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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



From the Home Office Staff

Message From The President

As we joyfully prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I extend my heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a blessed and peaceful Christmas season. May the hope, peace, and light of Christ fill your homes, and may the spirit of faith, fraternity, and our heritage continue to unite and strengthen us as one family.

This past year has been a time of dedication and perseverance for our Society. Through your continued support, we have maintained our mission of service—caring for our members, supporting our communities, and providing financial security through our life insurance and annuity products. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for the fraternal spirit you share each day.

As Christmas approaches, many families are thinking about gifts for the children in their lives. In today's world, we often see children receiving more toys than they can fully appreciate—gifts that bring joy for a moment but are quickly forgotten. This year, I encourage you to consider a more lasting and impactful gift: investing in their future.

Opening an annuity, a JEP policy, or a Coverdell Education Savings Account makes a wonderful Christmas present for a child or grandchild. These accounts grow with them and can be added to on special occasions such as birthdays, First Communion, confirmations, and graduations. Beyond financial growth, these young members may one day qualify for one of our many FCSU Scholarships—another powerful way we support education and opportunity within our fraternal family.

I am pleased to share that our FCSU Scholarship applications are now available. These scholarships assist students attending



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Continued on Page 4

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

VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

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.

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

Of the two evangelists that tell the story of the birth of Jesus, Luke goes into more detail than Matthew. Luke is the one who tells us that after Jesus was born, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger.

Many of us, of course, know that a manger was a feeding trough for animals. On a side note, the word "manger" comes from the Latin "maducare," meaning, "to eat." "Manducare" is also the source of the Italian word "mangia," "eat."

Many interpret Luke's telling of the newborn Jesus being placed in a manger as the evangelist foreshadowing Jesus' special connection with and love for the poor, a major theme in his gospel. While true, there are also deeper spiritual and theological messages at work.

How ironic it is for the newborn Jesus, who would later offer his own flesh and blood for people to eat and drink, to be placed where animals would get their nourishment.

Not only that, but many mangers in contemporary Christmas creches are made of wood. Wood in biblical times was scarce and expensive. Wood most very likely would not have been used to create something to feed animals. Instead, mangers were more often carved out of a stone wall.

The Hebrew Scriptures mention several times of the people of Israel offering sacrifices to God on altars built of stone. How ironic it is that the newborn Jesus, the Lamb of God, would be laid upon a stone, a foreshadowing of his sacrificial death.

When you go to church during the Christmas season, look at the image of the newborn Christ laying in a manger. See him who promised to feed us with his Body and Blood. See him who would offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for our salvation. God bless you and your families now and throughout the New Year. You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses. Merry Christmas!



Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain

SS. Cyril and Methodius March Appeal

Thank you everyone who supported the 2025 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. It is with great pleasure to announce that 176 donors gave a combined total of \$23,243 to the 2025 Appeal. Here is a breakdown of donors and the amount given:

Table with 2 columns: Donor Category and Amount. Includes Parish Collections (\$3,862.40), Slovak Fraternal Organizations (\$9,862.00), Clergy and Religious of Slovak Heritage (\$2,425.60), and Individual Donations (\$7,315.00).

A direct mailing for the 2026 Appeal will be sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Your support is needed each year because money collected in the Appeal goes to help pay for the operating costs of the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2026 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 mailing 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, 2026 will be credited toward the 2027 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

48th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____
Amount \$ _____
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... ISSUE DEADLINES: JANUARY 2026 ISSUE COPY DATE - MONDAY, JANUARY 5 ISSUE DATE - MONDAY, JANUARY 14 FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE COPY DATE - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 ISSUE DATE - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Message from the Executive Secretary

Where Has The 2025 Year Gone?

As the festive holiday season approaches, so comes the warmth and joy of the birth of our Savior Jesus, on Christmas Day.

Vianoce holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for Slovaks.

Our Christmas season is strongly focused on family, traditional food, and unique customs.

Hopefully this holiday season you will be able to attend a Vilija with your fellow members and share our culture.

This is also a great opportunity to strength your connection with FCSU and to continue supporting one another.

The Vilija's also play a crucial role in providing a sense of community and helps preserve and share our Slovak culture with our younger members.

Our history, traditions, and the unbreakable bonds of our fraternal community is what defines the FCSU organization and its members.

Keeping these holiday traditions alive, reinforces the fraternal spirit that is central to our existence.

Prajem Všetkým Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

Join Us for our Next Virtual Call:

Tuesday, December 16 • 12pm (EST)

Visit our website at

fcsu.com/about/newsroom/

or scan the QR code to get the Zoom link.



The Home Office Will be Closed December 24th & 25th and January 1st to celebrate the holidays.

BRANCH TIPEND CHECKLIST

- Conduct at least 2 Branch meetings per year (1 of the meetings must be announced as an election of officers)
- Send meeting announcements 30-days prior to meeting to be published online and in newspaper
- Submit an Annual Report to the Executive Secretary by February 15th, 2026 (Include Financial Report, Meeting Attendance Sheets, Branch Officer Directory with reported fraternal activities and minutes of the meetings)
- Send 1 Branch representative to attend at least 1 District meeting
- Be in good standing with your District by paying current fiscal and outstanding dues

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT FORMS
DUE BY FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER 2025

- 12/13** Branch 764 - Meeting (Election), Warren, OH (RSVP)
- 12/13** District 15 - Mass, San Bernadino, CA
- 12/14** Branch 60 - Meeting (Election), West Homestead, PA
- 12/14** Branch 112 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)
- 12/14** Branch 213 - Meeting (Election), Pittsburgh, PA
- 12/14** Branch 393 - Meeting (Election), Greensburg, PA (RSVP)
- 12/14** Branch 553 - Vilija Dinner, Akron, OH
- 12/14** Branch 746 - Lipka Academy Christmas Show, Linden, NJ
- 12/14** Branch 785 - Meeting (Election), Mississauga, ON (RSVP)
- 12/14** Branch 857 - Meeting (Election), Penn del, PA
- 12/14** District 16 - Vilija, New York, NY
- 12/14** District 19 - Meeting (Election), Mississauga, ON (RSVP)
- 12/15** Branch 228 - Meeting (Election), Lorain, OH
- 12/16** Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm
- 12/17** Branch 38 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)
- 12/20** Branch 628 - Meeting (Election), Penn Hills, PA
- 12/21** Branch 746 - Meeting and Christmas Lunch (Election), Clark, NJ (RSVP by 12/14)
- 12/24** Christmas Eve - Home Office Closed
- 12/25** Christmas Day - Home Office Closed
- 12/28** Branch 55 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)

JANUARY 2026

- 1/1** New Years Day - Home Office Closed
- 1/2** Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 1/4** Branch 24 - CLE Sports Watch Party, North Olmsted, OH (RSVP by 12/23)
- 1/4** Branch 40 - Meeting (Election), Streator, IL (RSVP by 1/2)
- 1/4** Branch 55 - Vilija, Philadelphia, PA
- 1/4** Branch 855 - CLE Sports Watch Party, North Olmsted, OH (RSVP by 12/23)
- 1/10** Branch 553 - Chardon Polka Band, Akron, OH (RSVP by 1/7)
- 1/11** Branch 254 - Meeting (Election), Mt. Lebanon, PA (RSVP)
- 1/17** Branch 166 - Meeting (Election), Johnson City, NY
- 1/18** Branch 45 - Meeting, New York, NY
- 1/21** Branch 682 - Meeting (Election), Struthers, OH
- 1/25** District 1 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)

FEBRUARY 2026

- 2/5** Branch 200 - Meeting (Election), Ford City, PA
- 2/6** Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 2/11** Branch 259 - Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 2/15** Branch 23 - Meeting (Election), Johnstown, PA
- 2/15** Branch 89 - Meeting (Election), Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP by 1/31)
- 2/16** Presidents Day - Home Office Closed
- 2/21** Branch 320 - Meeting (Election), Belle Vernon, PA (RSVP by 2/11)
- 2/21** Branch 855 - Meeting (Election), Middleburg Hts., OH (RSVP by 2/15)
- 2/22** Branch 553 - Meeting (Election), Akron, OH
- 2/22** Branch 716 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY

For more information, go to the Branch and District Announcement pages or visit our website at fcsu.com.

Message from the President, *Continued from Page 1*

Catholic grade schools and high schools, as well as those enrolled in college, graduate programs, and vocational schools. I encourage all eligible members to apply and take advantage of this important benefit.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a significant year for us. In June, we will gather for our 53rd Quadrennial Convention, an important moment to set our course for the next four years. Preparations are well underway, and in the coming months, we will continue to work diligently to finalize every detail to ensure a productive and inspiring convention.

The Election of Delegates has begun and will continue into the new year. I encourage all members to stay informed and engaged in this important process. Please visit our website regularly for the latest updates and announcements regarding convention planning and delegate elections.

December is designated as National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month. The holiday season increases the risk of identity theft due to more online shopping and financial activity. It serves as a reminder for consumers and businesses to take extra precautions to protect their personal and financial information from scams and cyber criminals. A few years ago, I personally experienced identity theft. While it was a challenging experience, it reminded me of the importance of vigilance and preparedness—a story I share in more detail on this page.

On behalf of my wife Theresa, the Board of Directors, and the Home Office staff, we wish you a joyous Christmas and a new year filled with peace, health, and renewed hope. May we continue to live our mission of service, fraternity, and stewardship in the year ahead.

National Vice President's Christmas Greeting

A little while ago, I was shopping at the local membership store, and not that far from the entrance, I saw a very large display of Christmas trees and decorations. This sounds normal for this time of year; however, it was September. The weather was still warm, and most of the leaves on the trees hadn't turned colors yet. I thought, "Isn't it a little early to be promoting the Christmas holiday?" While I doubt the store intended to get us into the Christmas spirit in September, it did make me stop and think that the end-of-year holidays are approaching quickly, and we have much to prepare for.

Perhaps it's decorating your home, purchasing gifts, planning a family gathering, or taking a trip to visit loved ones. Whatever it is, don't forget to prepare yourself for the birth of Jesus and remember to keep that Christmas spirit with you every day of your life. On behalf of my family, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Damian D. Nasta
National
Vice President

National Treasurer's Christmas Greeting

As the Christmas season draws near, we are reminded of the bonds that unite us—not only within our Society but also within our families and communities. This is a time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the blessings of fellowship, kindness, and shared purpose.

Christmas is more than lights and gifts; it is the spirit of generosity, compassion, and hope that shines through our actions. In our branches and in our homes, may we continue to extend a hand of friendship, support those in need, and strengthen the ties that make our Society a true family.

On behalf of my family, I extend to you and yours heartfelt wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with peace, laughter, and cherished memories. May the New Year bring renewed strength, prosperity, and opportunities to serve together in harmony.

Veselé Vianoce,
John Tokarsky, National Treasurer



John V. Tokarsky
National
Treasurer

Stay Vigilant: My Journey Through Identity Theft and What I Learned

Submitted by Ken Arendt, FCSU President, CEO

Several years ago, I faced a personal challenge that many individuals and families encounter: I became a victim of identity theft. The experience was unsettling, but it strengthened my awareness of the need for vigilance and protection in today's digital world. I share this not just as your President, but as someone who has experienced this disruption firsthand.

December is National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month, and I hope my story can offer guidance to help you avoid similar difficulties. Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the U.S., and recovering from it can be frustrating and time-consuming. Acting quickly, staying organized, and remaining vigilant are crucial. Below, I'll share what I learned and the steps you can take if this ever happens to you.

File a Police Report

Start by contacting your local police department and filing a report. This official documentation is essential for proving the theft and will be required by many agencies during your recovery process. Be sure to get the police report number, as you'll need to reference it in future communications.

Contact Your Financial Institutions

Notify all your credit card companies, banks, and any lenders immediately. Request that affected accounts be frozen, closed, or reissued. Monitor all transactions for suspicious activity and consider enrolling in fraud monitoring services.

Inform Your Employer

Let your employer know that you've been a victim. This is especially important if your Social Security number or employment credentials were compromised. Thieves can attempt to commit employment fraud or access retirement benefits using your information.

Notify the Secretary of State and State Tax Department

In many states, identity thieves use stolen information to create fake business registrations or commit tax fraud. Contact your Secretary of State's office and your state's department of taxation to flag your identity and prevent unauthorized filings.

Alert the IRS

If you suspect tax-related identity theft, contact the IRS as soon as possible. The IRS may place a fraud alert on your account and issue you an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)—a unique 6-digit number you must use when filing future tax returns to confirm your identity.

Place Fraud Alerts and Credit Freezes

Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file. This makes it harder for someone to open new accounts in your name. You may also consider placing a credit freeze, which restricts access to your credit report entirely.

Monitor and Protect Your Identity

Once you've taken the immediate steps, remain vigilant. Check your credit reports regularly (you can get a free report each year from each bureau at www.annualcreditreport.com) and watch for any unauthorized activity.

FCSU Financial takes cybersecurity and member privacy very seriously. We have robust safeguards in place to protect your data and we never sell your personal information to anyone. One of the most important protections is good communication.

We urge all members to ensure their contact information is current—including email, phone numbers, and mailing address—so we can reach you quickly in case of suspicious activity. Your safety is a shared responsibility, and we are here to help you stay protected.

Useful Resources:

- FTC Identity Theft Help: www.identitytheft.gov
- Annual Credit Reports: www.annualcreditreport.com
- Social Security Fraud Reporting: www.ssa.gov/fraud
- Equifax: www.equifax.com | 1-888-766-0008
- Experian: www.experian.com | 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion: www.transunion.com | 1-800-680-7289



N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

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| Park 2 Annuity <small>(2 years Guaranteed, not available in the state of NY)</small> | 4.00% APY |
| Single Premium Immediate Annuity (SPIA) | 4.00% APY |
| Park Free Plus <small>(1 year term Annuity or IRA, max deposit \$25,000 per person)</small> | 3.00% APY |

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Give Yourself a Gift This Season
Sign up by December 31, 2025

Year-End Reminder and Important Dates from the Annuity Department

As the year quickly comes to a close, please note the upcoming key dates for mailings:

- January 10, 2026: Annual Statements mailed
- January 31, 2026: IRS Form 1099 and RMD posted to the Member Portal and mailed to members
- May 31, 2026: IRS Form 5498 posted to the Member Portal and mailed to members

If you haven't yet set up a login to our Member Portal, please visit www.fcsu.com to create one. You'll gain anytime access to your Annuity, IRA, and ROTH balances.

