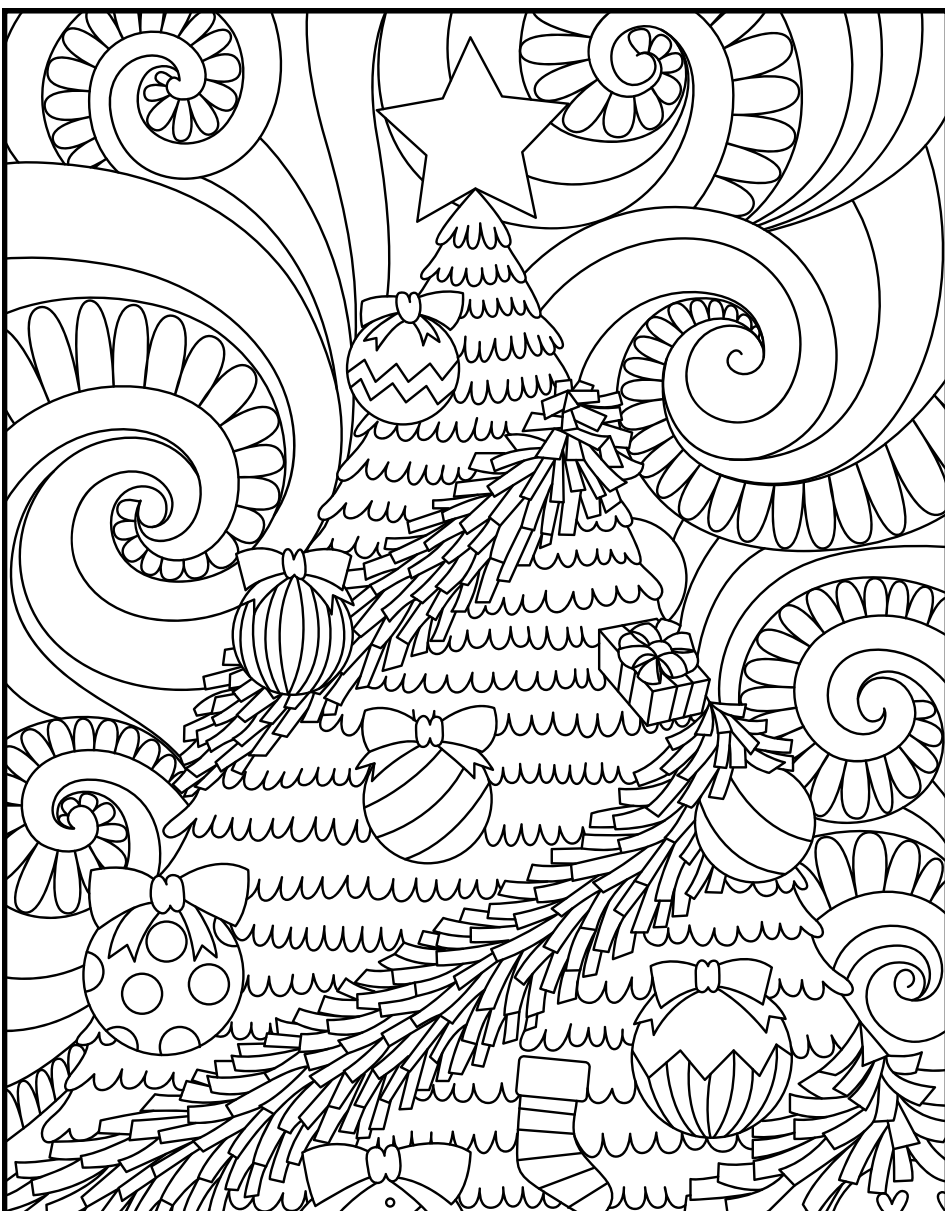
**GNOME WITH GIFTS - AGES 10-12**



**SANTA AT WINDOW - AGES 13-17**



**CHRISTMAS STOCKING - AGES 18-39**



**CHRISTMAS TREE - AGES 40-64**

## 2024 Coloring Contest Entry Form

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

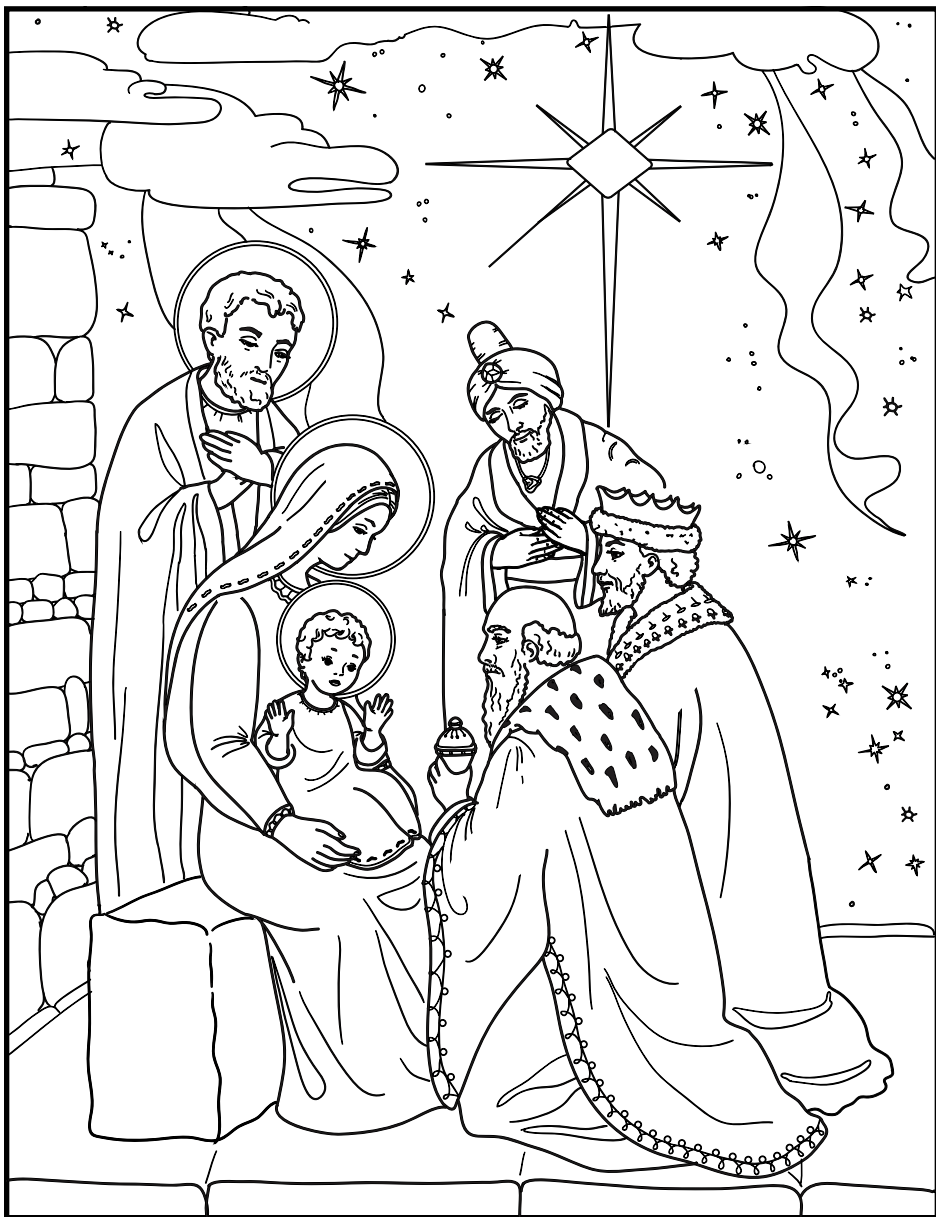
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly using ink. Thank you!

### How to Print Extra Copies from the Website

- Go to [fcsu.com/events](http://fcsu.com/events).
- Click on the 2024 Coloring Contest.
- Choose your age group.
- When you print the .pdf, scroll down to "Page Size and Handling".
- Choose "Actual Size" or "Custom - 100%" to ensure you print the correct size.
- Cut off the entry form and tape it to the back of the picture.



## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new **BRANCH** Announcements should be sent to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com)

### BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The Saint Joseph Society Christmas party will be held January 12, 2025 at 1:00pm at Market which is located at 1137 Linda Street in Rocky River, OH. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by December 31, 2024. All members are welcome to attend.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Submitted by **Barbara J. Golias**,  
Secretary

### BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold their Annual Meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Eat-N-Park, 1002 Ohio River Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA. ELECTION OF OFFICERS for the coming year will take place.

Please notify branch secretary, Linda Collins, if you are planning to attend by calling 412-266-2119, or by email to [lindaco243@gmail.com](mailto:lindaco243@gmail.com).

Submitted by **Linda Collins**,  
Secretary

### BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

We'll be hosting a Christmas party on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 11:30am – 2:00pm at the "Cabin" in Avonworth Community Park, 498 Camp Horne Rd, Pittsburgh, PA. All members are welcome; children as well as the young at heart (adults)! Registration WILL be required. More details will be in the next issue and on-line. We hope to see you there! Santa will be paying a visit and bringing gifts! Lunch will be provided.

Submitted by **Linda Collins**,  
Secretary

### BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephens Society will hold an annual meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 11:30am at the Good Morning Diner at 417 E. Main St. in Streator, IL. All members are urged to attend. Reserve your place by calling Paul at 815-822-8851.

Submitted by **Paul Chismar**,  
Secretary

### BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Branch 23 of Johnstown, PA will hold our 2nd Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 1:30pm. The meeting place is VOMA, Venue of Merging Arts, located in Cambria City section. The address is 307 Chestnut Street in Johnstown, PA. We will have Elections of Officers at this meeting. Please come join us if you are a member of Branch 23. It's always a nice time. A light lunch will be served. Call Theresa Cassat at 814-254-2532 with questions.

