



# Jednota®

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NUMBER 6048

## Update From The President

As we move further into the new year, it's essential to keep April 15th marked on your calendar—Tax Day. This is an excellent time to review your financial records, gather necessary documents, and ensure you're prepared to meet this important deadline.

Did you know that contributions to IRAs and Roth IRAs for the 2024 tax year can still be made up until April 15th? These accounts not only help you save for retirement but can also provide valuable tax benefits. Whether you're looking to reduce your taxable income with a traditional IRA or grow your retirement savings tax-free with a Roth IRA, we're here to help you find the right solution. When deciding between a Roth IRA or a Traditional IRA, consider the following:

### Roth IRA

**Potential for Lower Tax Impact in Retirement:** If you believe your tax rate will be higher in retirement than it is currently, the Roth IRA allows you to pay taxes now while you are at a lower rate, ensuring that your withdrawals later on are tax-free.

**Estate Planning Benefits:** Roth IRAs can be passed on to heirs without immediate tax consequences. Beneficiaries will have to take distributions, but they will not owe tax on those withdrawals.

### IRA

**Lower Taxes During Retirement:** If you anticipate retiring in a lower tax bracket, a Traditional IRA might be a better choice. You'll defer paying taxes until you withdraw money, potentially reducing your overall tax burden during retirement.

**Immediate Tax Deduction:** One of the main advantages of a Traditional IRA is the tax deduction you can take in the year you make contributions. This can significantly reduce your taxable income and provide essential tax savings when you need them.

As part of our commitment to providing convenient and timely service, we want to remind you that your 2024 1099 form is now available through the member portal. This form is issued to members who took a withdrawal of \$10 or more from an

*Continued on Page 3*



**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
President, CEO

## **FCSU Awarded Over \$200,000 in Scholarships in 2024!**



### **A Word of Thanks!**

*Thank you so much for awarding me the First Catholic Slovak Union scholarship this year! I am currently a first year music major at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. My primary instrument is violin, but I am also minoring in organ and planning to double major in small business management. My first semester went great, and I am looking forward to the spring semester. I greatly appreciate the interest that FCSU has taken in making sure that education is more accessible by awarding these scholarships. You have made this wonderful experience possible by letting me remain focused on practicing, academics, and building connections instead of worrying how I will make ends meet. Thank you!*

*Martin Meyer*

*Dear Scholarship Committee Members:  
I would like to thank you, the FCSU officers, and the Jednota Benevolent Foundation. I am very pleased to have received the award as it will help me continue my studies at the University of Pittsburgh and eventually my goals in the engineering community. Thank you for your support.*

*Louis Mariano*

**See Pages 5 & 11  
for Information on  
Branch and National  
Scholarships**



**You Still  
Have Time  
to Add  
Funds  
to Your  
Annuities  
and IRA's  
for the  
2024  
Tax Year.**

FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD



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

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



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada  
FCSU Corporate Center  
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
Independence, OH 44131-2398  
800.533.6682

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

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

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

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. This day was chosen because it is the feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita. Josephine, born around 1869 in Sudan, was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery to a number of owners. She eventually was purchased by the Italian Consul, brought to Italy, and sent to live with a religious community of women. Josephine was formally introduced to the Faith, baptized, and eventually granted her freedom. She joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity and served her fellow sisters as cook and seamstress. She died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000.



Rev. Thomas Nasta  
National Chaplain

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the inspiring example of Saint Josephine Bakhita.

Saint Josephine Bakhita, you were enslaved as a child; you were bought and sold, you were treated brutally. Intercede, we implore you, for all those who are trapped in trafficking and slavery. May their captors let them go, and may this evil be erased from the face of the earth.

Saint Josephine Bakhita, once you regained your freedom, you did not let your sufferings define your life. You chose a path of kindness and generosity. Help those blinded by greed and lust who trample the human rights and dignity of their brothers and sisters. Help them to break out of their hateful chains, to become fully human again, and to imitate your kindness and generosity.