Photo Gallery Available on FCSU Website Branch Pages

We know how much you enjoy sharing photos from your branch events! We are unable to include every photo submission in the Jednota newspaper, but we have a feature on the FCSU website to help showcase more of your activities.

Each individual branch page includes a photo gallery with space for up to nine images. When submitting photos for the newspaper, please indicate which ones you would prefer to have considered for publication. Any unused images may be added to your branch's online gallery for a limited time upon request.

Please remember that all photos must be of good quality to be used in the newspaper or on the website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Jednota editor at 800.533.6682 ext. 123.

See Photos below of Branch 855 Fall Meeting (November 23, 2025)

What are RMDs: Required Minimum Distributions?

Many FCSU members ask about Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). An RMD is the minimum amount of money you must withdraw annually from most tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as Traditional IRAs and 401(k)s, starting at age 73 (in 2030, the IRS will raise the age to 75). These withdrawals are generally taxable as ordinary income. Roth IRAs do not require RMDs for the original owner.

What FCSU Does for You:

FCSU will provide your 2026 RMD amount based on your account balance at the end of the previous year (December 31, 2025), but you are responsible for taking your RMD no later than the end of the current year (December 31, 2026).

How to Calculate an RMD:

Suppose you turn 73 in 2026, and your retirement account balance on December 31, 2025, is \$1,000,000. According to the Uniform Lifetime Table (Table III) from IRS Publication 590-B (2025), the distribution period for age 73 is 26.5. Your RMD for 2026 would be calculated as \$1,000,000 ÷ 26.5 = \$37,735.85.

$$\text{RMD} = \frac{\text{Account balance on December 31 of prior year}}{\text{Distribution period from Table III for your age}}$$

Options Provided by the FCSU RMD Form:

FCSU is required by the IRS to mail an RMD form by January 31, 2026. The form outlines your amount and provides the following options:

- Choose the month to take your RMD
- Direct deposit into your bank account
- Transfer the RMD in-house to your non-qualified FCSU annuity (taxable event)
- Set up automatic annual distributions

What to Do with Your RMD:

You can spend the money, reinvest it, or use it for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to a nonprofit organization.

Penalties for Missing an RMD:

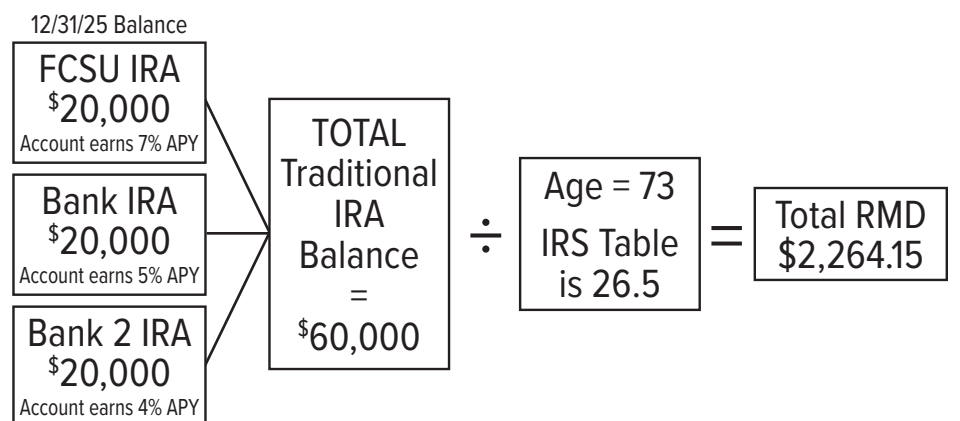
Failure to take an RMD can result in a 25% IRS penalty. If corrected within two years due to a reasonable error, the penalty may drop to 10%. Consult a tax advisor for guidance.

From Which Institution to Take Your RMD:

If you hold more than one contract with FCSU, you may combine your total RMDs and withdraw the amount from the account that earns the lowest interest. Ensure total RMDs across all Traditional IRAs are withdrawn.

If your FCSU IRA offers a competitive interest rate, you may prefer to keep your funds with us and take your RMD from another financial institution. Verify with the institution that taking a higher amount than their calculation will not result in penalties. FCSU can also transfer Traditional IRAs from other institutions to simplify RMD management.

SEE THE EXAMPLE BELOW:



Why Transfer Your Traditional IRA to FCSU:

RMD calculations and rules can be complex, depending on individual factors. It is always recommended to consult your tax advisor. Having your retirement funds in one place simplifies RMD management. Check interest rates with other institutions and consider transferring existing IRA accounts from other financial institutions to FCSU. Our team is committed to excellent customer service and helping you stay organized.

For assistance with your FCSU RMD or transferring accounts, contact us at 800.533.6682 or visit www.fcsu.com.



December Reflection

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

With great joy we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus to us on earth as a little Child. This is His ineffable (or marvelous) gift of Himself to us.

Little wonder that we are inspired to give and exchange gifts with one another! What is most important, however, is how we receive Jesus as our personal gift. He comes with utter abandonment and simply asks for our trust-- and to accept His love and generous mercy as Pilgrims of Hope.

Christ's very presence in our lives is our priceless pearl of spiritual splendor and shield of strength against evil. These gifts of His overflowing love for us are freely given to each of our lives. May we in turn feel called to be more grateful and sensitive in sharing with persons we encounter daily our love and caring—until we come to eternal joy. As the lullaby chosen for this month of December reminds us in part, “What I have here on earth, all comes from You.”

SLEEP, MY DEAR JESUS (Usní, Můj Ježíšku)

1. Sleep, my dear Jesus, my pearl of pure gold,
Heavenly Infant, God's Son now behold.

Chorus:

- Sleep on, dear precious Child,
Little One, take Your rest, sweetly sleep on.
2. Gently I cradle You, Jesus my love,
Lovingly marvel, You come from above.
 3. What I have here on earth, all comes from You.
After my life is done, take me with You.
 4. May I rejoice with the angels in song,
Praising Your Love as our joy You prolong.

USNĚ, MŮJ JEŽÍŠKU

1. Usni, můj Ježíšku, Perla zlatá, z trónu nebeského Otca vzatá.

SBOR:

- Bůvaj, Jezuliatko, Malé
Pacholiatko, Bůvaj, bůvaj!
2. Ja Teba kolimbám, můj Ježíšku, o Tebe rozjímam, že ležíš tu.
 3. Čo tu mám na zemi, mám od Teba, po smrti ma prijmi tiež do neba.
 4. Nech s Tebou prebývam večne v nebi, nech duch môj s anjelmi Ťa velebí.

The melody for the chosen December hymn is similar to “Radostou Oplývam”.

Insights and Viewpoints

Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

The Nativity of the Lord (Mass During The Night)

Isaiah 9; 1 – 6, Gospel Luke 2; 1 – 14

The reading from Isaiah begins with, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” This is a powerful image that describes the world before the birth of Christ and the transformation that began with his birth. Light is very much involved in the birth of Christ and Christmas. From the “glory of the Lord,” that shone around the shepherds, to the Star of Bethlehem that led the Magi to Christ, light seems to be breaking forth with the birth of Jesus. Lights on Christmas trees, in and on houses, lawn displays, and lights on Main Streets and town squares all point to Jesus, the Light of the World. There are many voices that call these lights “holiday decorations” and claim they have no religious significance, but, as it says elsewhere in the Gospels, you don't hide a light under a bushel basket. There would be no holiday if there hadn't been the holy day of Jesus' birth.

In the midst of the busyness that has become more and more a part of Christmas, it is important for us not to lose sight of what we are doing. We might wish people, “Merry Christmas,” and put “Christmas Lights” on our houses, and even send “Christmas Cards”, but be careful not to get this holy day out of focus. Let us not trivialize the beautiful Gospels that we hear on Christmas that speak to us of the birth in the little town of Bethlehem, in a manger in a stable, and the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

The Wonder of Christmas

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

The Christmas season is a wondrous time of year, and it is fitting that so much festive tradition has grown around our celebration of the birth of Christ. G.K. Chesterton once wrote a delightful essay about Santa Claus in which he explained that advancing years did nothing to diminish his belief.

In his essay, Chesterton writes: “Once I thought it delightful and astonishing to find a present so big that it only went halfway into the stocking. Now I am delighted and astonished every morning to find a present so big that it takes two stockings to hold it, and then leaves a great deal outside; it is the large and preposterous present of myself, as to the origin of which I can afford no suggestion except that Santa Claus gave it to me in a fit of peculiarly fantastic goodwill.”

In his delightful take on belief in Santa Claus, G.K. Chesterton demonstrates how the human imagination can lead us to faith in all that is good and true. He shows how cultivating a sense of faith at Christmastime awakens us to the gifts of God's creation. The wonder that awakens in our hearts and our imaginations at Christmas stems from gratitude—and wonder also cultivates gratitude.

In the film “It's a Wonderful Life,” Jimmy Stewart's character George Bailey experiences a crisis of faith when he loses sight of the tremendous blessings of his life. He loses sight of the gift of himself, as Chesterton so colorfully describes himself bursting out of a Christmas stocking. It's George Bailey's realization of God's gifts that opens his heart to the miraculous at work in his life, gleefully celebrating the angel Clarence getting his wings in the ringing of a Christmas bell at the end of the story.

Faith in the possibility of such miraculous events is not misplaced but merely a tiny foretaste of the miracles God has in store for those who make leaps of faith in their lives. So we can see how the magic of Christmastime can lead to our hearts leaping for joy throughout the year for the miracles of life itself.

The film “Miracle on 34th Street” playfully tackles issues of human doubt through the angst of a girl struggling to believe in Santa Claus. We see what a weight is lifted when those in her life help her to move beyond doubt into a spirit of belief. It's a story that shows how the wonder of Christmas flows around the hopes and dreams of childhood but ultimately affects everyone.

These stories awaken us to the spark kindled in the human heart by the Christmas spirit. We can never have too much awe over the tremendous gift of Christ's birth. It is so astounding that it requires the exercise of the imagination to allow ourselves to be properly moved by its reality.

So let's never hesitate to embrace all the wonder attached to this time of year because the Christmas spirit can help us to grow in faith, hope, and love for one another. As we gather together with friends and family, let's share our hopes and dreams and inspire each other to believe that God can touch our hearts and make all good things possible in our lives. It has happened already in the birth of our Savior. All that is needed to kindle the spark of that gift in our hearts is to believe.

Christmas is the day that begins the season for us to remember and celebrate how loved we are by God. It is sometimes difficult to accept the fact that we are loved unconditionally by God, but this is precisely what we celebrate, the total and complete, no-strings-attached love God has for us. The best way to begin our celebration of Christmas is to open our hearts to this great love. God does not withhold his love from us, however, we can have attitudes of inadequacy, self-hatred, shame, and so on, that prevent us from experiencing the love of God being poured out on us. Begin celebrating Christmas by removing anything in our lives that stands in the way of our being able to accept this love.

In his First letter, John writes, “We love because God first loved us.” (1 Jn 4:19) When we accept God's love we allow it to change our hearts so that we can truly love God. Thank the Father for his love, and for sending us his son, and blessing us with the Holy Spirit. Let prayers, both formal and spontaneous, come from our hearts. When we visit the crèche, take time to thank Jesus for humbling himself to become one of us, and tell him how much we love him.

This renewed awareness, and hopefully experience, of God's love for us and our love for God deepens our relationship with God. The Mass becomes more than something we have become accustomed to attending, but rather a mystery of God's love and presence that we enter into.

This will hopefully lead us to rediscover that that same unconditional love for us, is being poured out upon everyone. We can welcome the presence of Jesus by sharing the unconditional love given to us with all those around us. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. May his light shine brightly within us, and may it shine forth from us.

FCSU SCHOLAR *Spotlight*

TERESA ZENTKO

Slovak Pride Drives Success in Soccer and Academics

Teresa Zentko was recently named one of 20 recipients of the Stephen C. Matula Scholarship. Teresa has distinguished herself both on and off the soccer field, demonstrating a strong commitment to her heritage, academics, and community.

A resident of Mount Olive, New Jersey, Teresa is a neuroscience major at The George Washington University, where she also plays club soccer. In the spring of 2024, she had the extraordinary honor of representing Slovakia at an international level, playing with the Slovak Women's U-17 National Soccer Team during a training camp in Antalya, Turkiye. Over ten days, the team trained and played two friendlies against Turkiye, earning a 1-0 win and a 0-0 draw.

"I'll never forget the feeling when the final whistle blew after our victory," Teresa recalled. "The excitement and pride of celebrating a well-deserved win with my teammates is something that will forever be engraved in my memory."

Teresa's journey to the national team began years earlier on a much smaller field. She started playing soccer in second grade and went on to compete at the club level with the STA MOSC 2007 GA NAL team. With encouragement from her coach, she sent a highlight reel to the Slovak national team coach and, after obtaining dual citizenship, was selected for the February 2024 training camp. "It felt surreal to merge my lifelong passion for soccer with my Slovak heritage," she said. "I was proud to honor my parents and the generations before me."

Playing for the Slovak National Team was transformative. "The camp pushed me to test my limits while helping me grow as both a player and as an individual," Teresa said. Despite speaking Slovak fluently, forming friendships took time. But soccer became a universal language that bridged cultural gaps. "The friendships I made are as meaningful as the memories we shared on the pitch."

Teresa's connection to her heritage extends far beyond sports. Summers spent in Slovakia with her grandparents allowed her to learn traditional skills such as gardening, mixing herbal remedies, and baking Babkine koláče. "Those small but



meaningful moments gave me lessons I could not have learned anywhere else: how to be resourceful, think practically, and appreciate the beauty in simplicity," she reflected.

Her dedication to preserving Slovak language and culture is evident in her earning the Seal of Biliteracy, and her involvement in the Slovak Farmers Club and FCSU Branch 746, where she helps organize cultural events and supports younger members in learning Slovak traditions.

Teresa's Catholic faith also plays a central role in her life, teaching her values of patience, forgiveness, and service. She has served as an altar server and Sunday school teacher's assistant, experiences that shaped her understanding of leadership: showing up consistently, helping quietly, and leading by example.