Submitted by **Theresa Cassat**,  
Financial Secretary

### BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

We are again providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH. Branch 24 members may purchase a Vilija dinner at the special discounted price of \$5.00. This discounted ticket is for Branch 24 members only. It is non-transferable and may not be used for carryout orders. The regular cost per dinner is \$25.00 and may be purchased at this price for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by contacting Fran Strekal, Fraternal Activities Director, at 216-308-1728. Please make checks payable to Branch 24 FCSU. The deadline to order your meals from Branch 24 (for members and non-members) is Friday, Nov. 22, 2024. This is a very popular event in the Cleveland area with limited seating. Get your tickets ordered early!

Submitted by **Fran Strekal**,  
Fraternal Activities Director

### BRANCH 35 – PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael Branch 35, will hold their annual meeting virtually on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 7:00pm. The agenda will include officers' reports, branch business, upcoming events, and Election of Branch Officers for 2025.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FCSU35>  
Mtg. ID: 73892616453  
Passcode: Tp6S3f

Branch members who wish to attend the meeting are asked to contact [FCSU35@gmail.com](mailto:FCSU35@gmail.com) by December 12, 2024 to confirm their attendance.

Submitted by **Janet Sullivan**,  
Recording Secretary

### BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 1:00pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by **Maria Jurasi**,  
Financial Secretary

### ČLENSKÁ SCHÔDZA SPOLKU SV. MATÚŠA Č. 45 1KSJ V

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční členská schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 19. januára, 2025 o 13:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová - pokladníčka

## 3 WISE MEN & HOLY FAMILY – AGES 65+

### 2024 Coloring Contest Entry Form

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

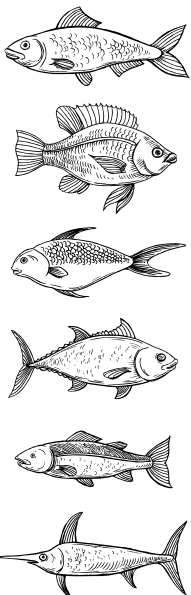
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly using ink. Thank you!



### American Slovak Club

## FRIDAY FISH FRY

Every Friday All Year Long (Not Just During Lent)

Perch, Walleye, Shrimp & Cod  
Chicken Paprikash Dinners  
Served Every First Friday

**2915 Broadway Ave, Lorain, OH**

Please call ahead for reservations  
for parties of six or more at 440-245-5146

[AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry](http://AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry)

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS • BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com)

## BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

Please note the St. Joseph Society will meet for the 9:30am Feast of the Epiphany Mass on Sunday, January 5, 2025, (Weather Permitting). The Mass will be held at the Slovak Church of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene at 319 Brown Street in Philadelphia, PA. We invite all Slovaks and guests in the area and able to attend the Mass to please join us for a photo after Mass.

Following Mass we will have light refreshments of kolache & coffee served at the Wesley Meeting Room at 8401 Roosevelt Blvd in Philadelphia, PA. At 1:00pm we will hold a short, combined ZOOM 2024 Annual Meeting to Elect Branch Officers; the meeting will be followed by a Branch fraternal activity for our combined traditional Vilija, Christmas Party, New Year's and Epiphany Celebrations at 1:30pm.

This will be our annual Branch meeting for 2024, for the purpose of Election of Officers for 2025 and the Election of Voting Delegates to the District 8 semi-annual spring meeting.

The meeting agenda will also include the reading of all officer and delegate reports; reports from those who attended our branch activities or any FCSU events and picnics and the annual fall district 8 meeting. Discussions will be held on branch business, charitable donations, review of 2024 activities, and plans for 2025.

To join the 1:00pm ZOOM meeting:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FCSU55>  
Mtg ID: 896 4679 6798  
Passcode: pasta55

Attention: It is important that if you plan to attend in-person, please RSVP by email at [helenagaydos@outlook.com](mailto:helenagaydos@outlook.com) or phone at 215-613-8987. In addition, you can contact John Gaydos at [john@johngaydos.com](mailto:john@johngaydos.com) or text branch president Erik Payne at 215-280-1554.

May everyone enjoy a Most Blessed Advent Christmas Season with the Blessings of good health and good fortune in the New Year. Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok! Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Submitted by Helena T. Gaydos  
Recording Secretary-Treasurer

## BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

CHRISTMAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT:  
Please join us for our Christmas party on December 1, 2024 at 11:30am.

Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal. The cost is \$40.00 per person.

Location: Bandero County Wood Grill  
(Formerly Brisco County)  
N96W16865  
Cumberland Court  
Menomonee Falls, WI  
That is at Highway 41 North  
and County Q Exit

Please call Mike Novak, President Branch 89 at 414-445-5382 to make

your reservation by 11/25/2024. You MUST CONFIRM.

Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89 and mail to: Mike Novak at 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Please join us for our meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 11:30am. On the Agenda is the election of Officers, donations and activities. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal and beverages.

Location: Bandero County Wood Grill  
(Formerly Brisco County)  
N96W16865  
Cumberland Court  
Menomonee Falls, WI

Please call to make your reservation by January 27, 2025. You MUST CONFIRM by calling Branch 89 President, Mike Novak, at 414-445-5382. Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak at 3237 N. 93rd St. in Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Submitted by Mike Novak,  
President

## BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PA

St. John the Baptist Branch 112 of Mahanoy City, PA will hold an annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.

The meeting will be held at Palermo's Restaurant on the Minersville Pottsville Highway, Minersville, PA beginning at noon and followed by lunch. Our agenda will include officer reports, old and new business and Election of Officers. All members are invited to attend. Please contact Karen Sterling by December 7th if you plan on attending the meeting.

Submitted by Matthew Sterling,  
Secretary

## BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

Please note that our Christmas meeting is December 5th at 7:00pm and Josephine will be bringing her delicious Christmas cookies. Please try to join us for the skiing, weather permitting, on Saturday!

One of our members has moved to South Carolina and welcomes you to visit when in the area. Call Sue for phone number and address!

Submitted by Sue Salko,  
Secretary

## BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

Throughout the month of November, we remember all of our members who have passed on to their eternal reward. Please pray for the following members who have died in the past year:

John Abbare James Massura  
John Smith Timothy Drumright

Submitted by Dorothy Jurcenko,  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will

hold a meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1:00pm. The meeting will take place at St. Andrews Jednota at 1223 5th St in Catasauqua, PA (corner of 5th and Grove). All members are welcome. On the agenda will be planning upcoming branch events and events happening at the home office. We will also remember the passing of our beloved father, cousin, nephew and friend, Stephen Roman. Steve was a lifetime lodge member and vice president of the branch for many years. He was the heart and soul of the lodge – if you needed to know things about the lodge or members, he was the main man to go to. We will miss him dearly. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by Gregory Harakal,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 1:00pm. The meeting will take place at St. Andrews Jednota at 1223 5th St in Catasauqua, PA (corner of 5th and Grove). All members are welcome to join us for the meeting followed by a luncheon. On the agenda will Election of Officers for 2025. With the passing of our beloved vice president, Steve Roman, we have positions open. We encourage you to come to this meeting and become involved in your branch.

Submitted by Gregory Harakal,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 9:00am at Shoneys Restaurant at 285 McClellandtown Road in Uniontown, PA for our Christmas Celebration. Officers' reports will be given and a discussion will follow regarding branch activities, charitable donations, and upcoming FCSU events. Election of Officers will take place for the coming year.

Branch 162 members and guests

are invited to join us in decorating our Christmas Tree at the Uniontown Hospital project on November 26th at 5:00pm, and to attend our Christmas Celebration by calling Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 for reservations for yourself and your guest.

Submitted by Dolores Marmol,  
Secretary

## BRANCH 173 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its final meetings of the year in December 2024.

Saturday, December 7, 2024: Norm's Restaurant, 275 N. Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, starting at 1:00pm. Discussion will include review of branch activities of 2024.

Sunday, December 15, 2024: Adelina's Restaurant, 166 S Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA, starting at 1:00pm. General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU. The Election of Officers will also take place at this meeting. Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy Ungvarsky, at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Submitted by Matthew Ungvarsky,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

A branch 199 business meeting will take place for the purpose of Election of Officers on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1:00pm at Sharkey's Cafe, 3960 Lincoln Highway, Latrobe, PA. Lunch will be provided by the branch. Looking forward to seeing you!


Submitted by Barb Patula,  
Secretary

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Meeting for Election of Officers will be held Thursday, December 5, 2024 at the Slovak CU at 910 6th Avenue in Ford City, PA at 7:00pm.

All members welcome to attend.

SAVE THE DATE



The Slovak Ball

15 Feb 2025

SLOVAKAMERICANCC.ORG

The Slovak Ball tickets go on sale in November!

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS • BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com)

We appreciate fresh ideas. There are Board positions open. Any inquiries may be directed to Vicki Schaub at [vschaub123@gmail.com](mailto:vschaub123@gmail.com) or leave a message at 724-763-9229.

Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Treasurer

## BRANCH 213 – PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 at 1:00pm. It will take place at 306 Barclay Avenue in Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting may also be accessed via phone. Contact information: [weaz1958@aol.com](mailto:weaz1958@aol.com).

The agenda will include: Officer's Reports, Election of Officers for 2025, fraternal activities, general Branch business, and an overview of this year's activities and charitable donations. We will also discuss any new business, upcoming activities and events, and ways to increase membership.

Meeting dates for the upcoming year will also be selected.

Submitted by Anita Nixon, President

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge will hold their next meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7:00pm IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. PLEASE NOTE: This meeting has been changed from our normal 3rd Monday of December due to a schedule conflict. This will be the annual Election of Officers and bylaw review. We will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to pray to our dear Father God to bless us with His love, peace and mercy. May He tame the storms of the Earth and unite the world leaders to strive for peace among all the nations.

Submitted by Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their Annual Meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant at 713 Bedford Rd. in Coitsville, OH, on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 1:00pm. We will have an Election of Officers for the coming year 2025, followed by a luncheon. Reservations can be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We wish you a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all of our members.