Dear Saint Josephine Bakhita, your freedom drew you to Christ and his Church. Then God called you to religious life as a Canossian Sister. You practiced great charity, mercy and joyful gentleness in your vocation. Help us always to be like you, especially when we feel tempted to look away and not to help, to reject others or even to abuse them. Intercede for us so that Christ may fill our hearts with you as he always filled yours.

O loving God, pour your merciful light into our troubled world. Let it flood into the darkest shadows. Bring salvation to the innocents who suffer under sinful abuse. Bring conversion to the utterly lost souls who hold them captive and exploit them. Give us all the strength to grow in the true freedom of love for you, for each other, and for our common home. Amen.

SS. Cyril and Methodius February Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 47th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was 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.

As of February 1, 75 donors have given \$5,055.00 for the 2025 Appeal. Among the 19 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 112, Branch 166, Branch 320, Branch 731, Branch 743, Branch 746, Branch 857, and District 14 of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$825. Donations have also been received from 14 clergy and religious and 42 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2025 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, 2025 will be credited toward the 2026 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

**47th 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	ISSUE DEADLINES
All copy is due by 4:30pm, THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated because of special holiday scheduling. All articles are reviewed for possible publication. FCSU reserves the right to edit and format submitted articles and pictures. Remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY. Submit your articles in ample time for them to be received at the Home Office.	<p><b>MARCH 2025 ISSUE</b></p> <p><b>COPY DATE - Monday, March 3</b></p> <p><b>ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, March 12</b></p> <p><b>APRIL 2025 ISSUE</b></p> <p><b>COPY DATE - Monday, March 31</b></p> <p><b>ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, April 9</b></p>

## Executive Secretary's Message

Even though Punxsutawney Phil has decided to delay spring for another 6 weeks, the FCSU Home Office has been in full "Spring Mode".

First, thank you to all the Branches that have submitted their stipend paperwork before the deadline.

Every 4 years the Home Office is audited by the Department of Insurance. Currently we are involved in 2 State Audits (NY and OH). It is a priority for us to protect our members' personal and financial information. Therefore, we are constantly improving our cybersecurity.

The FCSU Online presence is also a very important part of running a business. As part of our rebranding, the FCSU website is getting a new face lift. We are happy to announce that we are close to launching our new website. It will contain revised and updated forms, easier search for Branches and Districts, Pay Now option and many more features. We hope you will find it more user friendly.

As I mentioned above, we are in the process of updating our cybersecurity protection levels and need your help.

When you log in into your Member Portal please make sure that your information matches our database. If you have problem logging in, call the Home Office at 800.533.6682, ext. 129 to create or update your information.

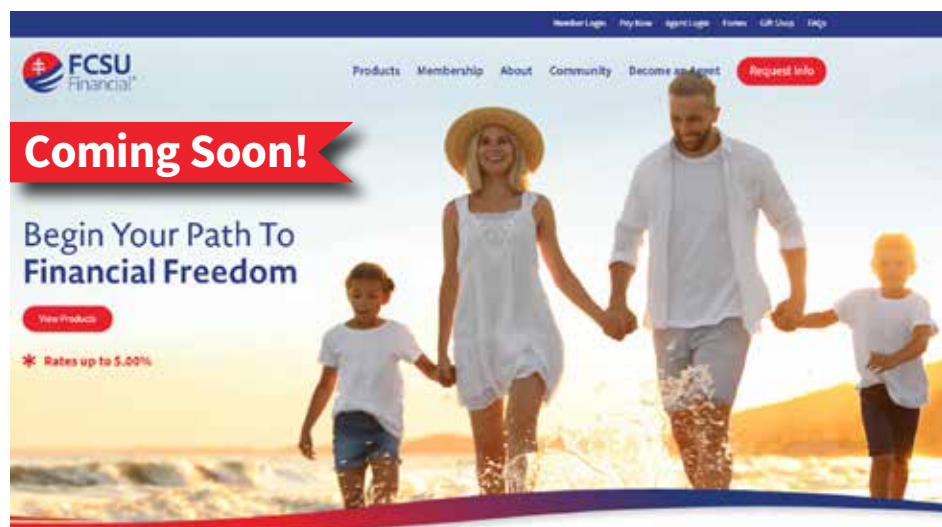
Please take a few minutes to check that the following personal information is up to date:

1. Address
2. Cell Phone Number
3. Email Address

Feel free to reach out to us at the Home Office at 800.533.6682, if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you at a future FCSU Event.