These lessons extend to her school and community involvement. Teresa also acted as Vice President of her Class Council, organized community drives, and founded her school's chapter of The Empathy Equality Entrepreneurship Mission (TEEM). In that role, she led initiatives to support Ukrainian communities affected by war, raising funds to rebuild a primary school and provide winter supplies. "With Eastern European roots, I felt a personal responsibility to act," she said. "In times of crisis, we don't look away; we support one another."

Teresa has challenged herself academically, taking nine AP classes, earning both the AP Capstone Diploma and AP Scholar with Distinction, and joining seven honor societies. She has conducted original research on emotional memory in children and completed medical internships, with the goal of pursuing a career in neurology and working with organizations like Doctors Without Borders.

As Teresa continues to pursue her academic and athletic goals, she shares, "The education I pursue, the leadership roles I take on, and the communities I serve are all rooted in the values my Slovak heritage and Catholic faith instilled in me - gratitude, integrity, and compassion." Her story shows how dedication, leadership, and pride can help shape future leaders.



FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION... helps its young members succeed through education by awarding over \$200,000 in scholarships each year.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

- Applicants must have one of the following with FCSU for at **least three years** prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying:
 - A minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life)
 - A minimum of \$25,000 JEP policy (or new policy)
 - A minimum of \$1,000 of Juvenile Life Savings
 - A minimum of \$500 in an Annuity or Coverdell IRA
- APPLICANTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONCE IN EACH OF THE FIVE CATEGORIES.**
- All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Catholic Grade Schools (5-8) | \$500 |
| Catholic High Schools | \$1,000 |
| Vocational/Trade Schools | \$1,000 |
| Colleges | \$1,500 |
| Graduate Schools | \$1,500 |

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or downloaded from www.fcsu.com.

Mail to: FCSU Scholarship Program
6611 Rockside Road, #300
Independence, OH 44131

Email to: scholarship@fcsu.com



For more information call us at 800.533.6682 ext 114.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be made payable to the winners.

Applications must be received by March 13, 2026

Applications available at www.fcsu.com (www.fcsu.com/membership/scholarships)



Branch 855 Enjoys a Lunch Buffet and Musical Bingo

Submitted by Stephanie Sutila, Fraternal Activities Coordinator

Branch 855 (Cleveland, OH) was delighted to welcome over 30 members to their fall meeting held at Ruma's Deli. Guests enjoyed a private room featuring a mouthwatering buffet, including Chicken Marsala, steak, salmon, roasted potatoes, a vegetable medley, soup, and an array of delectable desserts.

The business portion of the meeting began with a warm welcome from FCSU Executive Secretary Kevin Collins. District 10 President Gregory Petrasek also shared his pride in Branch 855 and the wonderful events the branch organizes and supports. Branch President Barbara Sutila led the meeting, which included the election of officers. All officers agreed to continue in their positions for another year, and members expressed heartfelt appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

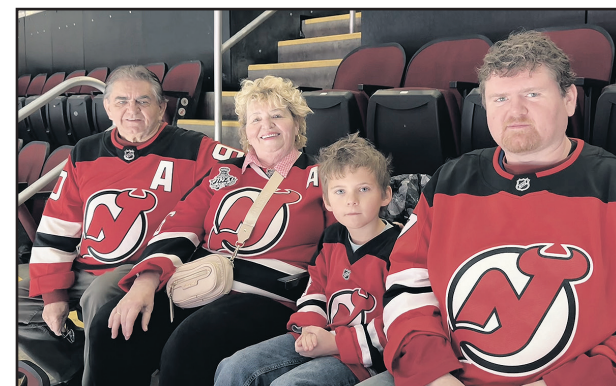
Following lunch, attendees were treated to a surprise guest disc jockey who hosted an hour of musical bingo. The selections, featuring hits from the 1950s and 1960s, had many members singing along. The game worked by playing a short snippet of a song, and participants checked their bingo cards to see if the song was listed on a square. Those lucky enough to call out "Bingo!" were invited to choose a prize from a table filled with gift cards, candles, poinsettias, local foods, and other goodies. In the spirit of giving, members also contributed canned goods for the Parma Hunger Center as part of our Fraternalism in Action project. A big thank you to everyone who attended this wonderful event. We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering!



"Checking" Out the Game

Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Sports Coordinator

St. Matthew's Branch 45 (New York, NY) attended an NHL game on Thursday, November 6, 2025 between New Jersey Devils and Montreal Canadiens at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. As wished by die-hard fans, the Devils pulled off a great win in overtime 4-3 against the Montreal Canadiens in dramatic fashion. It was definitely an intense game. To add to the great night, we were able to see two Slovak professional hockey players; Simon Nemecek from New Jersey Devils and Juraj Slavkovsky from Montreal Canadiens.



Joseph Jurasi, Maria Jurasi, Janik Vasil, and Jozef Jurasi watching the game in the stands.

Branch 853 Members Tour Cement City Homes

Submitted by Monica Boone, Branch 853 President

On October 18, 2025, Branch 853 (Charleroi, PA) members enjoyed a trip to the Smog Museum in Donora, PA, to hear a presentation and tour the Cement City houses. There are 80 of the century-old homes, which are now private residences. At the time the homes were built, they were promoted by Thomas Edison and are on the US National Register of Historic Places. Branch 853 also made an altruistic donation to the museum.



Monica and Ronald Boone, Charles Boone, Susan Painter and Michael Bertovich standing in front of the historic homes of Cement City.

FCSU Branch 746 Attends The Thorn at NJPAC

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Members of FCSU Branch 746 (Linden, NJ) enjoyed a meaningful evening on October 29, 2025 attending *The Thorn* at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. This powerful, live stage production often described as "Cirque meets The Passion of the Christ" brings the story of God's love and redemption to life through an unforgettable blend of live music, drama, aerial acrobatics, and modern dance. The performance portrays the spiritual battle between good and evil in a visually stunning and deeply emotional way, leaving the audience inspired and reflective.

Branch 746 members appreciated not only the beauty and artistry of the show but also the opportunity to come together in faith and fellowship, sharing an uplifting experience that strengthened their sense of community and spiritual connection.





CHARDON POLKA BAND

January 10, 2026
7:00 - 10:00 pm
\$20 per person

Slovak Food Provided
 Dinner @ 6:15; Band @ 7pm
 Reservations Required by January 7th

SLOVAK J CLUB
330-786-9972

Ensure you Receive the Latest Updates on your Policies and FCSU News

LET US KNOW IF YOU'VE HAD ANY CHANGES:
Address • Phone Number • Email • Marital Status
Death of a Loved One • Beneficiary Changes



Catholic Charities Honor Branch 320 Member

Mary Anne Higginbotham Branch 320 President

Joseph Tarquinio was honored as “Helping Hands of Justice Honoree” on October 9, 2025 at Gannon University in Erie, PA. Presently, Joseph serves as Spiritual Director of the Maria House Project.

The Helping Hands! Gala, held by Catholic Charities, honored Joseph’s dedication and commitment with the following program excerpt:



Joseph Tarquinio has dedicated his life to service and advocacy, embodying a profound commitment to those in need. Born in Monessen, PA, he pursued his education at Saint Mark Seminary and Gannon University, shaping a foundation of faith and compassion that guided his career. Over the years he has worked at Mount Carmel Elementary School and Harborcreek Youth Services, but he is most recognized for his invaluable contributions at Maria House Project.

As a long-time parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek, he has participated in parish life in different ways over the years, spending some time in the choir and also serving as a lector. As an active participant in Cursillo and in prison ministry, Joseph has profoundly impacted countless lives. With an unwavering passion for helping those facing mental health or addiction challenges or those imprisoned or finding their way after release from prison, his work continues to be an inspiration.

The most Reverend Lawrence T. Perisco, Bishop of Erie, formerly from Joseph’s hometown, Monessen, PA, Diocese of Pittsburgh, gave the opening prayer and remarks.

Traveling to Erie to represent FCSU from Branch 320 was Joseph’s cousin who bears the same name. Joseph is Vice President of Branch 320 and District 12 and (Aunt) Frances Tarquinio is Secretary Emeritus of District 12 and active Financial Secretary in Branch 320.

Both Joseph and Frances Tarquinio want to thank FCSU President Arendt and Branch 320 for their generosity relative to this event. Also, thanks to Jan Stork, Master of Ceremonies, and Erin Tubbs, Executive Director, of Catholic Charities for their remarks and assistance on this exciting occasion.

District 2 Celebrates 30 Years of Decorating the Slovak Christmas Tree

Submitted by Mark Fayta, Branch 706 President



The original Republic of Slovakia tree decorated in 1995!

For more than eight decades, the Griffin Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, IL has welcomed the holiday season with one of the city’s most beloved traditions—Christmas Around the World & Holidays of Light. The celebration began in 1942 when the museum president introduced a single Christmas tree that was redecorated each day for 12 days to honor the nations allied with the United States during World War II. What started as a simple gesture of unity and international goodwill has blossomed into a magnificent display of more than 55 Christmas trees, each representing the heritage, culture, and craftsmanship of nations from around the globe.

This year, District 2 proudly completed its 30th consecutive year of decorating the Slovak Christmas Tree. In 1995, as Slovakia emerged as an officially recognized country, George Machuda of District 2 petitioned the museum to include a Slovak tree in the international exhibit. His effort was successful, and District 2 was entrusted with representing Slovak heritage for the very first time. The inaugural decorating team brought together families whose dedication helped establish a now-beloved tradition. We’d like to thank Branch 706 (Dyer, IL) members Art and Barb Fayta (with their children and grandchildren), Ed and Shirley Uram (and family), Joe and Mary Bugel, Regional Director Andy and Marie Hrcar (and their grandchildren) and John, Marge and Bob Vrlík. These families filled the first tree with traditional Slovak ornaments—apples, nuts, cookies, candies, pine cones, and authentic flicker-flame candles. Those are items that are still used on the tree today.

On October 25th, the District 2 Decorating Committee completed work on the 2025 Slovak Christmas Tree—an 18-foot masterpiece standing proudly on its 18-inch base, the standard size shared by all 55 trees in the exhibit. For three decades, the decorating responsibilities have remained in the loving hands of Branch 706, the Fayta family, with support by additional volunteers. This year’s team includes:

- Mike and Judy Fayta, who have decorated the tree each year since 1995
- Their children: Chelsea (Fayta) Maloney, Alex Fayta, and Ayden Fayta (who began helping in 2005)
- Spouses: Ryan Maloney and Melanie (Andrews) Fayta
- And the next generation: Zoey Fayta and Ben Maloney, representing a proud fifth generation

Each year, the museum features a special exhibition. For 2025, it is “Marvel’s Spider-Man: Beyond Amazing.” District 2 delightfully incorporated this theme into the tree. Look up, and you’ll spot Spider-Man peeking from the top branches, with smaller ornaments showing him shooting snowflakes placed throughout the tree for children to discover.

Visitors will also find ornaments honoring famous Slovak inventors whose creations changed the world—the parachute, helicopter, GPS, and early radio—beautifully aligning with the museum’s focus on innovation. The tree also proudly showcases traditional heritage ornaments, handmade Shepherds’ Črpák mugs placed front and center for holiday cheer, and ornaments of Slovak-born NHL legends Stan Mikita and Marián Hossa, celebrating the Chicago Blackhawks’ upcoming 100th anniversary. You’ll also find a stunning cornhusk nativity scene crafted by Basilian nuns in Slovakia, nestled beneath the branches.

Decorating the Slovak Christmas Tree at the Griffin Museum is more than an annual task—it is a labor of love. District 2 is honored to represent Slovakia among the world’s cultures displayed in this iconic Chicago exhibition. For 30 years, our volunteers have worked to ensure the Slovak tree remains vibrant, meaningful, and true to its roots. As thousands of visitors admire the trees this season, we hope each person experiences the beauty, hospitality, and spirit of the Slovak people. The festival runs through January 5, 2026.



2025 Slovak Tree Decorators (with some professional help thank you Chapel Hill Florist from McHenry, IL)



Decorating the 18’ tree



The tribute to Stan Mikita ornament and plaque



Our fifth generation decorators

SEE THE ENTRY FORM ON PAGE 15 OF THIS ISSUE.

Coloring Pages may be printed
from www.fcsu.com/event/coloring-contest

Have Yourself a Merry & Colorful Christmas

We hope you will include the 2025 FCSU Christmas Coloring Contest among your family's holiday traditions this season. It is a wonderful, creative activity that lets you take a pause from the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, baking, and decorating. As in the past, we have four age groups for our children/youth members, with three age categories for adults. In keeping with the season of giving, we are generously awarding more prizes in the adult categories. This year, a first-place winner will be selected in each adult age group within the eight FCSU Regions.

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

- **Children and Youth Ages: 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, & 13-17.** Three winners will be chosen per age group within each Region. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are \$50, \$35, and \$25 respectively, with the possibility of 12 winners per region. (96 winners.)
- **Adult Ages: 18-39, 40-64, & 65+.** One winner will be chosen from each adult age group per region, with the possibility of three winners per region. (24 winners.) Each winner will receive a \$100 prize.

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.
4. Copies may be made for additional entries for your family. Pictures may also be printed from the FCSU website. 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, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
7. **Deadline: Entries must be received before January 10, 2026.**
Please mail early to ensure timely delivery.
8. Decisions from the independent judges will be final. Winners will be announced in the March 2026 issue of the Jednota.