Submitted by Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

## BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

The officers of Branch 260 invite members to join us this year at any or all of our meetings. Our last meeting for 2024 will be December 5, 2024 (this will be our Election of Officers

meeting and holiday celebration). The meeting will begin at 5:00pm and will be held at Belleria Restaurant at 1010 Youngstown-Poland Rd. in Struthers, OH. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

Submitted by Carlie M. Peshek, Vice President

## BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NJ

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a dinner meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 starting at 6:00pm for all members. The agenda will include Election of Officers, membership, and branch activities. The location is Carpaccio Ristorante at 651 Bound Brook Rd in Middlesex, NJ. RSVP is required; please call or text Steve Minarovich at 908-507-0505 by November 27.

Submitted by Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

All Branch 320 members – Fall is here and Christmas is around the corner. Would love to see you!!

ELECTION of OFFICERS: All Branch 320 members are invited to attend the second meeting of 2024. Along with normal branch business, Election of Officers will be held. This meeting will be held at 11:30am on December 8, 2024, at LaEda's at 1723 Grand Blvd. in Monessen, PA.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: All Branch 320 members are invited to attend the 2024 Christmas Luncheon. Immediately following Branch 320 meeting, we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior with prayer and a meal. Please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788 by November 29, 2024. Branch 320 would like to wish all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice-President

## BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

The Saint Joseph Lodge #367 of Fairchance, PA meeting will be held on Friday, November 22, 2024 at Eat'n Park at 519 W. Main Street in Uniontown, PA at 12:30pm. Christmas gifts for our 16 and under members will be mailed out at the beginning of December. Please call Patty Speshock at 724-564-5764 if your child did not receive one. Christmas donations and any new ideas for next year will be discussed.

Election of Officers for next year will be held. Any member willing to become an officer or just planning on attending this meeting please call Secretary, Kathryn Baranek at 724-569-1006. We would like to wish all of our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving a Merry and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Submitted by Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

## Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12		
13					14					15				16	
17					18					19					
20				21						22					
			23			24		25	26						
27	28	29				30									
31					32				33				34	35	
36					37				38				39		
40			41				42						43		
		44					45				46	47			
48	49								50						
51							52		53				54	55	56
57						58							60		
61													63		
	64												66		

Answers can be found on Page 14

<b>Across</b> 1 Sandpiper 5 Lingerie item 9 Painter Chagall 13 Declare 14 Inadvisable action 15 Detached 17 Cuzco's country 18 Wood sorrels 19 Birth-related 20 Orange kin 22 Buddy 23 Met display 24 High spirits 27 Scarlett 30 "So soon?" 31 Early evictee 32 Like some humor 33 Nativity nursery 36 Trouser part	37 Personal quirk 38 Sweet potato 39 Fortune 40 Clans 42 Thai river 43 Stars and Stripes land 44 Piece of men's jewelry 46 Liabilities 48 Camisole 50 Juliet, to Romeo 51 Donations 52 Vaporize 57 Salmon River locale 59 Church section 60 Wild goat 61 Pretend 62 From square one 63 Thunder sound 64 Soaks, as flax 65 Glasgow gal 66 Achilles, e.g.	<b>Down</b> 1 Spellbound 2 Part of the eye 3 Terrarium plant 4 Penny-pinching 5 Sound of contempt 6 Places 7 Fatuously 8 Charlatan 9 "___ over-board!" 10 Like some desserts 11 Service organization 12 Raccoon relative 16 Kind of collar 21 Bard's "before" 25 Ice cream flavor 26 Mischief 27 Boxing prize 28 Constantly 29 Lawful	30 Rainbow's shape 32 "Saturday Night Fever" music 34 Party thrower 35 J.F.K. postings 37 Adolescent 38 Jabber 41 VIP, usually 42 Shangri-la 45 Relating to the spleen 46 Twosome 47 Improve, in a way 48 Bucket 49 Patriarch 50 Gushes 53 Ancient greetings 54 Competent 55 Drop from Niobe 56 Really big show 58 Switch settings
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## BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

Branch 372 will have their Fall Meeting on December 1, 2024 at 11:00am in St. Joe's Cemetery Chapel at 201 Cemetery Rd. in Beaverdale, PA.

We will hold our branch Election of Officers for 2025.

For information, please contact Ruth Ann Gerko at 814-533-1826.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Gerko, Secretary/Treasurer

## BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

We are inviting all family members of the St. Joseph Society Branch 393 to our dinner meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2024. The meeting will be held at Giannilli's II Restaurant at 4816 Rt. 30 in Greensburg, PA at 5:00pm followed by dinner. All members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Eileen at 724-539-2764 by Dec. 2, 2024. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Eileen Myers, Recording Secretary

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS • BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com)

## BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul Branch 410 of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 1:30pm at the Highland House at 92 West Main Street in Uniontown, PA. Election of Officers will be on the agenda. All members are encouraged to attend. Please call 724-425-2576 for reservations by December 9, 2024.

Submitted by **Geraldine Buchheit**,  
Financial & Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 23, 2024. The meeting will be held at 11:00am, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th St., Parma, OH (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.) On the agenda will be officers' reports, the financial report for the year 2024 and a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch. The Election of Branch Officers will take place at this meeting. All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

Submitted by **George Carny**,  
President

## BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

St. Joseph Society Branch 484 KJ will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 1:30pm, at the Eat 'n Park Restaurant at 2301 Rt. 286 South in Indiana, PA. The agenda will include Election of Officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, membership, district information, as well as general branch and business issues.

We wish our members, families and friends a beautiful Fall Season, a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Submitted by **Monica Rura**,  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

We will be holding a meeting for our Election of Officers for 2025 on November 17, 2024 at 1:00pm at the Slovak J Club at 485 Morgan Ave in Akron, OH.

Come join us on Sunday, December 15th at 4:00pm when we will be having our Vilija (traditional Slovak Christmas dinner). This is a very popular event and seating is limited. Please call 330-786-9972 to make your reservations and celebrate the holidays with us. See the ad on page 17 for upcoming activities.

Submitted by **Debbie Speck**,  
President

## BRANCH 581 – PORTER, IN

The FCSU Branch 581 will hold their meeting December 1, 2024, at 12:00pm at the Paragon Restaurant at 1701 E. 37th Ave. in Hobart, IN. The agenda will include Election of Officers and other new business. Please join us for a fine dinner and a great time to meet some of the members. Please RSVP Ann

Buczek at 219-947-2793.

Submitted by **Ann Buczek**, President

## BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA

Branch 587 will hold its annual meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at the home of Branch President Joanne Fibbi.

Agenda includes Election of Officers, future fraternal activities, and charitable donations. Lunch will be served at 2:00pm followed by the business meeting.

Members are reminded to bring their Sock Drive donations to the meeting. Kindly RSVP to Joanne at 412-953-4721 or [jfibbi@gmail.com](mailto:jfibbi@gmail.com) before November 23, 2024. Location: 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Joanne Fibbi**,  
President

## BRANCH 628 – W HOMESTEAD, PA

The December meeting of Branch 628 will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 3:00pm at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA.

The agenda will include a summary of the year's activities and the Election of Officers for 2025.

Submitted by **Sylvia J. Vehec**,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The next meeting for Branch 682 members will take place at the District 14, Region 6 Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at 6:00pm at Rachel's Restaurant, 54 Westchester Dr. in Austintown, OH. Cost is \$30.00/person, \$20.00 for Children 6 and younger. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting and mailing payment (checks to Rev. Joseph Kostik District) to Sue Carney, 6810 Blue Ridge Dr., Poland, OH 44514 (330-770-6810). Please provide the number of persons attending and the gender and ages of any children that will be attending. Branch 682 pays the cost for all its members. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with all.

Our Branch meeting will take place immediately before the District Annual Christmas Dinner. As we have the highest level of attendance at this function, we will be holding our Branch Election of Officers for the 2025 fiscal year. Contact Drew Hirt, [drew@hirt.com](mailto:drew@hirt.com) or 330-750-0776, if you are interested in an officer position with Branch 682.

Submitted by **Drew Hirt**, President

## BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

We will have our winter meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 2:00pm at the Remenar Home located at 8977 South Mason Rd. in Bannister, MI. We will hold the 2025 Election of Officers. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Joseph Beno**,  
Recording Secretary

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION of the "JEDNOTA"

Name of editor: Shannon Travise  
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	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS <sup>1</sup>	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail <sup>TM</sup> )	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		20675	20401
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	337	238
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		337	238
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		21291	21107
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))			
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		21291	21107
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		96.30	96.26
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		20675	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		21291	21107
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		100%	100%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 80% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 11/9/24 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Shannon Travise			Date 10/15/2024
<small>I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).</small>			

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 5:00pm at Belleria Boardman (8485 Market Street, Boardman, OH 44512). At the meeting, the branch will hold its annual Election of Officers.

Submitted by **Anna Schwanitz**,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 1:30pm. On the agenda will be officer reports, 2024 financial report, approval of the 2025 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of 2025 Branch Officers will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30am at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow the

Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall at 1:30pm. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620. I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date and gender.

Submitted by **Joseph C. Rimarcik**,  
President

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

MASSSES - Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00 PM (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. A Mass will be offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased on December 6th.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan**,  
Secretary

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Our last meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at BISTRO 1051 (1051 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ 07066) in the glass atrium room. The meeting will start promptly at 1:00pm. The agenda will include Election of Officers and discussion/ planning of next year's activities. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$50.00 for non-members). Please call or text Mary Ann Ranahan at 732-589-1608 by December 14th if you plan on attending.

**FRATERNALISM IN ACTION:** Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to the St. John the Apostle Church Food Pantry. The FCSU Home Office will generously donate \$250.00 to the food bank on our behalf. Additionally, members are encouraged to participate in the Holy Family Church Christmas Tree Gift Drive. Please select items that homeless shelters need from the list on the Christmas tree. Bring your gifts to the church and leave them under the tree. More details can be found in the church bulletin.