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



## Update From The President Continued from Page 1

Annuity or IRA in 2024. In accordance with IRS regulations, a hard copy of your 1099 form has also been mailed to you. If you did not take a withdrawal in 2024, you will not receive a 1099 form from us.

To access your form on-line:

1. Log in to the member portal at fcsu.com
2. Navigate to the "Tax Forms" section
3. Download or print your 1099 form for your records

Please keep in mind the FCSU does not provide any tax or financial advice. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your personal circumstances. For more information regarding filing your taxes or answers to any questions you may have, please visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). As always, the Home Office staff is here to help with any questions you may have regarding our products or fraternal. Please feel free to give us a call at 800.533.6682 or go on-line at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) to keep up to date with what's happening in the FCSU.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## FEBRUARY 2025

- 2/17** Home Office Closed for Presidents Day
- 2/17** Branch 853 - Mass, Ellsworth, PA
- 2/22** Branch 5P - Meeting, Wyoming, PA (RSVP by 2/20)
- 2/23** Branch 796 - Meeting, Egypt, PA
- 2/25** Branch 853 - Painting Event, Charleroi, PA (RSVP by 2/20)

## MARCH 2025

- 3/2** Branch 162 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA
- 3/2** District 11 - Meeting, Butler, PA
- 3/4** Branch 853 - Meeting, Charleroi, PA
- 3/6** Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
- 3/7** Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 3/8** Branch 853 - Psanky Egg Dyeing, Southpark, PA (RSVP by 2/17)
- 3/9** Branch 19 - Mass, Bridgeport, CT
- 3/9** Branch 19 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 3/9** Branch 382 - Meeting, Dunmore, PA (RSVP by 3/5)
- 3/9** District 9 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (Election, RSVP by 3/3)
- 3/10** Branch 2 - Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3/12** Branch 367 - Meeting, Smithfield, PA
- 3/15** Branch 200 - Soup Sale, Ford City, PA
- 3/15** Branch 855 - Social Saturday, Middleburg Heights, OH
- 3/16** Branch 743 - Meeting, Sterling Heights, MI
- 3/17** Branch 228 - Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 3/20** Branch 410 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 3/17)
- 3/20** Branch 731 - Mass, Youngstown, OH
- 3/26** Branch 290 - Meeting, Middlesex, NJ (RSVP by 3/19)
- 3/29** Branch 181 - Meeting, Latrobe, PA (RSVP by 3/20)
- 3/29** Branch 393 - Meeting, Latrobe, PA
- 3/29** Branch 670 - Polka Festival, Wheeling, WV (RSVP by 3/9)
- 3/29** District 3 - Meeting, Latrobe, PA (RSVP by 3/20)
- 3/30** Branch 746 - Meeting, Linden, NJ (RSVP by 3/21)
- 3/30** District 4 - Meeting, Linden, NJ (RSVP by 3/21)

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

# CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN!

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary/COO, was recently elected to the Board of the Fraternal Field Managers' Association (FFMA). The organization brings fraternal societies together to exchange ideas, support each other and strengthen the fraternal community.

## February Reflection

Having celebrated and concluded the Christmas season, I remain impressed by the beauty of the holy names—Jesus, Mary, Joseph. Thus, I chose this favorite hymn in honor of The Holy Family.

The name “Jesus” means “God saves.” The child born of the Virgin Mary is called Jesus, “for He will save His people from their sins” (Mt 1:21). “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

God chose for the mother of His Son “a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Lk. 1:27). Here we witness how Mary was predestined and “chosen” by name to mother God’s Son. God chooses those who are considered powerless and weak to prove His faithfulness to His promises. Mary was chosen and enriched by God with gifts. The angel Gabriel, at the moment of the Annunciation, salutes her as “full of grace” (Lk. 1:28).

Joseph, as foster father, was also blessed and prepared in God’s way. Witness the intensity of God’s guidance by dreams before and after the birth of Jesus. (Mt.1:20-25; 2:13-23).