SANTA'S HELPER - AGES 4-6



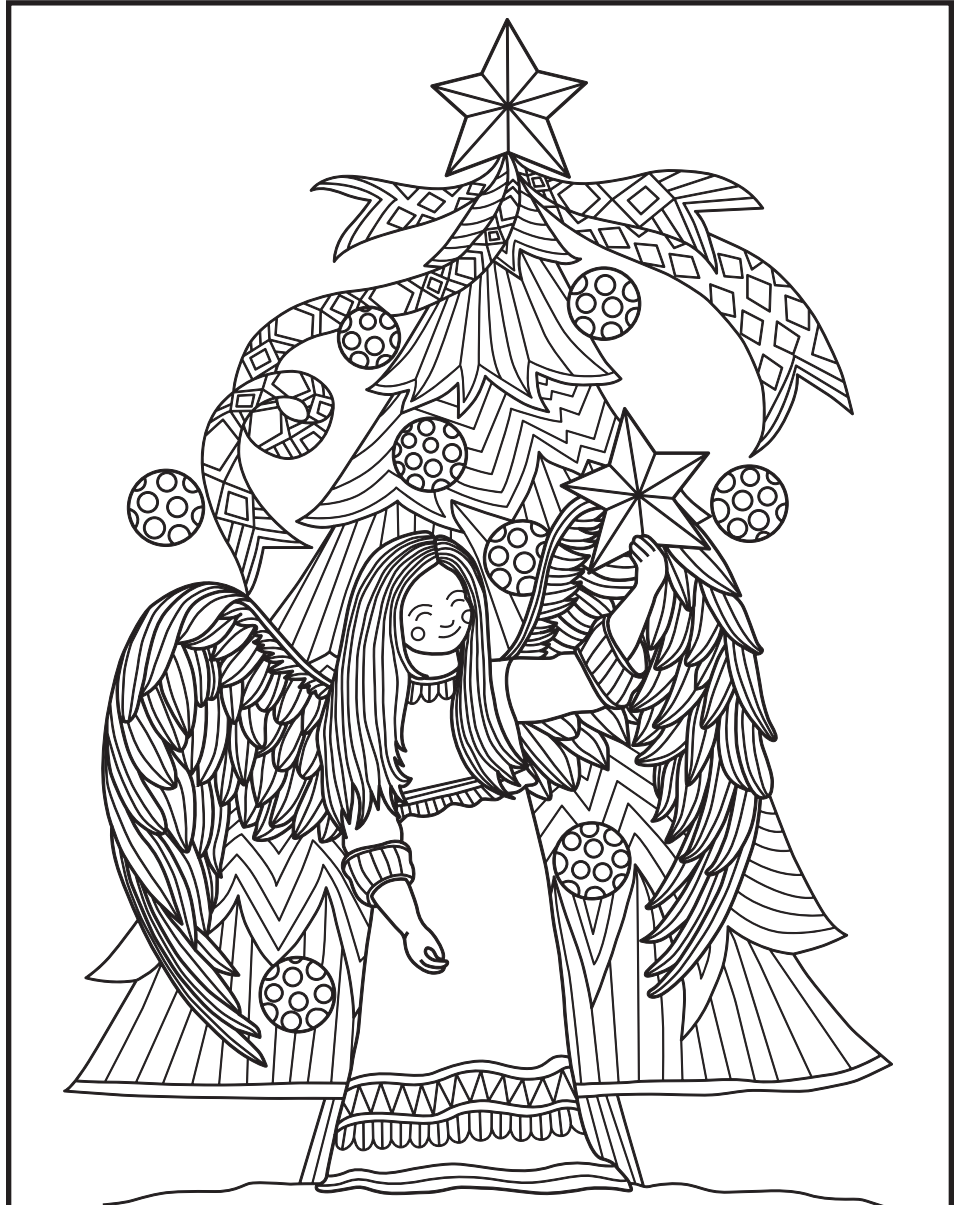
GUARDING THE GIFTS - AGES 7-9



CAROLING IN THE SNOW - AGES 10-12



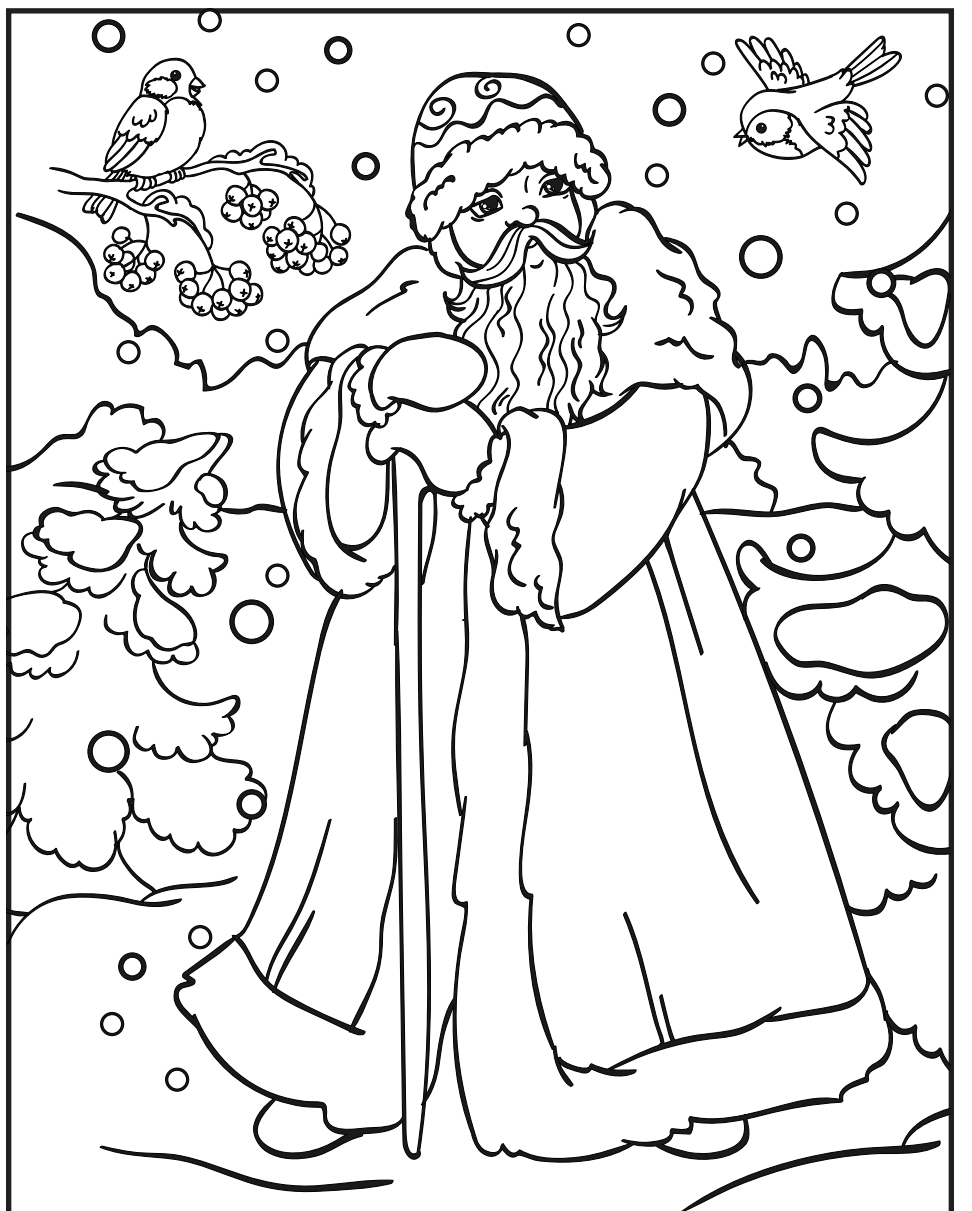
SANTA'S MISTLETOE KISS - AGES 13-17



CHRISTMAS ANGEL - AGES 18-39



TWO TURTLE DOVES - AGES 40-64



GOOD KING WENCESLAS - AGES 65+



(L-R) Anna Gaspar, Magda Vanco, Elena and Vlado Nigrovic, Anton Kucharovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Father Martin Kertys, Maria Bozekova, Anna Bilik, Peter Gaspar, Serafina Sulak, and Judy Glogovsky.

District 16 Prepares Turkey Lunch

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 held a Turkey Lunch after the Slovak mass on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 1pm at the rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City, which was voluntarily prepared by Peter Gaspar with his team. Members of St. Matthew the Evangelist Society (Branch 45, New York, NY) and St. Stephen the Martyr Society (Branch 716, New York, NY), along with guests were grateful and happy to spend time together within the Slovak community.



We are proud to extend our coverage of the amazing FIA projects recently completed! The Home Office will donate up to \$250 once per quarter to match your FIA donations and volunteer hours.

Branch 855 Takes a Bite Out of Hunger

Branch 855 members were overwhelmingly generous in their donation of food items going to the Parma Hunger Center. They delivered over 25 cases of food, along with a \$250 check from the Home Office. Members brought their donations to the meeting held on November 23, 2025. Thanks to everyone who participated.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND COMMITMENT



These Branches volunteered time or funds to causes important to them. Thank you for supporting these organizations in the name of FCSU.

Branch 670 Officers Sworn in on November 9



(L-R Front) Johnny Curcio (on zoom, computer), Maureen Massafra, Joseph Matinko, Kathy Jakela, and Dorothy Rudinec.
(L-R Back) Destyni Hall, Nicole Hyatt and Larry Healey.



Branch 2 Walks to Support ALS

Submitted by George Lako, Financial Secretary

Members of Branch 2 (Pittsburgh, PA) participated in the annual ALS Walk on Saturday, October 18, 2025, raising funds to support the search for a cure. The group walked in heartfelt remembrance of fellow Branch 2 member Michael Lako (Region5 Director, Emeritus), who courageously battled ALS and is fondly remembered by all. Branch 2 extends its sincere gratitude to the FCSU for their generous contribution to the ALS Society.

Branch 855 Officers Re-Elected for 2026



(L-R) Henry Horvath (Auditor), Karen Habian (Recording Secretary), Stephanie Sutilla (Fraternal Activities), Barbara Sutilla (President), Karin Scally (Vice President), and Ann Sutilla (Treasurer)

Branch 670 Donates Funds to Local Food Bank

Dorothy Rudenic presenting a \$300 check to The Food Bank of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish.

They serve the communities of Monongahela, Donora, and Charleroi, Pennsylvania.





Show your impact—share your Fraternalism in Action event and inspire others to do the same! Contact the Home Office at branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com for eligibility forms and guidelines.

Branch 587 Brings Warmth to the Community

During the months of October and November members of Branch 587 (Aliquippa, PA) collected coats for the St. Vincent de Paul winter coat drive at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Hopewell Township.

In total our branch members generously donated 55 coats, jackets, and sweaters for the less fortunate, and contributed 35 hours of community service during the project. We hope our donations will help provide warmth and comfort to many in the coming winter months. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the St. Vincent de Paul society for their good works throughout the year. Thanks to the FCSU for their \$250 donation.



Joanne Katekovich, Albert Valo and Mary Ann Gillooly, Branch 587 Vice President, drop off coats with Deacon Bob Bittner.

District 12 Donates to Local Food Bank

District 12, The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District participated in the Fraternalism in Action program at their annual meeting on November 9, 2025 by collecting items for the St. Andrew the Apostle Church Food Bank in Charleroi, PA. Donations included food, baby food and products, pet food and cash. Charles Boone presented the donations to the church representative. Thank you District 12 for a generous donation.

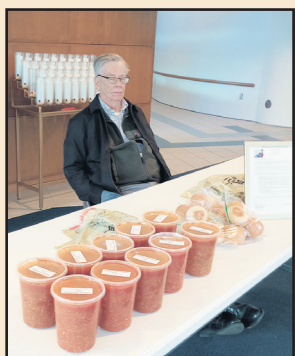


Branch 764 Makes & Sells Soup for Memorial Fund

Over the weekend of November 1, 2025 Branch 764 (Warren, OH) held a post-Mass soup sale at all three churches of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Both the stuffed pepper soup and the chicken broth vegetable soup were warmly received by parishioners, whose enthusiasm helped make the event a wonderful success.

Thanks to their generosity, they reached their goal of raising \$1,000 for the Matthew Karlovic Memorial Fund. In fact, the fundraiser did so well that they were also able to make a contribution to the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Warren, whose facilities were used to prepare and store the soups.

The branch sends a heartfelt thank you to the Home Office for its support and to the dedicated parish volunteers at the churches. Their help—providing space for sales, assisting with tables and refrigeration, and stepping in wherever needed—made this fundraiser possible.



(L-R Front) Sister Annette Fry, Malory Spring (Director of Mary House), resident Celina, Rose Roskovensky, Bill Speshock, Patty Speshock, Kathryn Baranek, and Betty Rozella. (L-R Back) Charles Roskovensky and Jim Marmol.



Hand-made collection bins designed by Charles and Rose Roskovensky were placed in seven churches.

Frank T. Holly District 9 Donation Drive Makes a Meaningful Impact

The members of Frank T. Holly District 9 have made a tremendous impact in their local community through a recent donation drive supporting Mary House in Uniontown, PA. Mary House is a home dedicated to helping women rebuild their lives by providing structure, stability, guidance, and essential life skills. Many of the women are transitioning from homelessness, addiction, or other difficult circumstances and are working to regain independence and confidence. Up to six women live in the home, sharing responsibilities, preparing meals together, contributing to household expenses, and participating in counseling and life-skills training. For many of the residents, simply gathering at the table each evening for dinner is a new and formative experience.



The District began their outreach by placing donation boxes in seven local churches, collecting items weekly for more than two months. The generosity of members, parishioners, neighbors, friends, and families was outstanding. As the donations grew, it became clear that this effort had blossomed beyond expectations. Special thanks to Patty and Bill Speshock for picking up weekly donations and Rose and Charles Roskovensky for storage space. When the collection ended, it took a 6.5' x 12' trailer to deliver everything to Mary House. In addition, they also donated \$750 in gift cards from local grocery stores.

Following their October District meeting, nine members gathered to transport and unload the donations. They were warmly welcomed by Sister Annette Frey of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, who lives in the home and supports the women through their journey of healing and growth. The District's donation included many of the items most needed in the home—things that are easy to take for granted, yet incredibly important in helping the women feel cared for. Donations included blankets, household cleaning supplies, personal care products and toiletries. The Home Office also contributed \$250 as part of the Fraternalism in Action program. The success of this effort is proof of what happens when faith, compassion, and community come together. District 9 extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed.

Branch 162 Decorates Tree for WVU Medicine

Branch 162 (Uniontown, PA) continued its annual tradition of spreading Christmas cheer by decorating a festive tree for the WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital lobby. The tree, completed on November 25, 2025, stands alongside other beautifully adorned trees as part of the hospital's holiday display. The trees will be raffled off and winners receive the entire tree and its contents.

Branch 162 also presented an \$250 check to Amy Flasher, WVU Uniontown Hospital, Volunteer Services, further supporting their mission of caring for patients and the community.



Clockwise: Dolores Marmol, Patty Marmol, Joyce Campbell, Paul Mills, Paulette Mills and Becca Mills. Not pictured but in attendance: Andrew and Joanne Marmol, Cathy Marmol, Charles Mills, Betty and Bill Rozzell and Jim Marmol.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
should be emailed to branch@fcsu.com**

FCSU 53RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION June 20-23, 2026

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Golf Resort & Conference Center
Greenville, South Carolina

Visit the 53rd Convention Page on
our website for the latest updates.
Look under the Membership tab
at www.fcsu.com.