**SOLE MATES ACROSS THE AMERICAS:** As announced in this issue of the Jednota, the FCSU is asking branches to help stomp out cold, wet feet this winter. We are collecting new socks for donation to a local homeless shelter to support this national giving back event.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MI

The Saint Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 756, located in Owosso, MI, will hold meetings as follows:

Sunday, December 8, 2024: Meeting to be at Tim Hortons at 323 W. Main St in Owosso, MI starting at 1:00pm. Discussion will include past years activity and future items.

Sunday, December 22, 2024: Meeting to be at Tim Hortons at 323 W. Main St. in Owosso, MI starting at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers.

Submitted by **Gary Gregoricka, President**

## BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, November 30, 2024. The meeting will be at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. The meeting will start at 11:00am with agenda as follow: Officer Reports and Financial Report, Annual Meeting for Election of Officers for the year 2025, preparation of the Slovak Christmas mass, and plan activities for year 2025. All members in our area are encouraged to participate. After the meeting lunch will be served at the restaurant.

Submitted by **Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

Attention Branch 853 members - make your plans now to enjoy time with

your fellow FCSU branch members. Come join us December 8, 2024 for a branch Christmas cookie baking meeting. Come and share the Christmas spirit and bake cookies. Then take some home with you.

For more information and reservations, email FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or call 412-341-1577 for specifics of where and when to meet.

Submitted by **Monica Boone, President**

## BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 will hold a meeting on Saturday, November 30, 2024 at 12:00pm. The meeting will be held at Ruma's Restaurant at 12841 State Rd. in North Royalton, OH. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers for 2025 and a wrap of the years' events and plans for next year. The meeting will be followed by our Christmas lunch.

All members are invited to attend. Please contact Branch President, Barbara Sutilla, by Nov. 23, 2024 with your RSVP by text at 440-864-4744 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com. Guests are invited to join us at a cost of \$15.00 payable to the branch.

**Fraternalism in Action:** This is Black Friday weekend. We are joining forces with Branch 24 in a project for humanity by collecting travel size soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. to fill personal hygiene bags for the homeless for our Fraternalism in Action event. This project will also serve as volunteer service hours for the youth of Branch 24 who will fill the bags which will be donated to the West Side Catholic Center. Please be generous in the spirit of the holidays and bring on your travel size stuff – either bought at the store or collected from your travels to hotels. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord".

Submitted by **Stephanie Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director**

## BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

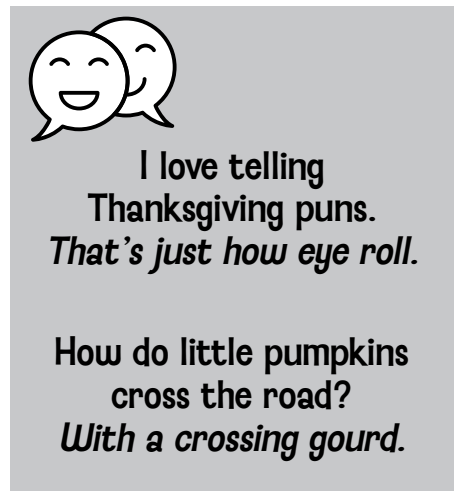
The St. Michael the Archangel Society Branch 857 from Levittown, PA will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1:15pm. The meeting will be held at The IHM Center at 338 Hulmeville Road in Penndel, PA. This will be our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2025 will take place.

The officers of Branch 857 wish all members a safe and pleasant Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday.

Submitted by **Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary**



Solution to the Crossword Puzzle from page 12



# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to [district@fcsu.com](mailto:district@fcsu.com)

## DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – PA

District 3 will be sponsoring a Štedrý Večer, a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner, on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, PA.

Schedule: 2:00 pm - Mass  
3:30 pm - Advent & Christmas Pageant provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks  
4:30 pm – Dinner

Cost: \$35.00 (12 and up) / \$10.00 (6 to 11) / Children 5 and under free

A limited number of tickets available. Do not delay ordering your tickets. Reservations are taken on a first come first served basis and MUST be made by November 18, 2024 by calling Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712.

Submitted by **Kirstin Meyer, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH – PA

Branch 254 will host the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 24, 1:00pm at Holy Trinity Church of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin PA. We will discuss business matters and plan events for next year. Officers for 2025 will be elected.

Other announcements of local interest.

- WPSCA: meets 7 PM first Mondays at Mt. Lebanon Public Library. December 2: Show & Tell
- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts events such as wine tastings. Join the organization to get the newsletter.
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour - WPIT 96.5 FM / 730 AM

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at FCSU.com.

Submitted by **Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 14 – REVEREND JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2024.

1. Tuesday, November 19 at 6:00pm. Our Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2025 will be held at The Fireplace, 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd., Poland, OH. For questions please contact John L. Leskovyansky Jr. at home 330-549-3788 or by cell 330-559-5981.
2. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00pm (Short Meeting and Christmas Party)

Submitted by **John L Leskovyansky, Jr., President**

## DISTRICT 14 – REVEREND JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA

Christmas Party Announcement

District 14, Region 6, Rev. Joseph Kostik District will hold a short meeting followed by our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00pm, at Rachel's Restaurant; 54 Westchester Dr., Austintown, OH. The cost is \$30.00 for adults and \$20.00 for Children 6 and under. RESERVATIONS are required and must be paid by December 1, 2024. Contact and mail payments to Sue Carney, 6810 Blue Ridge Dr, Poland, OH 44514 (330-770-6810). Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District. Include your branch number and number of persons attending, also gender and ages of any children attending. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with all our members and guests.

Submitted by **John Leskovyansky Jr., President**

## DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – AR, CA, KS, MS, OR, WA

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Saturday, November 30, 2024. The meeting will be held at 11:00am at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. On the agenda will be activities focused on membership drive and our Election of Officers for 2025. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate.

Submitted by **Paul Skuben, President**

## District 2 Attends John Denver Tribute Show

*Submitted by Ann Buczek, President*

The Spitzkovsky District 2, with Branches 153, 313, and 581 had a great time attending the Theater in the Round on Sunday, October 13, 2024. It started with a champaign brunch and included a tribute to John Denver show. John Denver was known for his wholesome, sentimental music that extolled nature's and life's simple pleasures. The lead performer, Ted Vigil, not only looked like John Denver but sounded like him as well. It was a great show! We all enjoyed the nostalgia of listening to some of his biggest hits.



## Celebrate Christmas...Slovak Style

Book Author: Larry G. Kozlowski (Branch 2)

Slovakia is a small territory, a tiny and independent country (since January 1, 1993) in the heart of Europe, rich in heritage, traditions, and folklore. Slovakia is a place where eastern and western cultures mixed together. "Celebrate Christmas...Slovak Style" is a unique collection of Slovak customs, traditions (Christmas Eve Dinner Menus Recipes and Symbolism), folklore, recipes (Potato Pancake, Potato Dumplings & Cheese, Dumplings & Fried Cabbage, Honey Cakes, Pagáč - Filled Dough, Hot Brandy, Sour Mushroom Soup with Dumplings, Baked Fish, Filled Dumplings - Pirohy, Bread Biscuits - Bobalky, Sweet Rolls - Koláče Filled Cookies - Rožky, Christmas Bread - Vianočka, Rye Bread, Roast Goose, Jellied Pig's Feet, Spiced Wine, Carnival Crullers - Čieregy, Roast Pork & Sauerkraut, Bishop's Bread), and many more holiday favorites. Learn of the custom of the "Up-Side Down" Christmas Tree, make Slovak Straw Christmas Ornaments or a paper Slovak Nativity Creche for under your holiday tree. Keep your precious Slovak heritage alive and celebrate the priceless treasures of Slovak Christmases of the past with an inspiration for Slovak Christmases of the future. Enjoy a \$10.00 Christmas Special with an order of 3 books!



*Submitted by Professor Michael Kopanic, Jr.*

Contact Larry G. Kozlowski to order:  
525 Beatty Road  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
e-mail: lgk505@aol.com

\$14.00 Each OR  
Slovak Heritage Special  
3 Books For \$30.00  
--- Free Shipping ---

Lawrence Kozlowski was honored as the 2021 recipient of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, for his lifelong service to the Slovak American community and his lasting contributions to promote Slovak language, culture and heritage in western Pennsylvania.



Sponsored by the Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey, the Slovak Institute and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

## Slovenská Viliya Slovak Christmas Eve Supper Sunday, December 8, 2024

12:00PM (Noon) Mass with Dinner Following  
Abbey Church and Benedictine High School

Tickets to this event are advance sales only  
Tickets **WILL NOT** be available at the door  
\$25 for full meal

Please send check or money order along with a self-addressed envelope made out to:

Saint Andrew Abbey Viliya  
10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104

Your tickets will be mailed out to you.  
**TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

For more information, please call 216-721-5300 ext. 100  
(Monday through Friday, 8am until 3:00pm)

Ralph Szubski, Accordion Man; Slovak Raffle; Slovak Christmas Cards and Oplatky available for purchase

## Newly Elected Officers - District 2



Front L-R: Dorothy Jurcenko, Spiritual Advisor; Pat LaPorte, Financial Sec/Treasurer; Paul Chismar, President; Jennifer Carlton, Recording Secretary.  
Back L-R: Ann Buczek, Auditor; Pete Turner, Sergeant At Arms; James Churney, Vice-President. Missing is Robert Elias Jr., Auditor.

Our semi-annual meeting was held on October 6th at the Mission Sisters of St. Benedict in Oak Forest, IL. The Election of Officers was held and was followed by a delicious Chicken & Pasta meal organized by Dorothy Jurcenko.

*Submitted by Tim Graves, Regional Director*

**When should I review my coverage?**

**TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT YOUR POLICY ANNUALLY OR ANYTIME YOU EXPERIENCE A MAJOR LIFE EVENT SUCH AS:**



New Baby or Adoption



Marriage or Divorce



Buying A Home

As your circumstances change, make sure the owner and beneficiary information is still correct.



# Rest in Peace Our Departed Members



The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.  
 Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
001K	Thomas Toth	060K	Loretta Louise Sabol	382K	Alexander Hencheck	731K	Florence L Pasquale
002K	Anthony L Giba	075K	Barbara A Gotaskie	382K	June Ranocchia	746K	Anna Tkach
002K	Daniel J. Kapetanovich	085K	Theresa Kuchinskas	393K	Mike E Phillips	746K	Janine Kozzi
002K	Kevin Oshea	112K	Winifred Mohutsky	401K	John Fularz	764K	John L Urchek Jr
003P	Lorraine Dvorshak	152K	Diana Jimison	401K	Joseph Pastiva	796K	Kathryn Sukal
004K	Christina T Kanigowski	152K	Elaine Kollar	419K	Anna Solack	796K	Mariann Kratzer
005P	Emily Gorski	152K	Ruth Telnock	450K	Anna Carny	796K	Rose Wilson
005P	Gertrude L Gober	153K	Martin Joseph Imrisek Jr	450K	June Leppert	853K	Kimberly Sue Mraz
006K	Jack V Uhren	157K	David B Smith	484K	Eleanor Thompson	855K	Claire M Williamson
019K	Jean Irene Beezel	166K	Mary A Giblyn	484K	Robert Golinsky	855K	Eugene G Smith
024K	John F Phillips	173K	Carol Ann Sitar	581K	James Wright	855K	Linda Guminey
024K	Pauline E Hanzel	181K	Elizabeth A Shay	581K	Joseph Krajnik	900K	Jean Dombrowski
024K	Virginia C Graham	199K	George M Briercheck	581K	Thomas William Vadas	904K	Karen A Ruby
035K	Robert S Czukas	199K	Vivian Puskar	670K	Robert A Lombardi	915K	Catherine E Moon
038K	Karen Price	200K	John A Ronto	670K	Ronald S Duda Sr	916K	James E Cooney Sr
038K	Mark F Mihalko	228K	Mary Boycik	682K	John Ferencak	922K	Linda J Baverstock
040K	Dan Risley	312K	Richard Paul Kozusko	702K	Robert Boston	924K	Robert W Hujsa
040K	Riley James Kolesar	313K	Frank Stascik	716K	Elizabeth H Kubis	926K	Barbara A Brunnbauer
045K	James G Holodak	320K	Martin Dudas	721K	John J Kusnier Jr		
055K	Joseph Bizon	320K	Mildred A Zilka	729K	George Valiga		

\* Processed in the month of October 2024

## OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

### Michael E. Lako, Region 5 Director Emeritus, Passed into Eternal Life November 3, 2024

Michael E. Lako, age 77, of Ross Township, went to be with the Lord surrounded by his family, on Sunday, November 3, 2024.



Beloved Husband of Carol J. (Kruly) Lako; Father of George (Astrid) Lako, Joanne (Jonathan) Roithner, Joseph (Chi) Lako, and the late Michael (surviving Nicole) Lako; Grandfather of Violette L. Lako and Francine N. Lako, Michael and Astrid Lako, and Noelle Roithner; Son of the late Michael and Agnes Lako; Brother of Ray (Karen) Lako and Susan (Rudy) Ondrejco.

Michael was very active in the Slovak community as a member of the Pittsburgh Slovaks and Slovak Fraternal like the FCSU and NSS. For FCSU, he was a lifelong member of Branch 2 and the Region 5 Director from 2015 - 2022. At the 2022

convention in Cleveland, OH, he received the Director Emeritus Status at First Catholic Slovak Union for his many years of dedicated service. When he wasn't actively promoting the Slovak culture, he took his 30+ years of service to Conrail

and Norfolk Southern home with him, building scale railroads with his four children over the years. He loved to bowl, golf and sing. He was the founder of the Choir at St. Gabriel Archangel Parish in Pittsburgh.

Relatives and friends were received at the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home in Pittsburgh, PA. Funeral Mass was Friday, November 8, 2024 at Christ Our Savior, St. Cyril of Alexandria Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made to ALS or Parkinson's Foundation.

Directors of the American Slovak Club for many years. She was also a life member of the Ladies Auxilliary at VFW Post # 1079.

Well known as an accomplished seamstress, Mary enjoyed working at the weekly fish fry at the American Slovak Club, as well as boating, fishing, and swimming in her free time. Additional interests included testing her luck on junkets to local casinos as well as playing the lotto.

She is survived by her sons Donald (Denise – deceased) of Amherst, and Dennis (Michele) of Lorain, along with her daughter Deborah L. Boycik also of Lorain. Additional survivors include five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Henry J. Boycik, Sr., son Henry J. Boycik, Jr., father Lucas Urbanic, mother Elizabeth Urbanic (nee Grancic), brothers Matthew, Charles, William, Alex, John, and Frank, and sister Elizabeth Boycik.

### Johnny Kusnier, Jr. Branch 721 Elsie, MI



John Joseph "Johnny" Kusnier, Jr., age 82, of Elsie, MI, passed away Monday, August 5, 2024, at Hazel I. Findlay Country Manor in St. Johns, MI. John was born in Owosso, MI on December 13, 1941, the son of John J. and Anna M. (Caudy) Kusnier, Sr. On May 15, 1965, John married Diane G. Thelen at St.

Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns, MI.

John worked with Nemanis Electric for 28 years in Ovid, MI. He went on to work 15 years at Green Meadow Farms. He was a member of Mid-Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association and enjoyed collecting Allis Chalmers. John was a charter member of the Elsie Area Ambulance serving for 16 years. He also served 28 years on Elsie Fire Department. John was a lifetime member St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI and the Knights of Columbus. John proudly served his country in the United States National Guard. He will be remembered for his willingness to help others.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years Diane Kusnier, his children: John and Michelle Kusnier, III, Larry and Ginger Kusnier, Kevin Kusnier, and Tammy and Brian Sparks; grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Emma, Courtney (her fiancé Michael Beno), Evan, Alexis, Kelsie, Sidney, and Aubrie. He is also survived by his sisters: Margaret Ann and Jerry Horak, Mary Jane Holmes, Anna Marie and Chris Anderson; brothers: Robert Kusnier, Richard and Carol Kusnier; in-laws: Carlene Smith, Joyce Houska, Mary Jane Feldpausch, Eileen Schneider, Judy and Bruce Cameron, Lynn and Janet Thelen; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Joseph Kusnier and Jerome Kusnier, sister-in-law Donna and John Seay, brothers-in-law: Jerome Smith, Joe Houska (lifelong best friend), Dale Feldpausch, and Ron Schneider. The family would like to thank, Cathy Winkler, for her wonderful care and friendship to John.

### Mary Boycik Branch 228 Lorain, OH



Mary M. Boycik (nee Urbanic), age 100, of Lorain, passed away peacefully at her residence on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Born in Middletown, OH on March 3, 1924, her family moved to Lorain in 1925 where she grew up with her six brothers and one sister.

Mary was a 1942 graduate of Lorain High School. Following her commencement, she worked for A & P Grocery as well as General Industries before joining the National Tube Company where she was employed as a production assistant. In 1949 she married Henry J. Boycik and embarked on her new career path as a full-time wife and mother.

Mary was a parishioner of the former Holy Trinity Church in Lorain where she was a member of the Rosary Society. In addition, she served on the Board of

## OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

**Mark Mihalko  
Branch 38  
South Park, PA**



Mark Francis Mihalko, age 63 of South Park, PA, passed away suddenly, while in Deep Creek, Maryland, on Friday, July 26, 2024. Mark was born in McKeesport, PA on December 22, 1960, one of four children of Michael F. and Audrey Ann (Mayzel) Mihalko.

He graduated from St. Elizabeth High School in the Baldwin Whitehall area of Pittsburgh, PA and received a Project Manager's Degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey. He then worked as a Project Manager for Verizon for 28 years and retired. After retiring from Verizon, he came out of retirement to be a Project Manager for Comcast for 4 1/2 years.

When not working, Mark could be found at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church cooking for the Fish Fry's and other special events. He volunteered and cooked for St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church's Knights of Columbus in Oakland, MD. He also loved volunteering for the Appalachia group and organizing their bake sales. Mark also volunteered and cooked for the South Park Meals on Wheels.

Mark was like the "Energizer Bunny", always on the move. He was a real people person, he always kept in touch with family and friends. He helped and touched others, wanting to always see them prosper. His life was always a celebration. He found joy in everyone and loved making them smile. Above all, Mark was a strong and devout Catholic.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his 2 brothers, Michael M. and Ronald J. Mihalko. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Cary A. (McKinlay) Mihalko; his sister, Carol (Robert) Mathews; his sister-in-law, Cathy Mihalko; his brother-in-law, Jeff (Barb) McKinlay and many nieces and nephews. Mark also had a special bond with his mother-in-law, Ruth McKinlay.

**Barbara Gotaskie  
Branch 75  
Sunbury, PA**



Our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Barbara Ann Gotaskie of Sunbury, PA passed from this earth into the arms of her Father in Heaven on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

Barbara was happily married to her best friend, John, for nearly 56 years. They always had each other's back, and John will miss her terribly. Together they raised two sons, John Jr. (Valerie)

and Jeffrey (Rebecca), who most people in the community say turned out pretty well. Barbara continually was tickled pink over the exploits of their grandchildren, Cooper, Nicholas, and Sarah. In addition to her husband, sons and grandchildren, Barbara is survived by 13 nieces and nephews, including two godchildren, Barbara Jude Jayman and Mary Ellen Fetzko, to whom she was devoted.