ILLINOIS

BRANCH 40 – STREATER, IL

Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary

St. Clement Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at Chipper's Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator at 2pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Lunch will follow and all members are urged to attend this important meeting. Please RSVP to 815-257-6142 (leave a message) or email tgraves@mchsi.com by January 2, 2026.

NEW JERSEY

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

The Slovak children's school, Lipka Academy, is having their annual Christmas show on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Msgr. Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Ave., Linden at 3pm. The event will showcase the talents of students from every grade level. The event includes a show, refreshments, and a visit by Santa. Please purchase your tickets from the Lipka Academy School. The cost is \$40 per ticket. Branch 746 members will be reimbursed \$25 via check after the event.

CHRISTMAS CAKE BAKING: Please call Mary Lou at 908-862-0379 from 9am to 8pm to place orders for nut, poppy seed, prune and cheese rolls (\$20). Volunteers are needed for baking on Saturday, December 14th in the basement of Holy Family Church. All proceeds go to the church.

Our last meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2025 at Bistro 1051 at 1051 Raritan Rd., Clark. The meeting will start promptly at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers and discuss next year's activities. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$50 for non-members). RSVP to Mary Ann Ranahan at 732-589-1608 by Dec. 14th. Happy New Year! Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to the St. John the Apostle Church Food Pantry. The FCSU will generously donate \$250 to the food bank on our behalf.

SAVE THE DATE: The Election of Branch

Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will take place at our March 1, 2026 meeting.

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden. Masses are offered for the intention of all branch members living and deceased. Join us on January 2nd, February 6th, and March 6th.

NEW YORK

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 1pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční členská schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 18. januára, 2026 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.

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

Judie Dendler, Secretary

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We will be having a special meeting January 17, 2026, at 10am for the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the upcoming 53rd Quadrennial Convention. It will be held at Dunkin Donuts, 216 Reynolds Rd., Johnson City in the meeting room. Join us for some donuts and hot chocolate! Call Morgan Dendler at 607-206-7243 with questions.

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary

District 16 invites you to join us for a traditional Slovak Vilija dinner on Sunday, December 14th at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 E. 66th St., New York. Enjoy classic Slovak holiday dishes, warm drinks, and a festive community atmosphere as we celebrate the spirit of the season. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for ages 12-18 and free for ages 11 and below. For tickets call the parish office 212-734-4613 or Maria Božekova at 347-612-1934

Our first meeting of 2026 will be held on Sunday, February 22, at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 E. 66th St., New York, following a Slovak Mass at approximately 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

OHIO

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

John Moynihan, President

Branch 24 and Branch 855 members are invited to attend our "CLE Sports Watch Party" on Sunday, January 4, 2026. Join us in the party room at Fat Head's Brewery & Saloon, 24581 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted at 1pm. Enjoy food and appetizers and watch the Browns play the Bengals and the Cavs play the Pistons. Drinks are available for purchase.

The event is \$15 each for members and non-members. Branch members will be reimbursed \$15, making this a free event! RSVP by December 23rd and send payment to your branch representative. For Branch 24 members, contact Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728. For Branch 855 members, contact Barbara Sutilla at 440-864-4744.

There will be a raffle basket and a 50/50 drawing. Please invite your friends and family who are not yet members!

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to Faith Food Pantry & Clothing Shop. The Home Office will graciously donate \$250 from each branch on our behalf.

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge will hold their next meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 7pm in-person at the American Slovak Club on the NE corner of 30th and Broadway in Lorain. Refreshments will be served.

This is a very important meeting as two elections will take place! We will hold the Election of Branch Officers; we will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Our branch currently has an estimated number of seven Delegates permitted to be seated at the convention. The Convention Delegates will work with the officers to help plan the future of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Please plan on attending this very important meeting and follow the Jednota newspaper for up-to-date convention details.

We respectfully ask members to attend our meetings and pray to our Lord for a calm environment and Peace on Earth.

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

The St. Michael the Archangel Society will hold a meeting on February 11, 2026, at 175 Harvey St., Struthers at 2pm to conduct an audit and discuss activities for the year. Members are encouraged to attend. We would like to extend our wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Debbie Speck, President

All meetings and events are held at the Slovak J Club at 485 Morgan Ave., Akron. RSVP to 330-786-9972 when requested.

Our Annual Christmas Vilija Dinner will be held Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 4pm. Reservations are required. The Lucina Slovak Dancers will perform after dinner.

Join us Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 6:15pm for our Chardon Polka Band. The price is \$20 per person. Please RSVP by January 7th.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 1pm for our Lodge Meeting. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. The date of this meeting has changed. It was originally posted as February 15th.

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Drew Hirt, President

The first meeting of 2026 is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st at noon. It will be held in the conference room of Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. (Rt. 616) in Struthers. The meeting will include the assembly of the branch annual report. We will also hold

the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Those interested in serving as a delegate should contact Drew Hirt at drew@hirt.com or call 330-750-0776 to leave a message prior to the meeting.

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

We will be meeting on December 13, 2025, at 12pm at Salvatore's Italian Grill, 8720 East Market St., Warren to hold the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. A review of our recent fundraising soup sale will be addressed. The cost of lunch will be subsidized by \$20 per member or guest. Reservations are required.

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Stephanie Sutilla, Activities Director

See the Branch 24 Announcement for details about a joint event and FIA on January 4, 2026.

Our branch will hold a meeting and luncheon on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 1pm at Santo's Restaurant, 7565 Pearl Rd., Middleburg Hts. The agenda will include a discussion of ideas for our fall fraternal activity. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members are invited to attend. Guests are welcome to join us at a cost of \$25 payable to FCSU Branch 855. Please RSVP to Branch President Barbara Sutilla by calling/texting 440-864-4744 or email fcsu855@gmail.com by February 15th. A Fraternalism in Action project will be determined later.

Mark your calendars to attend the District 10 meeting on March 8th at St. Leo the Great Church Parish Community Center at 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland. Our branch will be hosting a super soup supper!

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

We will hold our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 12:30pm. It will be at the Graystone Homestyle Restaurant, 375 Theatre Dr., Johnstown. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will also discuss the time and location of the District 7 meeting we are hosting. All are welcome to attend. RSVP to Theresa Cassat at 814-254-2532.

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PA

Logan Haselhoff, President

Holy Trinity Society will hold a virtual meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7pm. Attendees will discuss current and future Branch activities and charitable donations. We will also hold the Election of Branch Officers. Our goal is to create a more unified environment and members are urged to attend.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Branch38Mtg
Meeting ID: 366 261 1231
Passcode: k3LC7W

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

Helena T. Gaydos, Recording Secretary

The St. Joseph Society will hold our Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 28, 2025, via Zoom at 2pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. The agenda includes officer

COLORING CONTEST IMAGES FEATURED ON PAGES 10-11

How to Print Coloring Pages from the Website

- Go to fcsu.com/community/events.
- Click on the 2025 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 before submission.

2025 Coloring Contest Entry Form

Branch #: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please print clearly using ink. Thank you!

TAPE YOUR ENTRY FORM TO THE BACK OF THE PICTURE

Mail your colored picture to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

and branch reports, discussion of 2026 activities, and charitable donations. Contact George Hardiman at george@hardiman.org or text Branch President Erik Payne at 215-280-1554 with questions or to RSVP.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Branch55Dec
Meeting ID: 232 690 9039

Our first 2026 Branch activity will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026, to celebrate the Epiphany and Vilija. We will meet at 2pm at the Wesley Pennypack Bldg., 8401 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, in the Private Dining Room on the first floor. Please note that this is a slightly different address than previously announced.

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.

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Julie Perla, Secretary

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14th at BRAVO! Cucina Italiana at 250 W. Bridge St., West Homestead at 1pm. On the agenda will be officers' reports, upcoming events and the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold an Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members are urged to attend.

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PA

Matthew Sterling, Secretary

St. John the Baptist will hold its annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at noon. The agenda will include officers' reports and new business. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. In addition, we will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 for more information.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Branch112
Meeting ID: 858 2166 3663
Passcode: 735052

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Vicki Schaub, Secretary

The branch will be nominating and holding the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention on Thursday, February 5, 2026. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting would be rescheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Our meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month except June and July. All members are invited to attend at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. Contact Vicki Schaub with any questions at vschaub123@gmail.com or 724-763-9229.

BRANCH 213 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Anita Nixon, President

St. Michael the Archangel will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 1pm. It will be held at 306 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh. The meeting may also be accessed via phone.

The agenda will include Election of Branch Officers for 2026, Officer's Reports, fraternal activities, general branch business, and an overview of this year's activities and charitable donations. We will also discuss any new business, upcoming branch and FCSU activities, and ways to increase our membership. Meeting dates for the upcoming year will also be selected. Contact Anita Nixon at weaz1958@aol.com.

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 12:30pm at Panera located at 1500 Washington Rd., Mount Lebanon. The meeting will include a report of

activities, year-end financial report and Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention followed by a lunch. RSVP to jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Margaret A. Nasta, Branch President

The branch met on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at Tillie's Restaurant in McKeesport. Branch officers were elected, convention delegates were discussed, and meeting dates for 2026 were selected: March 8th, May 17th, and November 15th. Meetings will continue at Tillie's, 308 36th St., McKeesport starting at 1pm. The Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will be elected at the March 8th meeting.

BRANCH 320

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Joseph Tarquinio, Vice-President

The officers of Branch 320 want to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union be blessed with happiness and good health in 2026! Veselé Vianoce a šťastný Nový rok!

Branch 320 will be having a meeting on February 21, 2026, at Bills Golfland, 209 Bills Ln., Belle Vernon at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP by February 11th to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788.

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

Kirstin Meyer, President

A Christmas dinner and meeting will be held on December 14, 2025, at Gianelli's II at 4816 SR 30 East Charter Oak, Greensburg at 5:30pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention, discuss delegate duties, potential proposed changes to the bylaws, and general updates. Members are encouraged to bring their family to this Christmas gathering. Reservations are required.

BRANCH 628 – W HOMESTEAD, PA

Sylvia Vehec, Recording Secretary

A meeting of St. Michael the Archangel Society will take place on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 3pm at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Rd., Penn Hills. The agenda includes the Election of Branch Officers, summary of branch business, and possible delegates for the convention.

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

We invite you to a meeting on March 1, 2026, at 1pm at Charleroi Lanes at 1301 Prospect Ave., Charleroi to hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please join us after the meeting for two hours of bowling including shoes and food. This is a Branch event but will be open to all members of District 12. Branch 670 will cover the \$20 cost for our members. District members and guests will pay for themselves.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring non-perishable food items, diapers or pet food for donation to the St. Andrew Parish Food Bank in Donora. The Home Office will donate \$250 on our behalf. Any contribution will make a big difference in helping our local communities.

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary

Due to a change in plans, our annual meeting will now be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 1:15pm at The IHM Center - Our Lady of Grace Parish, 338 Hulmeville Rd. in Penndel. We will hold the Election of Officers for 2026. We will also hold the Election of Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

WISCONSIN

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Mike Novak, President

We will hold our annual meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 11:30am at Bandero County Wood Grill, N96W16865 Cumberland Ct., Menomonee Falls. It is located just southeast of I-41 at Exit 52 (County Line Rd). Lunch and beverages are free for Branch 89 members. Reservations are required by January 31st. RSVP to President Mike Novak at 414-445-5382 or mnovakesco@aol.com.

We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to represent Branch 89 at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Delegate qualification criteria can be found in section 11.03 of the FCSU bylaws. In addition, as authorized by FCSU bylaw section 14.01(b), Branch 89 has established its own supplemental standards for delegate qualification. Specifically, to be eligible to serve as a delegate representing Branch 89, a member must have attended at least one branch meeting each year from 2022 through 2025 or attended more than half of our branch meetings held during the three-year period from 2023 to 2025. By adhering to these participation requirements, Branch 89 aims to ensure that its delegates have maintained consistent involvement in branch activities. This approach helps guarantee that those selected to represent Branch 89 at the upcoming convention are well-informed about branch matters and are prepared to effectively advocate for the interests of the branch.

We are inviting all branch members to the Milwaukee Fasiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) sponsored by the Slovak League of Milwaukee #20 on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 3pm at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 917 N. 49th St., Milwaukee. Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will provide music. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will perform. Donation is \$5 per person. For more info, contact Betty at 414-425-6137.

CANADA

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2pm. It will be at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers and review the past year. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP to Milan Zoldak at 416-565-3960.



DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send **DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS** to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 1 – REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

The District will conduct its first meeting of the year via Zoom on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 10am. We will hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/DistOneJan26 • Meeting ID: 834 7090 1343 • Passcode: 291009

DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

Gregory Petrasek, President

All members of District 10 in Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 are invited to our first meeting of the year on March 8, 2026. The meeting will take place at 2pm at St. Leo the Great Church Community Center, 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland. We will discuss news from the Home Office including convention details, participate in a Fraternalism in Action project (to be announced in a later issue) and hold the Election of our District Delegate and Alternate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 855 – bring your appetite for soup, soup and more soup! Please RSVP to Barbara Sutilla by February 22, 2026 by emailing Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com or texting or calling 440-864-4744.

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PREBINA DISTRICT – AR, CA, KS, MN, OR, WA

Paul Skuben, President

Everyone is invited to celebrate the Christmas season with a Slovak Mass on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 1pm at St Anthony’s Catholic Church, 1640 Western Ave., San Bernardino, CA. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pavol Sochulak S.V.D., who is the parish pastor.

Following the liturgy, we can meet in the cafeteria for a friendly gathering, with Slovak music and Christmas carols. A potluck sample of Christmas pastries and Christmas cabbage soup is welcome. The officers of District 15 wish all of you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NYC

Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

St. John Nepomucene - St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish invites you to Christmas Vigil Supper (Vigilia) December 14th, 2025 at 1pm. The address is 411 East 66th St., New York City. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for ages 12-18 and free for ages 11 and below. For tickets call the parish office 212-734-4613 or Maria Božekova 347-612-1934.

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 1pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St., New York City. We will hold the Election of the District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will also discuss upcoming activities. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. We kindly ask all officers and members to attend.