Before any of us knew her, Barbara was first a coal miner's daughter, born in Shamokin to Thomas P. and Mary M. (Bednarczyk) Fetzko. A graduate of Shamokin High School, Barbara proudly wore her Greyhound sweater. Her siblings, Mary Anne (John) Jayman, and Thomas, Edward (Mary Lou), and Phillip (Jean) Fetzko predeceased her. She loved Loretta Lynn and Kenny Rogers. Barbara also had a soft spot for the British Royal Family.

Barbara was the center of our home and the many community and church organizations to which she devoted her time. John and Barbara traveled as much as they were able to see their grandchildren compete at sports and dance. They also selflessly provided comfort and support to their children, grandchildren and extended families through serious medical crises. And, when they could, they escaped to vacation in Cape May, NJ.

Barbara was an officer of the PTO of the former St. Michael the Archangel School, devoting countless hours to the vibrancy of the school. Her son John once volunteered her to be a Cub Scout leader. She must have liked it, as she spent at least 25 years as a scout leader, many of which serving as a regional counselor for Roman Catholic Religious Emblems. The Diocese of Harrisburg Catholic Committee on Scouting bestowed on Barbara the St. George Award, the highest award a Catholic adult scout leader can receive. It was a true community effort keeping secret the real reason so many Sunburians were going to the awards dinner in Harrisburg that year.

Her New York style cheesecake had no parallel. Like Barbara, it will forever be missed.

**Richard Kozusko  
Branch 312  
Latrobe, PA**



Richard P. "Rick" Kozusko, 72, of Latrobe, died Thursday, September 19, 2024 at home. He was born April 9, 1952 in Latrobe, a son of the late Michael J. and Mary H. (Mizak) Kozusko. He was a graduate of California University where he played baseball then received his Masters from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to retirement he was a teacher at Greater Latrobe School District and previously

at the former St. Vincent Catholic School. After retirement Rick enjoyed working for Reeds Auction Company. A man of deep faith, Rick was a lifetime member of St. Vincent Basilica Parish where he volunteered as an altar server and usher. He coached Greater Latrobe High School football for over 20 years, baseball for 10 years and softball with multiple WPIAL titles. Rick was also part of the 1968 WPIAL football championship team. "Coach Kozu" also coached Latrobe Little League, Teener League, Jr. Pro Basketball, American Legion Baseball and West Point Softball where he guided the 13-14-year-old team to the World Series in 2004. Rick stayed active in later years as a spotter at Latrobe High School football games. He loved coaching all 3 of his children throughout their lives and continued to do so with his grandchildren. Rick was a devoted husband, father and Poppy. He loved his family dearly; his 8 grandchildren were the light of his life. He enjoyed attending their numerous sporting events, plays, family get-togethers and family vacations. He was "Mr. Fix It" at his children's homes, eager to help with every project, enjoyed doing yard work and many home projects. He was a dedicated follower of Pitt football, the Pirates and the Steelers. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 8 siblings, Stephen P., John J., Anne Poponick, Michael J. Jr., Elizabeth Bajuszik, Dolly Pevarnik, Joseph J. and Paul P. Kozusko. He is survived by his wife, Anita L. (Duralia) Kozusko, 3 children, Matt Kozusko and wife Jamie, Danny Kozusko and wife Lauren

and Meghan Mays and husband Ben, 8 grandchildren, Zander, Liviana, Brody, Paxton, Riley and Myles Kozusko and Nate and Maddie Mays plus numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

**Anna Tkach  
Branch 746  
Kings Park, NY**

In loving memory, we share the passing of Anna Tkach, who died peacefully on August 14. Anna was born in Slovakia on December 15, 1928. She moved to America after marrying her beloved husband, Joseph and together raised their two daughters in Astoria, NY. Several years later, Anna and Joseph moved to Kings Park, NY to be closer to their daughters and their husbands. Together Anna and Joseph were the center of their families' lives. They regularly hosted and celebrated holidays and special occasions.

Anna will be fondly remembered for many things, especially her wonderful cooking, sewing and crocheting, gardening, and the most importantly, her deep love for and dedication to her family. Additionally, she was deeply devoted to the Byzantine Church of the Resurrection in Smithtown, NY.

Anna is survived by her two daughters, Anna and Martha, their husbands Joseph and James, her grandchildren, Tracy, Jennifer, Denise, Lisa, James, and Joseph, and her sixteen great grandchildren. She will be deeply missed, but always lovingly remembered by the center of her world, her family.



# SLOVAK J CLUB

**485 MORGAN AVE.  
AKRON, OH**

\*Call 330-786-9972 by the  
Monday before Dinner to RSVP

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
11-16 OSU vs. Northwestern - TBD 11-17 Browns vs. Saints - 1:00pm 11-20 Meatloaf Dinner 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIRED 11-21 Browns vs. Steelers 8:15pm 11-23 OSU vs. Indiana - TBD 11-24 Breakfast Buffet 9:00-11:45 am 11-27 Scotch Doubles - \$15 per person - Food & Fun Provided - 6:30pm 11-30 OSU vs. Michigan - 12pm Tail gate party begins at 9am	12-2 Browns vs. Broncos 8:15pm 12-4 Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-7:00pm 12-7 Children's Christmas Party - Bowling with Santa - 1pm *RSVP REQUIRED 12-8 Browns vs. Steelers 1pm 12-15 Annual Vilija Dinner \$25 per person - 4pm *RSVP REQUIRED Browns vs. Chiefs - 1pm 12-18 Baked Chicken Dinner 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIRED



# FRATERNALISM IN ACTION — GIVING BACK —

*Fraternalism is based on the idea that people have a responsibility to help each other. The First Catholic Slovak Union has a passion for helping our members help others. We encourage our branches and districts to find community projects that will enhance the lives of those who are less fortunate. Our Catholic faith tells us “do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”. The FCSU extends our deep gratitude to the following branches and districts who worked together in generosity and kindness to make a difference. The FCSU will donate \$250.00 to each of these remarkable charities.*

## Branch 746 - Food Drive



Branch 746 member, Emilia Filak, delivers donated goods to St. John the Apostle Church Food Pantry. In support of the Fraternalism in Action program, members of Branch 746 collected donations of non-perishable food items for the pantry at their meeting on October 20, 2024. The pantry serves the food insecure residents in the Linden, New Jersey area.

## District 10 - Sock Drive



District 10 members of FCSU branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 collected 252 pairs of socks along with dozens of hats and gloves for our Fraternalism in Action project held on October 27th! These items were donated to the West Side Catholic Center in Cleveland, OH where they assist all who come in need of food, clothing, shelter, advocacy and a path to self-sufficiency.

## District 4 - Food Drive



District members from branches 292 and 746 held a food drive at their meeting on October 27th where they collected 55 pounds of non-perishable goods for donation to The Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The mission of the food bank is to distribute food and provide other basic human needs to those less fortunate in the Somerset County community in a manner recognizing and advancing self-worth and human dignity.



## Branch 199 Summer Picnic at Waldameer Park

On Monday, July 8, Jednota Branch 199 held its summer picnic at Waldameer Park in Erie, PA. We had a large group in attendance, including two home office scholarship recipients from Branch #199, Isabel Owens and Charisma Diehl. Everyone met at the park for fraternalism and fun! The day was enjoyable for all who attended.

*Submitted by Barb Patula, Secretary*



## Branch 1 Saint Joseph Society Enjoys A Fall Harvest Dinner



(Seated) Barb Golias, Mary Dubber  
(Standing) Richard Golias, Camden Dubber, Jana Horvath, Kevin Dubber, Josef Elias

On Sunday, October 27, 2024, Branch 1 Saint Joseph Society treated their members to the Fall Harvest Pork Chop Dinner at St. Clemens Church Hall in Lakewood, OH. The annual event serves as the church's largest fundraiser, bringing the community together for a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship.

A special thanks goes to the FCSU for their generous donation to the church. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mary Dubber for her valuable assistance in organizing the dinner and ensuring its success.

We look forward to another fantastic dinner next year and to continuing to strengthen our community ties through such meaningful events!

*Submitted by Barb Golias, Secretary*

# News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

## The abolition of visas for short stays in China will apply from 8.11.

Bratislava, November 6 (TASR) - The agreed visa-free travel with China will be valid from November 8 to the end of 2025, and will be regularly extended for another year. This was stated by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Juraj Blanár (Smer-SD) after Wednesday's government meeting. Together with Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD), he took stock of the government's visit to China.

"This measure applies to stays of up to 15 days in the case of tourist trips, transits, or business negotiations, it will not apply to work stays," Blanár emphasized. He assured that his ministry is preparing a detailed manual on the new measure, which will be available on the ministry's website.

According to the head of Slovak diplomacy, visa-free travel is a very important tool not only within tourism, but also for the development of Slovak-Chinese trade cooperation. "We did not have an adequate presence in the world's second largest economy and could have lost many potential investments. There is a lot of interest in China from Slovak investors and entrepreneurs, and many of our companies have already penetrated the Chinese market, but they lacked such greater support from the Slovak government, which we have now provided them," he explained.

The abolition of the visa requirement for short-term stays of up to 15 days was announced by the Prime Minister on Friday (1 November) on social media, as one of the agreements with the Chinese side. He also announced that Slovakia is ready to introduce a direct air connection between Bratislava and Beijing.

A large part of the government, as well as dozens of Slovak entrepreneurs, took part in a business trip to China at the turn of October and November. The aim was to sign thirteen documents developing strategic partnership in the economic and investment areas, but also within the tourism and agricultural sectors. The Prime Minister also met with the highest representatives of the host country.

## P. Kmec: Direct train connection with Kiev will start from December 15

Košice, November 6 (TASR) - A direct train connection between Bratislava and Kiev, Ukraine, will be launched from December 15. After the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine, this was confirmed in Košice by Deputy Prime Minister Peter Kmec (Hlas-SD). According to him, this will fulfill the agreement at the level of prime ministers of both countries from the October meeting of governments near Uzhhorod.