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. We will hold the Election of District Officers and review the past year. We will also hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.

Slovak Customs Booklets

Submitted by *Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.*

Larry Kozlowski is a member of Branch 2 (Pittsburgh, PA) and is a past 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, folk arts and heritage in Western Pennsylvania. If you are interested in carrying on Slovak traditions, consider purchasing one of these booklets for recipes and history.



His newest publication is *Old World Honey Cakes...Slovak Style*, which explains historical traditions and includes recipes to make a medovník (a honey cake or cookies). Slovaks and neighboring nations each had their own traditions but shared many as well. One of these was the Honey Cake. Before the availability of cane and beet sugars, honey was the main source of sweetener. This rare substance was found in the forests and because of its rarity, pagans thought it was a gift of the gods. Animal fats such as butter and lard were used in baking instead of cooking oils except during Advent and Lent. In addition to the production of honey, bees wax (candles) and mead (fermented honey wine) were made. Today the word Gingerbread is often considered synonymous with the words Honey Cake or Honey Spice Cake, but this is not the case. A true Honey or Honey Spice Cake begins with honey and/or spices. A true Gingerbread is made from dough to which honey, sugar, spices, and ginger are added. Learn more in this amazing booklet!

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.

Celebrate Easter...Slovak Style is a unique collection of Slovak customs, traditions (Easter Basket Blessing Symbolism), folklore, recipes (Rezanky, Čeregi, Palacinky, Pirohy, Halubky, Halušky, Pagač, Syrek, Paska, Chren, Klobasi, Kolačky, Rožky, Babovka, Pečene & more), and folk arts (Easter Whips, Palm Weaving & Egg Decorating).

Christmas Cookies, Cakes & Pastries...From the Old Country is a 40-page collection of recipes to bake and fry during the Christmas holidays from the traditions of Slovaks, Carpatho-Rusyns, Poles, Croatians, Germans, Italians, Lithuanians, Russians, Slovenians, and Ukrainians.

ANY ONE BOOKLET \$15
-OR- ANY 3 BOOKLETS \$30
Enjoy one free packet of oplatky (Christmas wafers) for the whole order if ordered before Christmas and receive FREE Shipping!

To order directly, mail check or money-order to:
L.G. Kozlowski
525 Beatty Road
Monroeville, PA 15146
e-mail: Lgk505@aol.com

JEDNOTA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Hawaiian tuber
- 5 ___ souci
- 9 Etcher’s need
- 13 Pervasive quality
- 14 Wrinkly fruit
- 16 Wrapped up
- 17 Toucan relative
- 19 Toxic waste holder
- 20 Firewood measure
- 21 Comfort
- 23 “Exodus” hero
- 24 Engine parts
- 26 Water heater
- 28 Receded
- 31 Frigid
- 33 ___ Master’s Voice
- 34 Power system
- 35 Notable period
- 36 African dogs
- 39 Col.’s superior
- 40 Nonstop

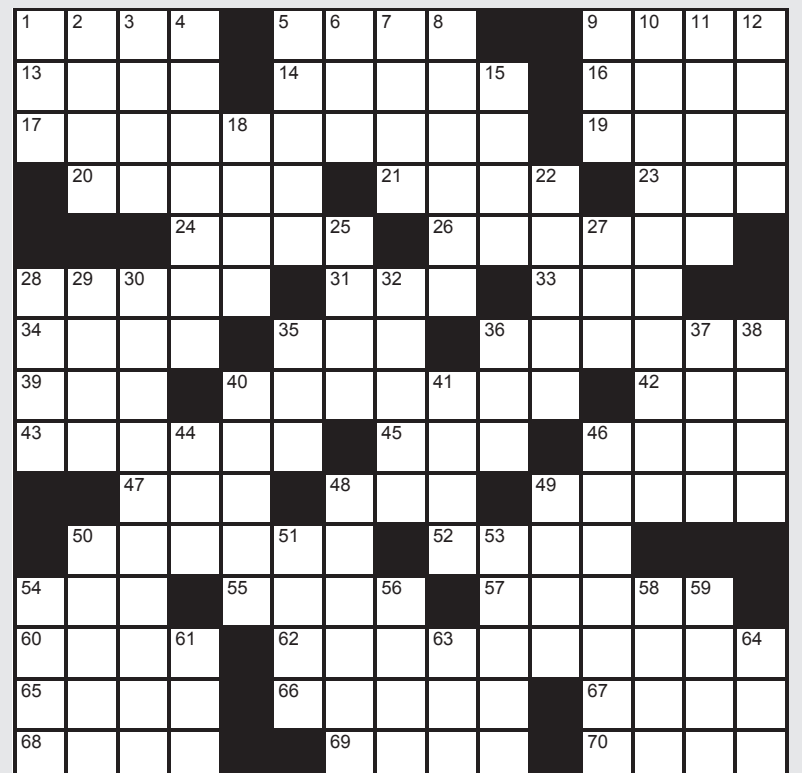
Down

- 42 Potent potable
- 43 Faints
- 45 Bubble source
- 46 Blood-related
- 47 Scoundrel
- 48 Royal wish
- 49 Waste allowances
- 50 Gibraltar locale
- 52 Petticoat junction
- 54 Viña ___ Mar, Chile
- 55 Dry riverbed
- 57 Mite
- 60 Show horse
- 62 Coventry siren (circa 1040-1080)
- 65 Oscar winner Sorvino
- 66 Symbol of strength
- 67 Thickening agent
- 68 Nuisance
- 69 Borgia in-law
- 70 Went under

Down

- 1 Kind of truck
- 2 Commotions
- 3 Tooth part
- 4 Dictated
- 5 Type of demon or trap
- 6 ___ de Triomphe
- 7 Microwave
- 8 Underhanded
- 9 Recipe word
- 10 Brilliantly banded venom carrier
- 11 Harden
- 12 Actress Moore
- 15 Gaelic language
- 18 Goad
- 22 Kind of alcohol
- 25 Filly’s father
- 27 Windsor, for one
- 28 Breakfast choice
- 29 Cold one

- 30 Hunter’s accessory
- 32 Freight
- 35 UFO crew
- 36 Lunch meat
- 37 Hit the ground
- 38 Rupiah parts
- 40 Furnish with a fund
- 41 Conical buoys
- 44 Skull
- 46 Spanish fleets
- 48 Reserved
- 49 Crunchy munchie
- 50 Chill-inducing
- 51 People to hang with
- 53 Golf score
- 54 Like many a cellar
- 56 Time to beware
- 58 Baltic capital
- 59 Tolstoy hero
- 61 Dracula, at times
- 63 “Is it soup ___?”
- 64 Deluge refuge



Answers on Page 23



SPOOKTACULAR PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WINNERS!

We are pleased to announce the finalists of our 3rd annual pumpkin carving contest. This year's competition brought many families together, as parents and children, and siblings participated in this seasonal tradition. It must have been a frightful scene with all your pumpkins glowing bright on front porches on Halloween night.

Top prizes of \$100 were awarded to the best entries in three categories of jack-o-lanterns -- scariest, funniest, and most realistic. The competition was also divided into five age categories, displaying the skills of our children, youth, and adults. Second and third place finalists received \$75 and \$50, respectively. Finalists should watch for their prize money checks in the mail.

Just a reminder to all, while some of our activities are open to guests, the rules of this contest did have an FCSU membership requirement. Please consider joining the local branch with your relatives, to participate fully in all the FCSU has to offer. This also includes the Christmas Coloring Contest that is going on now.

Thanks to all for sharing your carving skills. We hope this fun competition added to your festive celebration of Halloween this year.

Scariest Finalists

- Ages 8-12..... \$75 Oliver Sterling Branch 112
- Ages 8-12..... \$50 Garrett Sterling..... Branch 112
- Ages 20-34..... \$75 Jennifer Estright..... Branch 55
- Ages 35-54..... \$75 Mandy Matinko Branch 670
- Ages 35-54..... \$50 Matthew Sterling..... Branch 112

Funniest Finalists

- Ages 20-34..... \$75 Brandon Travise Branch 855
- Ages 20-34..... \$50 Danielle Lasher Branch 857
- Ages 35-54..... \$75 Lisa Rozen Branch 721
- Ages 55+ \$75 Nancy Porter Branch 24

Most Realistic Finalists

- Ages 8-12..... \$75 Gertrude Surovy Branch 1
- Ages 8-12..... \$50 Charleigh Gross..... Branch 857
- Ages 13-19 \$75 Eva Matinko..... Branch 670
- Ages 35-54..... \$75 Melissa Pachmayer Branch 228
- Ages 55+ \$75 Ralph Travise..... Branch 855



Scariest (Age 8-12)
Harper Pelikan, Branch 38



Funniest (Age 8-12)
Pex Raymond, Branch 367



Most Realistic (Age 8-12)
Ava Scally, Branch 450



Scariest (Age 13-19)
Lukas Scally, Branch 450



Funniest (Age 13-19)
Anthony Matinko, Branch 670



Most Realistic (Age 13-19)
Desmond Surovy, Branch 1



Scariest (Age 20-34)
Nicole Nasta, Branch 857



Funniest (Age 20-34)
Elliot Travise, Branch 855



Most Realistic (Age 20-34)
No Winner



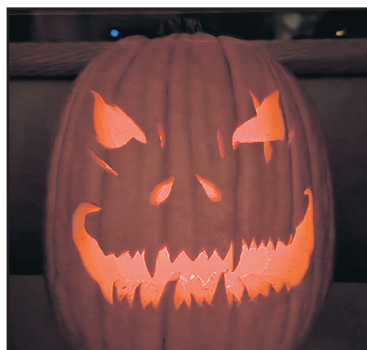
Scariest (Age 35-54)
Shannon Travise, Branch 855



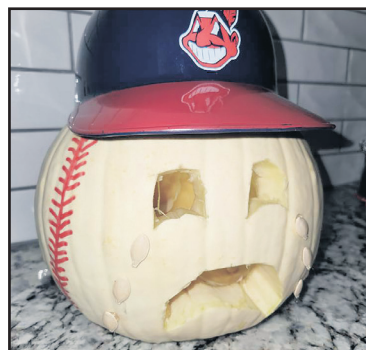
Funniest (Age 35-54)
Mike Vandriak, Branch 38



Most Realistic (Age 35-54)
Andrew Nasta, Branch 857



Scariest (Age 55+)
Nancy Porter, Branch 24



Funniest (Age 55+)
Kelly Shedlock, Branch 855



Most Realistic (Age 55+)
Nancy Porter, Branch 24

SLOVAK J CLUB
485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH
UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>12/14 Annual Christmas Vilija Dinner featuring the Lucina Slovak Dancers 4pm - *RSVP REQUIRED</p> <p>12/17 Chicken Paprikash Dinner 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP</p> <p>12/21 Browns vs. Bills - 1pm</p> <p>12/28 Breakfast Buffet 9am-11:45am - \$12 All you can eat</p> <p>1/4 Browns vs. Steelers - 1pm</p> <p>1/4 Browns vs. Bengals - TBD</p> | <p>1/7 Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-7pm</p> <p>1/10 Chardon Polka Band Slovak Food Dinner @ 6:15; Band @ 7pm \$20 per person - Payment required at time of *RSVP</p> <p>1/21 Stuffed Cabbage Dinner 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP</p> <p>1/25 Breakfast Buffet 9am-11:45am - \$12 All you can eat</p> |
|--|--|

*RSVP to 330-786-9972
Contact us by the MONDAY PRIOR to RSVP for dinners.



Branch 1 Saint Joseph Society Enjoys A Fall Harvest Pork Chop Dinner

Submitted by Barb Golias, Secretary

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, Saint Joseph Society (Branch 1, Lakewood, OH) treated their members to the Fall Harvest Pork Chop Dinner at St. Clemens Church Hall in Lakewood, Ohio. The annual event serves as the church's largest fundraiser, bringing the community together for a wonderful evening 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! Pictured are some members of Branch 1 who enjoyed the afternoon together at the dinner.



Home Office Staff Visits Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Akron, OH

Submitted by Shannon Travise, Editor

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens was the estate of F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Stan Hywet sits on 70 acres with grounds designed by the famed architect, Warren Manning, who also designed Central Park in New York City. Each year, the historic home celebrates the holiday season with their Deck the Halls event where the mansion is beautifully decorated inside and out. Branch 855 Member Shannon Travise has volunteered her time for the past six years as a room designer. This year, she decorated the library with the theme "Cardinals in Nature". It is decorated with bird houses built by the mother of family friend who has passed, outdoor materials such as pine cones, grapevine and lovely wreaths. Sara Skyrn, Pam Kelly, Sheri Reder, Barb Sutilla, Fran Strekal and Karen Habian were treated to a free tour and preview to help ring in the holiday.



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2025

ASSETS

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Bonds | \$481,661,084 |
| Preferred Stock | 4,750,000 |
| Common Stock | 1,390,501 |
| Mortgage loans on real estate | 56,123,852 |
| Property Plant & Equipment | 926,388 |
| Cash | 30,516,195 |
| Certificate Loans | 1,264,814 |
| Other Invested Assets | 14,824,825 |
| Investment Income Due & Accrued | 5,842,011 |
| Uncollected premiums in course of collection | 115,776 |
| Total Assets | \$597,415,446 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Life & Annuity Reserves | 516,732,876 |
| Liability for deposit type contracts | 11,494,741 |
| Death claims payable | 300,000 |
| Provision for dividend payable | 400,000 |
| Interest maintenance reserve (IMR) | 0 |
| Asset valuation reserve (AVR) | 5,943,420 |
| Accrual for future convention costs | 825,000 |
| Post retirement reserve | 769,082 |
| Amounts retained as trustee | 6,638,370 |
| Other liabilities | 655,855 |
| Total Liabilities | \$543,759,344 |
| Surplus | 53,656,102 |
| Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds | \$597,415,446 |

Income Statement As of September 30, 2025

INCOME

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Insurance & Annuity Premiums | \$27,782,227 |
| Net Investment Income | 19,791,707 |
| Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve | 222,661 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 28,070 |
| Total Income | \$47,824,665 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Death Benefits | 2,009,280 |
| Annuity Benefits | 26,303,705 |
| Surrender Benefits | 471,188 |
| Interest on deposit-type contracts | 570,359 |
| Increase in reserves - Life & Annuity contracts | 14,947,029 |
| Commissions paid on new contracts | 812,026 |
| General Insurance & fraternal expenses | 3,433,853 |
| Insurance taxes, state licenses & fees | 168,319 |
| Total Expenses | 48,715,760 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Net Gain from operations before dividends | (891,095) |
| Dividends paid to policyholders | 310,661 |
| Net Gain from operations after dividends | (1,201,755) |
| Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses) | (126,744) |
| Net Income (Loss) | (1,328,499) |

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, prior year | 54,418,491 |
| Net Income current year | (1,328,499) |
| Change in unrealized capital gain (loss) | 979,672 |
| Change in asset valuation reserve | (374,355) |
| Other gains & losses in surplus | (39,207) |
| Net change in capital & surplus current year | (762,389) |
| Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, current year | 53,656,102 |

Update on Annuity Product Reserves Due to New NAIC Regulations

In response to recent regulatory changes introduced by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), we have adjusted the reserve allocations for certain annuity products. These changes require us to hold a higher percentage in reserves to maintain compliance and ensure continued financial stability.

To meet these requirements, we have strategically reallocated funds from our surplus accounts. This proactive approach reinforces our commitment to sound financial management and long-term security for our members and policyholders.

We recorded an increase of over \$10 million in total assets during the third quarter and continue on a positive growth trajectory. Despite these adjustments, taken in the second quarter, our Society remains financially strong. We appreciate your continued trust and partnership as we uphold the highest standards of financial responsibility.



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 svieti. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen

**Martha Boston
Branch 702
Maryville, IL**



Martha A. Boston, 78, of Maryville, IL passed away on Friday, October 24, 2025 at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL. She was born April 22, 1947 in Litchfield, IL, the daughter of the late Anton and Helen (Sohovich) Boston. She married Denis Boston on September 16, 1967 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Livingston, IL.

Martha graduated from Livingston High School in 1965 and worked for Fritz Drug Store in Staunton, IL. She was also a school bus driver. She raised her family while attending SIUE, where she obtained her teaching degree at the age of 40. She was a longtime elementary school teacher at St. Simon and Jude Catholic School in Gillespie, IL where she also taught PSR classes at the Church. She was an active member of Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Maryville, IL, and was a longtime member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Livingston, IL before moving to Maryville. She enjoyed family events, weekly dinner gatherings with friends and family, shopping and attending Mass. She had many close friends and family who will miss her greatly.

She is survived by her husband, Denis Boston of Maryville, IL; two daughters, Susan Willis of Quincy, IL and Denise (Chris) Rhoads of Delaware, OH; four grandchildren, Julian Willis (fiancé Alyson Young) of Hannibal, MO, Elly Willis of Quincy, IL, Amber Davis of Jonesboro, AR, and Lauren Davis of Delaware, OH; one brother, Phillip (Terri) Boston; and a sister-in-law, Gloria Boston (wife of the late Robert "Beany" Boston). She is also survived by many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Brian Boston; one brother, Robert "Beany" Boston; and her in-laws, Mat and Edna Boston.

**Carol (Piroh)
Sequin
Branch 19
Bridgeport, CT**



Carol Ann (Piroh) Sequin, age 82, of Seymour, CT beloved wife of the late Albert W. Sequin, passed away on September 6, 2025 at Griffin Hospital. Carol was born in Bridgeport on January 4, 1943, to the late Joseph and Martha (Svihra) Piroh and was a lifelong member

of the St. Joseph Society Branch 19 of FCSU. She was a graduate of SS. Cyril & Methodius Commercial High School and a retired Medical Records clerk for St. Vincent's Medical Center. She was also a parishioner of St. Michael's Church in Beacon Falls.

Throughout her life and prior to her illness, Carol enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, whether it was trips to Maine with her family and later in life visiting her son A.J., or to Europe with her beloved sisters, Pat and Rosie or in Connecticut with her daughter, Patty, son-in-law John and her beloved granddaughters, Kayla and Lia.

Carol loved going to sporting events that her son A.J. participated in, whether baseball or football games, she could be found in the stands cheering him on. So, it was no surprise that she did the same for Kayla and Lia at their dance and cheer competitions and recitals. Everyone knew and loved Nana!

Carol also had a love for animals and had many beloved pets throughout the years. She also enjoyed going to car shows and watching her husband and son race at the N.E.T.O. drag races. She was always excited to participate in the local fairs where she won many first-place ribbons for her crafts and delicious canned green tomatoes. She enjoyed antiquing, going to tag sales and watching all types of sports, especially football and the Philadelphia Eagles.

Carol was a kind, caring and supportive person who spent her life caring for others and putting their needs before her own. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all of those who knew her.

Survivors include her devoted children, A.J. Sequin of Maine, Patty Mercure and her husband John of Seymour, two cherished granddaughters, Kayla and Lia and several nieces and nephews.

| BRANCH | NAME |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 004K | Daniel J. Connelly |
| 005P | Christine A. Martin |
| 019K | Kathryn J. Gerics |
| 023K | Rev. Sylvester J. Bendzella |
| 024K | Susan Louise Lang |
| 038K | Patricia Coulson |
| 075K | Donna Marie Storz |
| 075K | Edward Mattis |
| 085K | Joseph J. Podrasky Jr. |
| 086K | Mary Kozbelt |
| 112K | Robert C. Torok |
| 153K | John V. Bielik |
| 157K | Tyler A. Kravetz |
| 162K | Adam M. Sweda |
| 162K | Edward M. Petronie Jr. |
| 181K | John F. Gritzer |
| 228K | Marceline J. Downie |
| 228K | Mary Ellen Hritz |
| 260K | Henry G. Hassay Sr. |
| 276K | Brenda Magyar |
| 313K | Margaret Rose Marcheschi |
| 382K | Albert R. Sunick |
| 382K | Andrew Luchansky |
| 382K | Diane D. Doyle |
| 382K | Thomas Michael Gerek |

| BRANCH | NAME |
|--------|-------------------------|
| 404K | Theresa C. Royal |
| 472K | Karen Mallett |
| 484K | Janet E. Pruzinsky |
| 543K | Diane K. Janson |
| 553K | Janet Regec |
| 553K | Joseph Rogers |
| 595K | Paul Ribbecky |
| 682K | Dennis M. Chizmar |
| 731K | David J. Smercansky |
| 746K | Kenneth Ivan |
| 746K | Walter G. Clark |
| 764K | Robert Futey |
| 796K | Michael Skrip |
| 796K | Richard Andrew Petroski |
| 831K | Lawrence L. Sebak |
| 857K | Charlotte M Morgan |
| 916K | Gary L. Clark |
| 917K | Donald E. Atkins |
| 919K | Jack I. Kryger |
| 921K | David Whitehill |
| 924K | Nel B. Stoudt |
| 926K | Ronald D. Koenig |

** Processed in the month of November 2025*

Reverend Ivan Dusan Dornic

Beloved Shepherd, Servant of God, and Pillar of Community



Reverend Ivan Dusan Dornic, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, priest, scholar, and visionary, went home to the Lord on September 27, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was 94 years old.

Born on February 13, 1931, in Uyak (now Udol), Slovakia, he was left motherless at the age of six when his mother died during the birth of his sister. Father Ivan grew up in the High Tatra mountains, where his love for the mountains and skiing first took root. It was after a skiing accident that he got blood poisoning and was taken to the closest hospital in Presov. The doctors declared him dead and called his father Vasil to pick up the body. But when his father got to the hospital his son had come back to life. During this time Father Ivan experienced the glory of heaven, heard the angels singing and met his mother. He did not want to leave, but his mother insisted that he return to his father who needed him and explained that he would do "very important things with his life", and indeed he did. This experience was transformative and led to his calling into the Priesthood.

Against the background of a student uprising in communist Czechoslovakia, he defected, eventually arriving in the United States alongside a group of Freedom Fighters from the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. He completed his theological education at Christ the Savior American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Seminary in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

As a seminarian he met Ann Koba at a church dinner. They were married on August 30, 1957, a week before his ordination. He served as the pastor of Orthodox churches in California, Jacob's Creek and Monongahela, Pennsylvania before converting to Catholicism in the Byzantine Rite. Together Ivan and Ann raised five children—Demetrian, Myron, Yvonne, Corina and Tania —instilling in them the same love of faith, heritage, and service that defined his life. Family remained central to Father Dornic's heart, and he cherished his role as husband, father, and later as grandfather to Matt Dornic, Jevin Dornic, Elyssa Nastalski, Ian Peacock, Oona Palazzone- Peacock, Rudy Peacock, Selah Peacock, Greta Peacock, Ethan O'Neal, and Kaden O'Neal; and great grandfather to Berckman, Jones, and Palmer Nastalski, Pascal Palazzone, and Charlie Peacock.

A visionary, Father Dornic's accomplishments were numerous. He founded Ethnic American News, one of the first publications to unite diverse Slavic communities under

You are not alone. If you're experiencing emotional distress or thoughts of self-harm, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7.

Call or text 988
to connect with someone who cares.

Dornic Continued

a single voice. He originated a televised “Polka Mass” in Pittsburgh in the 1970s—combining his love for faith and cultural heritage, decades ahead of his time. At the University of Pittsburgh, he expanded the Slavic Studies offerings beyond Russian to include Slovak, Polish, Ukrainian, and other Eastern European languages, helping it grow into a well-regarded program.

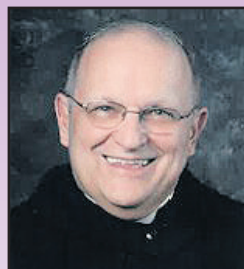
His entrepreneurial spirit was equally bold, shaped by a profound appreciation for the freedoms his newly adopted country provided. The Dornics purchased and ran Shady Grove Park in Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania and expanded the amusements to grow the venture into a local venue for family, church and business gatherings. The park began hosting concerts, cultural events, and heritage festivals, proving that faith and joy belonged in every part of life.

In 1977, Father Dornic’s ministry took him to Baltimore as pastor of St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church. In Baltimore, he became a transformative figure in the Slavic and Eastern European communities. He served as President of the National Slavic Convention from 1980 to 1991, launched a Slavic radio program, and helped establish the National Slavic Museum in 2013. He also championed affordable housing for immigrants and low-income residents, obtaining HUD funding in 1983 and building the 110-unit Lemko Senior Housing residence in Fells Point. He also founded Tatry Housing, and St. John’s Assisted Living—ensuring safe homes and dignified care for seniors and for those struggling with addiction or homelessness. His refrain was always: “If I don’t take them in, who will?” He sponsored and/or helped hundreds of immigrants looking to make the US their new home, offering housing, jobs and even legal assistance where needed. He quickly became known as the Priest in Baltimore who will take anyone under his care. As word spread, Father received calls from churches and individuals up and down the east coast. Once he even received a call from The White House asking if he would take in a Ukrainian woman who planted herself on the White House lawn. And of course he did.

Father Dornic was known for his tireless persistence and infectious enthusiasm. In 2004, when the historic St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Fells Point faced closure, he led a campaign to preserve the building as a museum of Slavic religious and cultural history. Not content to rely on words alone, he organized fundraising events filled with polka music, dancing, and community celebrations. His vision and energy rallied the community, keeping alive the memory and heritage of generations of the city’s Slovak, Polish, Czech, and Ukrainian immigrants.

His legacy in Harford County is the founding of St. Mary’s Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church in Joppa, Maryland housed in the historic St. Mark’s Catholic Church building. When St. Mark’s faced demolition in the mid-1980s, Father Dornic orchestrated the church’s careful relocation and reconstruction board by board, preserving a sacred space for generations to come. For over 35 years, he shepherded this “little wooden church in the woods,” expanding the grounds to include a parish hall, picnic grove, and events space. Under his guidance, the church launched the Slavic Heritage Festival, celebrating and uniting the culture, music, dance, and cuisine of all thirteen Slavic nations.

Through every project, every trial, and every triumph, Father Dornic remained above all a Good Shepherd, defined by courage, generosity, and an unwavering faith in God’s plan. He baptized, counseled, buried, and cared for generations of parishioners with tireless devotion. His vision was always larger than life, but his presence was profoundly personal. He lived not for himself, but for others. He will be remembered as a priest, builder, cultural leader, dreamer, and above all, a man of God whose legacy of faith, heritage, and community will be cherished and grow for generations to come.

**Father Joachim Pastirik**

Popular Cleveland, Ohio Priest welcomed to the heavenly realm

Shortly after vespers on Sunday evening, October 19, 2025, Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB passed into eternity at Regina Health Center. He had been under hospice care since inoperable cancer was found a month earlier. “Fr.

Joe” as he was known by so many, spent his life bringing the joy of Christ to many lives.

Born in Lakewood, Ohio with his twin brother John on December 9, 1941, Joseph Pastirik is the son of John (deceased) and Margaret (Bobovnick). He attended Sts. Cyril and Methodius Elementary School and graduated from Benedictine High School with his brother John in 1960. After two years of studies at St. John’s University in Minnesota, he entered the Benedictine Order at St. Andrew’s Abbey in Cleveland and received the religious name of ‘Joachim’ after the saintly father of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He completed his Bachelor’s degree in classical languages from Borromeo Seminary-College in 1965 and continued studies for the priesthood at Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary’s Seminary being awarded a Master of Divinity degree in 1969 when he was ordained with his classmates Fr. Dominic Mondzelewski, OSB and Fr. Timothy Buyansky, OSB by Bishop William Cosgrove on June 7, 1969.

Fr. Joachim taught senior theology, technical drafting, studio art, and art appreciation at Benedictine High School from 1969 to 2001. He earned a B.A. in art education from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1976. His third floor art studio was one of the most popular classrooms at BHS during those years with a relaxed atmosphere and background music conducive to fostering creativity. The free-flowing conversations in the art room also became a means for Fr. Joachim to offer guidance and practical advice to students who would hesitate to bring up some topics with their parents. He was moderator of the Benedictine Parent-Booster Club, a position he held for over 20 years.

Fr. Joachim forged many life-long friendships with former students and encouraged a number of them into successful art-related careers. He celebrated more weddings than most of his brother monks and continued to minister to many of these families through times of joy, challenge, and sorrow over the years.

It is hard to find a photo of Fr. Joachim without a smile because he enjoyed making others smile and laugh. He was famous for giving out pictures of the “Smiling Jesus” and would liven up Christmas parties at nursing homes, Booster Club meetings or abbey gatherings in costume as Santa, Pope John Paul II, or any number of celebrities and personages.