"As agreed at the level of prime ministers, a direct railway line between Kyiv and Bratislava will be launched, so one of those strategic projects that we have set out to enable Ukrainian citizens to travel to the European Union more easily will be fulfilled by the end of the year," Kmec said.

The establishment of the railway line was praised by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. "We are very pleased that the volumes of freight transport, but also passenger transport, are growing," she said about the joint projects. Kmec stated that the current priority within bilateral cooperation is the construction of infrastructure, especially rail and road. "A month ago, a joint meeting of governments was held, where it was reiterated that we need to complete the infrastructure and border crossings so that we can function efficiently and quickly when expanding our cooperation," he said.

In addition to the new train connection, he also highlighted other points as a shift. "Since the meeting of the governments, Slovakia has prepared a separate account for an instrument for other states that can invest their money in a multinational financial mechanism, which will finance joint projects in the field of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and Slovakia," he said. At the same time, he informed that Slovakia has submitted an application to the European Commission in the amount of 143 million euros from the EU budget in the form of guarantees and grants. "On the Slovak side, Eximbanka and the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAMRS) will participate in the implementation of this project. They will manage projects in Ukraine, especially in the field of energy," he added. He also confirmed the continuation of strengthening energy infrastructure, due to the approaching winter and the war in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister appreciated Slovakia's support and assistance to Ukraine. According to her, the meeting defined energy, transport, infrastructure and agriculture as key areas beneficial for both countries. The meeting also included the expansion and modernization of the Vyšné Nemecké - Uzhhorod border crossing.

## Zrušenie víz pre krátkodobé pobyty v Číne bude platiť od 8.11.

Bratislava 6. novembra (TASR) - Dohodnutý bezvízový styk s Čínou bude platiť od 8. novembra do konca roka 2025, pričom bude pravidelne predlžovaný o ďalší rok. Po stredajšom rokovaní vlády to uviedol minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Juraj Blanár (Smer-SD). Spolu s premiérom Robertom Ficom (Smer-SD) bilancoval vládnu návštevu v Číne.

"Toto opatrenie sa týka pobytov do 15 dní v prípade turistických ciest, tranzitov, prípadne obchodných rokovaní, nebude platiť pre pracovné pobyty," zdôraznil Blanár. Uistil, že jeho rezort pripravuje podrobný manuál k novému opatreniu, ktorý bude prístupný na webe ministerstva.

Bezvízový styk je podľa šéfa slovenskej diplomacie veľmi dôležitým nástrojom nielen v rámci turizmu, ale tiež pre rozvoj slovensko-čínskej obchodnej spolupráce. "V druhej najväčšej ekonomike sveta sme nemali zabezpečenú adekvátnu prítomnosť a mohli sme tak prísť o mnoho potenciálnych investícií. Zo strany slovenských investorov a podnikateľov je o Čínu veľký záujem, pričom mnohé naše firmy už na čínsky trh aj prenikli, ale chýbala im takáto väčšia podpora zo strany vlády SR, ktorú sme im teraz poskytli," ozrejmil.

Zrušenie vízovej povinnosti pre krátkodobé pobyty do 15 dní oznámil v piatok (1. 11.) premiér na sociálnej sieti, ako jednu z dohôd s čínskou stranou. Avizoval tiež, že Slovensko je zasa pripravené zaviesť priame letecké spojenie medzi Bratislavou a Pekingom.

Na pracovnej ceste do Číny sa na prelome októbra a novembra zúčastnila veľká časť vlády, rovnako i desiatky slovenských podnikateľov. Cieľom bolo podpísanie trinásť dokumentov rozvíjajúcich strategické partnerstvo v ekonomickej i investičnej oblasti, ale aj v rámci cestovného ruchu či sektora pôdohospodárstva. Premiér sa stretol i s najvyššími predstaviteľmi hostiteľskej krajiny.

## P. Kmec: Priame vlakové spojenie s Kyjevom začne od 15. decembra

Košice 6. novembra (TASR) - Priame vlakové spojenie medzi Bratislavou a ukrajinským Kyjevom spustia od 15. decembra. Po zasadnutí medzivládnej komisie pre hospodársku, priemyselnú a vedecko-technickú spoluprácu medzi SR a Ukrajinou to v Košiciach potvrdil podpredseda vlády SR Peter Kmec (Hlas-SD). Naplní sa tak podľa neho dohoda na úrovni premiérov oboch krajín z októbrového stretnutia vlád pri Užhorode.



"Tak, ako bolo dohodnuté na úrovni premiérov, bude spustená priama železničná linka medzi Kyjevom a Bratislavou, takže jeden z tých strategických projektov, ktoré sme si predsavzali, aby sme umožnili ukrajinským občanom jednoduchšie cestovať do Európskej únie, sa naplní ešte do konca roka," uviedol Kmec.

Zriadenie železničnej linky ocenila ukrajinská vicepremiérka Julia Svyrydenková. "Sme veľmi radi, že rastú objemy nákladnej dopravy, ale taktiež aj osobnej dopravy," povedala k spoločným projektom. Kmec skonštatoval, že momentálnou prioritou v rámci dvojstrannej spolupráce je budovanie infraštruktúry, predovšetkým železničnej a cestnej. "Pred mesiacom sa uskutočnilo spoločné zasadnutie vlád, kde opätovne bolo zdôraznené, že musíme dobudovať infraštruktúru a hraničné priechody tak, aby sme pri rozširovaní našej spolupráce mohli fungovať efektívne a rýchlo," uviedol.

Okrem nového vlakového spojenia zvýraznil ako posun aj ďalšie body. "Slovensko od stretnutia vlád pripravilo samostatný účet na nástroj pre ďalšie štáty, ktoré môžu investovať svoje peniaze do multinárodného finančného mechanizmu, z ktorého budú financované spoločné projekty v oblasti cezhraničnej spolupráce medzi Ukrajinou a Slovenskom," povedal. Zároveň informoval, že SR podala žiadosť na Európsku komisiu vo výške 143 miliónov eur z rozpočtu EÚ vo forme záruk a grantov. "Zo slovenskej strany sa na realizácii tohto projektu bude zúčastňovať Eximbanka a Slovenská agentúra pre medzinárodnú rozvojovú spoluprácu (SAMRS). Budú riadiť projekty na Ukrajinu, najmä v oblasti energetiky," dodal. Potvrdil tiež pokračovanie v posilňovaní energetickej infraštruktúry, a to pre blížiacu sa zimu a vojnu na Ukrajinu.

Ukrajinská vicepremiérka ocenila slovenskú podporu a pomoc Ukrajinu. Zasadanie podľa nej definovalo ako kľúčové oblasti výhodné pre obidva štáty energetiku, dopravu, infraštruktúru a poľnohospodárstvo. Súčasťou rokovania bolo aj rozšírenie a modernizácia hraničného priechodu Vyšné Nemecké - Užhorod.

# Sole Mates Across the Americas



Join the FCSU Sock Monkey Troop to help the homeless in your local communities.

## Pair up with the FCSU to help stomp out cold, wet feet this winter!

Throughout the months of October through December, the FCSU is asking members across the US and Canada to become Soul Mates to the homeless.

Join the FCSU Sock Monkey Troop by collecting pairs of new athletic socks -- which are the most "in demand" items at homeless shelters.

This community service project may be conducted at the Branch or District level. It is totally up to you!

### Here are the easy steps to take --

- **SELECT** a faith-based charitable partner of your choosing -- we recommend the Catholic Charities in your Diocese, your parish Ladies of Charity or St. Vincent DePaul, whichever is convenient for you. Let them know you are organizing a sock collection with all donations to remain in the local area.
- **CONTACT** your members to announce your Branch/District Sock Collection.
- **ENLIST** the help of our youngest members, as this is a wonderful community service project for school-aged children.
- **PROMOTE** collection date(s) and drop off location(s) via email, phone calls, Facebook, etc. We have an easy to fill-in email announcement for you to use.
- **REQUEST** sock donations from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.
- **GATHER** all donations at your Branch/District Meeting, Christmas Party, or designated location and coordinate delivery to your local Charity Partner. Target date is the first week of December.
- **INCLUDE** Christmas cards and notes of encouragement for the homeless.
- **REPORT** the total number of pairs collected by your Branch/District and where they were donated. Be sure to include photos! Email to Fraternal Activities Director, Joanne Fibbi at jfibbi@fcsu.com

We invite all members of the FCSU to come together with open hearts for the good of those less fortunate.

# Let's Sock-It-To-Em!

## Branch 200 Answers the Call



Branch 200 and three other Social Clubs collected needed items to take to North Carolina. A member's brother lives in the area of devastation & requested help from his friends in Ford City, PA. These are pictures of members bringing items out to the truck to be loaded.

Submitted by Vicki Schaub



## Where's Chewy Contest Winner!

Congratulations to Claire Sage (Branch 38) who won our "Where's Chewy" contest! She searched for Chewy through three issues of the Jednota and found him each time! Chewy came along with an adoption certificate and a Lego set. Thanks to Claire and all the others who played along!

## Longtime District 2 President John Jurcenko Retires

Submitted by Tim Graves, Regional Director

To thank him for his service, newly elected President Paul Chismar presents John Jurcenko with a crystal plaque from the District expressing gratitude for his many years of dedication as President of the Reverend John J. Spitkovsky District. He was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a hand carved cross from Slovakia. This was given on behalf of Rev. Thomas Nasta and the Board of Directors of the FCSU for his unwavering commitment to the society. As one of his last official acts, John looked on as the newly elected officers are sworn in.



## Thank You For All Your Years of Fraternalism

## Jingle, Mingle, Mix & Mingle

You're Invited to the  
Branch 2 Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 14  
11:30am - 2:00pm

"Cabin"  
Avonworth Community Park  
498 Camp Horne Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA

RSVP by Nov. 30 to:  
lindaco243@gmail.com

FOOD & FUN  
FOR ALL AGES



# FCSU Search-A-Word

# NOVEMBER Word List



- ALL SAINTS DAY**
- TURKEY**
- THANKSGIVING**
- BLACK FRIDAY**
- FOGGY**
- SQUASH**
- OHEŇ (Fire)**
- HOSTINA (Feast)**
- KUKURICA (Corn)**
- VETERÁN (Veteran)**
- NOVEMBER (November)**
- ĎAKUJEM (Thank you)**

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

F G B G N I V I G S K N A H T  
 Y H V C X C V B G H I Y G R J  
 A J W S T C V G H J I K L O I  
 D K A S Y A D I R F K C A L B  
 S L F D A C I R U K U K B C L  
 T O H D F H N E R E W Q G X Y  
 N O S B G D B B F N F Y F N G  
 I D A C H S V M X E G E Y W G  
 A F U N I K C E Z H H K T D O  
 S G Q W I H G V B O J R I C F  
 L H S E R T T O V L K U P O H  
 L N N B C V S N A R E T E V J  
 A Q W E R R T O Z X C V B N M  
 O M E J U K A D H S F Y I U H

## Search-A-Word Rules

**Five monthly winners will receive \$50!**

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. One entry per member! Complete the puzzle and email it along with your name, address, email and branch number to contest@fcsu.com. Or mail puzzle and form to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

November entries must be received by December 27, 2024.  
 Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

## September Puzzle Winners

- Michele MacMath (Branch 290)
- Phoebe Nixon (Branch 213)
- Judith Pecenak (Branch 96)
- Donna Schwer (Branch 290)
- Andrea Szczypinski (Branch 628)

**Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!**



## Chewy's Corner

Hi friends, it's Chewy! It's November and we are almost at the end of the year (rok). What do you like about this month? I can't wait until Thanksgiving (vdakyvzdanie)! I will have a few days off from school (škola) and I can't wait to see some of my family (rodina). I will also get to eat a huge meal (jedlo)!

Even though they are not supposed to, some of my humans feed me lots of food during the holidays. My favorite is turkey (moriak), mashed potatoes (zemiakové pyrè) and stuffing. It is really special if I get some pumpkin pie! I hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family.

What are some of your traditions (tradicie)? Do you watch the parade (prehliadka) or football (americký futbal) or movies (film)? Do you play board games (stolová hra) or cards (karty)? Do you pull on the bone to see who gets their wish (pranie)? Those are all great things! I like to take long naps (zdriemnunie). This time of the year reminds us to be thankful for our blessings (požehnanie). Tell your mom or dad something you love about them. Tell your brother or sister one nice thing they do for you. Think about things that make you happy (šťastný) and share some of your thoughts.

Inside this issue of the newspaper, you will find a coloring contest. I hope you will color one of the pictures and send it in for me to see! We have so many talented members. We will choose winners (výherca) for each age group in each region. That gives you a great chance to win and have your picture in the newspaper. I can't wait to see them!

I hope you have a very happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to catching up next month!

Your friend, Chewy (ČUVAČ)

*So little can protect so much...*



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**\$27.50**  
annual payment  
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December 31, 2024

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- Fun youth activities



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# 46th Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey

Once again, a day of Slovak festivities was enjoyed at the 46th Slovak Heritage Festival. Even with an early morning drizzle, many people from all over the country enjoyed a day filled with Slovak culture, performances, and delicious Slovak foods. This annual Festival is the largest Slovak Festival in the United States and was held on September 29th, 2024 at The Middlesex County Fairgrounds in East Brunswick, NJ.

The program, moderated by Katarina Vizina, commenced with an introduction by the President of the Slovak Heritage Festival, Marek Šoltis. Also addressing the audience was Martina Šimkovičová, the Minister of Slovak Culture from the Slovak Republic. Joining in attending the Festival were many representatives from our Slovak Fraternal Organizations including FCSU Executive Secretary Kevin Collins (Branch 112), FCSU Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados (Branch 746), and Nina Holy, Honorary Co-Chairperson (Branch 716) as well as members from Jednota Region 1.

The day began with a Greek Catholic Mass. The program began with beautifully choreographed performances by our Slovak youth with performances by Lipka Academy of Linden NJ, Comenium Philadelphia, Vladko & Niki Štefanikovci from PA and Limboračik Folk Ensemble of NY. Also gracing the stage this year were our visitors from Slovakia with lively and entertaining performances by the Slovak Folk Ensemble Vagonar Poprad and brilliant performances by Monika Kandračová and Ondrej Kandrač. Ending the program was the amazing Lukaš Adamec! Many attendees were singing and dancing along to all of these outstanding performers!

Vendors displayed their beautiful kroje, designs and unique Slovak products. Many food vendors made delicious homemade Slovak cuisine including traditional bryndzove halušky, grilled klobasa, nut rolls, poppy seed cakes and more.

The 46th Slovak Heritage Festival was made possible by the support of the Urad pre Slovakov Žijucich v Zahraniči (USZZ) and by private donations. The Slovak Heritage Festival operates as a non-profit organization. The Committee, consisting of Marek Šoltis-President, Jane Holy Konzelmann-Vice President (Branch 716), Zuzana Barlikova-Secretary, Hanka Dzadikova Sherry - Program & Vendors Coordinator, Gabriel Kovač-Treasurer, Daniel Charvat-Festival Design and Janka Charvat-Marketing Coordinator wish to thank all who attended and supported the Festival!

Please Save The Date for next year's 47th Slovak Heritage Festival which will be held at Middlesex County Fairgrounds in East Brunswick, NJ on Sunday, September 21st, 2025.

*Submitted by Jane Konzelmann, Slovak Heritage Festival Vice President and Branch 716 member*



*St. Paul Cathedral Parish "Vilija" Dinner*  
*Sunday, December 8, 2024*

**Join us for a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner celebration at the St. Rosalia Social Hall**  
**411 Greenfield Ave • Pittsburgh, PA**

Adults: \$25 each  
 Kids (5-10): \$10 each • Kids (4 and under): Free

Submit payment no later than Saturday, November 30th, to reserve your tickets. Make checks payable to St. Paul Cathedral and mail to: Sue Ondrejco, 234 Ilion St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207

**Dinner will be served at 4 PM. Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets early! All seats will be reserved.**

*Štedrý Večer*  
*A Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner*

Sunday, December 1, 2024  
 Christ Our Shepherd Center • Greensburg, PA  
 Sponsored by District 3

<b>Schedule:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>
2:00 pm - Mass	\$35.00 ages 12 and up
3:30 pm - Advent & Pageant	\$10.00 ages 6 to 11
4:30 pm - Dinner	Children 5 and under free

A limited number of tickets are available. Do not delay ordering your tickets. Reservations are taken on a first come first served basis and MUST be made by November 18, 2024 by calling Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712.

# Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, September 14, 2024 Home Office

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 3:45pm and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending:

- Kenneth A. Arendt National President
- Damian Nasta National Vice President
- Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary
- John Tokarsky Treasurer
- James Marmol Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 16, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**

*Annuity Rates:*

The President led a discussion on the current annuity rates. The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

*Investment Updates*

The President and the Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee Meeting on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. The Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

*Financial Report*

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2024 and answered the Committee's questions.

*Portfolio Review*

The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the

Committee's questions. The President stated he will invite representatives from MAI, UBS and Clutterbuck to attend a future Executive Meeting to review our investment portfolios.

*Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages*

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of August for the Committee's review and answered their questions. The President led a discussion regarding new mortgage investments and answered the Committee's questions. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the new mortgage investments as presented. Motion carried.

*Monthly Disbursements*

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of August:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 300,895.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 33,338.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

The President led a review of our FHLB advances and their current rates for possible future advancements.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The President and Executive Secretary led an overview of our current and new sales program.

The Home Office is working with our outside marketing firm on a marketing program to recruit independent agents. The President stated we are in the final stages of getting licensed in 10 additional states to improve our marketing base and recruit new agents. We are also working on a marketing program to recruit new agents in the new states.

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the TV ads running on Fox 8 and stated they will be doing a second taping. We are getting a good response.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi presented a report on fraternal activities and gave an update on the upcoming fraternal activities at the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting. The President stated that there will be a Fall Festival on October 5 at Simmons Farm in McMurray, PA. All fraternal activities will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt  
President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins  
Executive Secretary, COO

## Loser's Pool Results

Thank you to everyone who entered the 2024-25 Loser's Pool. Congratulations to Kelly Shedlock on being the overall winner. She won the event in week eight. There was a six-way tie for third place.

1st Place	Kelly Shedlock.....	\$750.....	Region 6
2nd Place	Matthew Grish.....	\$500.....	Region 5
3rd Place	Jean Korhely.....	\$41.66.....	Region 6
	Dolores Kocis.....	\$41.66.....	Region 4
	Gary Kapitan.....	\$41.66.....	Region 1
	Mary Dubber.....	\$41.66.....	Region 6
	Susan Moynihan.....	\$41.66.....	Region 6
	Joseph Wojnar.....	\$41.66.....	Region 5



The total number of players was 161. Following is the summary of elimination. Week 1 (69 eliminated); Week 2 (64 eliminated); Week 3 (19 eliminated); Week 4 (1 eliminated); Week 5 (6 eliminated); Week 6 (0 eliminated); Week 7 (0 eliminated); and Week 8 (1 eliminated).

## 2025 JEDNOTA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**COPY DEADLINE:**

**ISSUE DATE:**

Monday, January 6.....	Wednesday, January 15
Monday, February 3.....	Wednesday, February 12
Monday, March 3.....	Wednesday, March 12
Monday, March 31.....	Wednesday, April 9
Monday, May 5.....	Wednesday, May 14
Monday, June 2.....	Wednesday, June 11
Monday, June 30.....	Wednesday, July 9
Monday, August 4.....	Wednesday, August 13
Tuesday, September 2.....	Wednesday, September 10
Monday, September 29.....	Wednesday, October 8
Monday, November 3.....	Wednesday, November 12
Monday, December 1.....	Wednesday, December 10

# Christmas SPECIAL



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