Fr. Joachim’s command of the Slovak language was much appreciated in his work with numerous Slovak-American fraternals and organizations. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (Ženská Jednota), Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, and served as chaplain to Group 5 (Northern Ohio) Slovak Catholic Sokols and Cleveland Slovak Zemplin Club.

Together with his talented brother John, Fr. Joe added energy and fun to many fundraisers, dinners, anniversary parties, and weddings with his rendition of a variety of dance styles from polka and csardas to “electric slide” and line dancing. His own musical talent contributed to the prayer life of the monastery where he served as one of the abbey organists since the time he was a seminarian.

In the monastery, Fr. Joachim also served his confreres generously in a variety of positions: Subprior (3rd superior) 1991-1995 and Prior (2nd superior), 1995-1999. He served on the Senior Council, was a member of the abbey evaluation committee and served as a community barber for over four decades.

He offered weekend assistance at the following parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland: St. Peter (Lorain) 1969-1972, St. Charles (Parma) 1972-1975, Assumption Parish (Broadview Heights) 1975-1991, St. Barbara (Cleveland) 1991-1994, Sts. Cyril and Methodius (Lakewood) 1994-2014.

Due to declining health, Fr. Joachim moved to Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio, in December of 2014. He continued to enliven fellow residents and staff by drawing, celebrating Mass, assisting with the sacraments and visiting. As time went on, he lost the use of his legs and was confined to a wheelchair. However, he never lost that interest in others, continued to use his talents in the various activities at Regina Center, and enjoyed the company of his confreres, who visited him monthly as a community.

A month before his death, Fr. Joachim was diagnosed with inoperable metastatic cancer. He decided to let things take their course. He passed away peacefully on the evening of Sunday, October 19. Please remember our confrere, Fr. Joachim in the customary Masses and prayers. May the Loving Lord, whom Fr. Joachim served, and the many people touched by his service, smile and good humor, welcome him into the heavenly realms.



SAVE THE DATE!

**2026
FCSU International
Bowling Tournament**

April 25-26

**Eastway Lanes, Erie PA
Sheraton Bayfront Hotel**

**2026 FCSU
International
GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Save the Date!

JULY 24-26

**Sawmill Creek
Golf Club & Resort
Huron, OH**

FCSU Search-A-Word

DECEMBER Word List



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

- DECEMBER ZIMA (Winter)
- CHRISTMAS SNEH (Snow)
- COCOA ČIŽMY (Winter boots)
- REINDEER DARČEKY (Gifts)
- SANTA SVETLÁ (Lights)
- DECORATION SNEHULIENKA (Snow White)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

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

Entries must be received by January 29, 2026.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

October Puzzle Winners

- Clement Adams.....Branch 38
- Joanne Chuckalovchak..... Branch 484
- Celine Fitzgerald.....Branch 571
- Claudine HuieBranch 746
- Betty Rozzell Branch 162

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

THE JEDNOTA
 BENEVOLENT
 FOUNDATION, INC.
 2025
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**Congratulations to each
 of our \$500 Recipients**

- Jacklyn Corl
- Oliver Feco
- Creighton Harrington
- Adriana Kalivosko
- Micah Krajsa

- Lauren Kukucka
- Lilian Lyons
- Justin Metz
- Rebecca Mills
- Lincoln Nichols

FRANtastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL

KAPUSTNICA (Slovak Sauerkraut & Mushroom Soup)

INGREDIENTS:

- 32 oz broth (vegetable or beef)
- 1 (32 oz) jar sauerkraut, juice reserved; sauerkraut chopped
- 8 oz portabella mushrooms, chopped
- 1 oz dried mushrooms, soaked overnight in 2 ½ cups water
- 1 medium onion, chopped 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 Tbsp olive oil 2 Tbsp butter 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp paprika ½ tsp black pepper ½ tsp salt

Roux:

- ½ stick butter ⅓ cup flour

INSTRUCTIONS:

Prepare the dried mushrooms: Strain the mushrooms from their soaking liquid, reserving the liquid. Chop the rehydrated mushrooms and set aside.

Sauté the vegetables: In a large pot or deep pan, heat 2 Tbsp butter and 2 Tbsp olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onion, fresh mushrooms, garlic, and the chopped soaked mushrooms. Sauté until softened and fragrant. Remove from the pot and set aside.

Prepare the sauerkraut: Strain the sauerkraut, reserving the juice, and chop the kraut. Set aside.

Make the roux: In the same pot, melt ½ stick of butter over medium heat. Sprinkle in the ⅓ cup flour, stirring constantly. Cook until the roux bubbles and lightly turns golden, about 1–2 minutes.

Build the soup base: Slowly whisk in the mushroom soaking liquid, sauerkraut juice, and broth, stirring to prevent lumps. Increase heat to medium-high.

Combine everything: Add the sautéed vegetables, chopped sauerkraut, bay leaves, paprika, salt, and pepper. Stir well.

Simmer: Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for 1–2 hours, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.

Serve: Remove bay leaves. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Serve hot with crusty bread, rye bread, or a dollop of sour cream.



News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

SUPER SLOVÁCI

Štefan Banič 1890-1941

Changed the world by inventing the parachute

Štefan Banič grew up in the small town of Smolenice, in Western Slovakia. When he was a young man, he always liked to solve problems and his dreams were bigger than his hometown and even his home country. He emigrated from Slovakia, then Austria-Hungary, in search of a more fulfilling life in the US. It was tough to start anew in a foreign country and he had to work hard as a coal miner in Greenville, Pennsylvania in the beginning.

Then Štefan witnessed a terrible plane crash in 1912 and his creative problem-solving spirit awoke. He started thinking about a new invention to prevent people from dying such tragic deaths. Štefan called his invention a 'parachute'. It was a large canopy that would make it possible for people to survive by jumping from an aeroplane in an emergency. It was unlike anything anyone had ever seen before. Štefan began by sketching out his design and later building the parts from scratch in his workshop. By the summer of 1913, his parachute was ready. But how could he find out if it worked?



Nobody was crazy enough to volunteer for such an experiment, so, according to some stories, Štefan decided he would have to find out for himself by jumping from the top of a building in Washington DC. This was a very dangerous experiment but fortunately for Štefan, his parachute worked and he landed safely. He tested his creation again by jumping from a US military aircraft and again he landed safely. This is how his creation got the seal of approval. He donated his patent to the U.S. Army. Other inventors continued to develop and improve his design. Since then, parachutes have saved thousands of lives. This was made possible thanks to the problem-solving bravery of the young man from Smolenice.

And what of Štefan Banič himself? Austria-Hungary fell after the First World War and Czechoslovakia was born. That is when he decided to return to his homeland and his home town. He continued to be curious and helped to explore Driny Karst Cave, a popular tourist attraction today in the foothills of the Little Carpathian Mountains.

Zmenil svet vynálezom padáku

Štefan Banič sa narodil v Smoleniciach na západnom Slovensku. Ako mladý muž rád riešil rôzne úlohy a sníval veľké sny, ktoré siahali ďaleko za hranice jeho malého mesta či krajiny. Emigroval zo Slovenska, vtedajšieho Rakúsko-Uhorska, a vybral sa za lepším životom do Ameriky. Začiatky v novej krajine boli ťažké. Štefan našiel svoju prvú prácu v uhoľných baniach mesta Greenville v Pensylvánii.

V roku 1921 sa Banič stal svedkom leteckého nešťastia, ktoré prebudilo jeho inovátorského ducha. Začal premýšľať nad vynálezom, ktorý by pomohol zachrániť životy pri podobných tragédiách.

Štefan svoj vynález pomenoval 'padák'. Veľká tkaninová plachta mala umožniť ľuďom vyskočiť v núdzových situáciách z lietadla a prežiť. Nikto nič podobné predtým nevidel. Štefan začal kresliť návrhy a neskôr konštruovať prototyp. V lete 1913 bol vynález na svete. Ako však zistiť, či skutočne funguje?

Nenašiel sa žiaden bláznivý dobrovoľník, ktorý by sa podujal na test prvého padáka. Hovorí sa, že Štefan vzal výzvu do vlastných rúk a zoskočil s padákom zo strechy budovy vo Washingtone DC.

Bol to nebezpečný pokus, ale našťastie padák fungoval a Štefan bezpečne pristál na zemi. Svoj vynález znova úspešne otestoval výskokom z vojenského lietadla a získal patent, ktorý venoval americkej armáde. Ďalší vynálezovia pokračovali vo vývoji padáka, ktorý odvtedy zachránil tisíce životov. Toto všetko bolo možné len vďaka odvahe a šikovnosti mladého muža zo Smoleníc.

Čo sa stalo so Štefanom Baničom potom? Po prvej svetovej vojne sa rozpadlo Rakúsko-Uhorsko a vzniklo Československo. Štefan sa rozhodol pre návrat do rodného mesta. Nikdy neprestal byť zvedavý, čo ho viedlo k zapojeniu sa do prieskumu krasovej jaskyne Driny. Tá je dnes populárnou turistickou atrakciou Smoleníc, podzemnou perlou v samotnom srdci Malých Karpát.

Experience the Magic of Slovakia's Christmas Markets

Each year, as Advent approaches, Slovakia's towns and cities transform into glowing winter wonderlands filled with lights, music, and the irresistible charm of the holiday season. Among the most beloved traditions are the Christmas Markets of Bratislava, where the heart of the capital comes alive with festive spirit.

Visitors strolling through the historic squares are greeted by cozy wooden stalls offering traditional crafts, handmade gifts, and delicious Slovak specialties. The air fills with the scent of cinnamon, warm punch, and fresh pastries, inviting everyone to slow down and enjoy the moment. Throughout the season, the markets feature a rich program of concerts, performances, and cultural events that bring people together—children's choirs, local bands, and talented artists all contribute to the joyful atmosphere.

Bratislava's Christmas Markets are known not only for their flavors and music, but also for their traditions. Families look forward to St. Nicholas festivities, creative workshops, and the presence of non-profit organizations whose charity stalls add an extra layer of community warmth. Two towering Christmas trees—one on the Main Square and another on Hviezdoslav Square—stand proudly as symbols of the season.

For those seeking a touch of history, the Medieval Christmas Market at Bratislava Castle offers a journey back in time with traditional craftsmen, falconers, and old-world treats. Whether exploring the castle grounds or wandering through the city center, visitors will find countless opportunities to create lasting holiday memories.

Throughout Advent, Slovakia's capital becomes a fairy-tale setting of lights, music, and good cheer—an ideal place to gather with family and friends and experience the magic of Christmas together.



Zaži čaro vianočných trhov na Slovensku

Každý rok, keď sa blíži advent, slovenské mestá a obce sa menia na rozprávkovo žiariace zimné krajiny plné svetiel, hudby a nezameniteľnej sviatočnej atmosféry. Medzi najobľúbenejšie tradície patria bratislavské vianočné trhy, kde historické centrum hlavného mesta oživa pravou sviatočnou náladou.

Návštevníci prechádzajúci cez malebné námestia objavia útulné drevené stánky ponúkajúce tradičné remeslá, ručne vyrábané darčeky a chutné slovenské špeciality. Vzduchom sa nesie vôňa škorice, teplého punču a čerstvých koláčov, ktorá pozýva každého spomaliť a naplno si vychutnať zimnú atmosféru. Počas celého obdobia trhy ponúkajú bohatý program koncertov, vystúpení a kultúrnych podujatí – od detských speváckych zborov až po vystúpenia miestnych hudobníkov, ktoré dotvárajú sviatočnú náladu.

Bratislavské vianočné trhy sú známe nielen svojimi vôňami a hudbou, ale aj tradíciami. Rodiny sa každoročne tešia na mikulášske oslavy, tvorivé dielne či stánky neziskových organizácií, ktoré do centra mesta prinášajú charitu a komunitné teplo. Dva majestátne vianočné stromy – jeden na Hlavnom námestí a druhý na Hviezdoslavovom námestí – stoja ako symboly Vianoc a radosti.

Pre tých, ktorí túžia po nádychu histórie, ponúka Stredoveký vianočný trh na Bratislavskom hrade návrat v čase. Tradiční remeselníci, sokoliari či historické maškrtky vytvárajú atmosféru, ktorá nadchne deti aj dospelých. Či už sa návštevníci vyberú na hrad, alebo zostanú v centre mesta, nájdu nespočetné možnosti, ako si vytvoriť nezabudnuteľné sviatočné spomienky.

Počas adventu sa slovenské hlavné mesto mení na rozprávkovú kulisu plnú svetiel, hudby a dobrej nálady – ideálne miesto na stretnutie s rodinou a priateľmi a na prežitie vianočnej mágie spolu.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2025 • Teleconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 11am 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
- Thomas Ivanec Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 13, 2025 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 Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky submitted his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The President and the Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee 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 preliminary report for Quarter 3 of 2025 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. Everything was found in order, and they 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 September the Committee's review and answered their questions. The President led a discussion regarding new mortgage investments and answered the Committee's questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Death Benefits & Accumulations..... | \$173,770.00 |
| Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations..... | \$46,537.62 |
| 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 Executive Secretary stated to the Executive Committee that he will continue the monthly Virtual Call program with the Districts and Branches. Our current insurance and annuity products have been topics for discussion. Further

details and topics will be on the website and published in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary will be sending an email to Districts and Branches outlining talking points for their meetings.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President stated details about the Annual Golf Outing to be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio; more information will be presented once the date is selected. It will also be published on the website and in the newspaper.

The President also gave preliminary details about the Annual Bowling Tournament to be held in Erie, Pennsylvania on April 25 - 26, 2025. More information will also be published on the website and in the newspaper.

The President reminded the Branches and Districts to use their Branding Bucks; anyone having any questions or concerns is asked to please contact Pam at the Home Office.

The President stated that the Family Fall Festival held on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at Simmons Farm in McMurray, Pennsylvania, was a huge success.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated to the Executive Committee that preliminary information about the upcoming 2026 Convention will be posted on the Convention page of the website. The call was published in the May 2025 edition of the Jednota. The 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The call and additional information for the convention will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our Convention page of the website.

The President stated we have received final approval for new forms and policies for all the states in which we are licensed. Everything is now updated on the 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

Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 16

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| P | E | S | T | | | E | S | T | E | | S | A | N | K | |



Why did Rudolph have to attend summer school?

Because he went down in history

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