Jesus, Mary, Joseph—precious names, each symbolic of God’s love and plan for our salvation and continued blessings on our daily path of life. As the hymn reminds us, we cling to this Holy Family by prayerful hope and trust—calling on them by name to be our guides and support.

May the repetition of these names—Jesus, Mary, Joseph, lift our minds and hearts to God as we live and serve in His Holy Presence.

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

### NAMES MOST PRECIOUS

(English translation to Slovak hymn melody)

- Names most precious prayed together:  
Honor Jesus, Mary, Joseph!  
Hear this prayerful song we offer,  
Praising Jesus, Mary, Joseph!  
May this praise resound forever  
Blessed Jesus, Mary, Joseph!
- Names to which we cling most dearly,  
Trusting Jesus, Mary, Joseph!  
We return from sinful failing,  
Praying Jesus, Mary, Joseph!  
May your saving grace bless us faithfully  
Pray we Jesus, Mary Joseph!
- Blessed comfort, hope in sadness,  
Hearing Jesus, Mary, Joseph!  
Beacon lights which guide to goodness,  
Radiant Jesus, Mary, Joseph!  
May we strive to live in your presence,  
Daily, Jesus Mary, Joseph!

### NAJSLADŠIE NAD VŠETKY MENÁ

- Najsladšie nad všetky mená:  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!  
Naša pieseň každodenná,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!  
Bude vás chváliť na veky,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!
- Mená, ku ktorým letíme,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!  
Z hriechu sa vždy k nim vrátíme,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!  
Budte našim útočiskom,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!
- Ó potešenie v zármutku,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!  
Ó svetlo k dobrému skutku,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!  
Dajte, by sme pre vás žili,  
Ježiš, Mária, Jozef!

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

### Fra Angelico’s Paintings as Prayer

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

February 18th is the Feast of Blessed Fra Angelico, who was a Dominican friar and painter of the early Italian Renaissance. When Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1982, he was asked about Fra Angelico’s miracles and simply pointed to his paintings and said, “These are his miracles.”

Born in Tuscany around 1395, Fra Angelico’s initial training as an artist was in the creation of illuminated manuscripts, and he went on to paint frescoes and other works for churches and religious houses throughout Italy. Scripture was his inspiration, and he always prayed for God’s blessings on his work and viewed the act of painting as a prayer in and of itself.

Two years after beatifying Fra Angelico, John Paul II declared him patron of Catholic artists. In one of the beautiful and laudatory statements he made about Fra Angelico, John Paul II said, “Angelico was reported to say, ‘He who does Christ’s work must stay with Christ always.’ This motto earned him the epithet ‘Blessed Angelico,’ because of the perfect integrity of his life and the almost divine beauty of the images he painted, to a superlative extent those of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

In the spring of 2024, the Uffizi Gallery, a prominent museum in the heart of Florence, presented a reunification of Fra Angelico’s Glorification of Mary with the original predella he painted to accompany it. Created sometime between 1431 and 1435 for the hospital church of Santa Maria Nuova in Florence, the Glorification of Mary depicts our Blessed Mother assumed into heaven and enthroned beside Christ the Redeemer. The Predella, which is a separate panel beneath the main painting, consists of two compartments depicting the Marriage and Funeral of the Virgin.

The Glorification was separated from its predella in the 17th century and eventually reunited at the Uffizi only to be separated again during World War II and moved around to secret locations to protect it from bombings and raids by the Nazis. After the war, the main panel returned to the Uffizi, while its predella wound up in a different museum in Florence. It wasn’t until last year, when the predella finally returned to the Uffizi, that the work could be displayed again as Fra Angelico originally intended.

In his authoritative book on Italian art entitled *Lives of the Artists*, 16th century historian Giorgio Vasari called Fra Angelico, “a rare and perfect talent,” adding, “It is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said and whose pictures were painted with such facility and piety.”

This statement about the character of Fra Angelico has certainly heightened interest in the intent underpinning his Glorification and the predella he created to accompany it, and the Uffizi has rightly celebrated this reunification. Those who visit the work now receive a fuller glimpse of his vision in this beautiful tribute to the life of our Blessed Mother and the exalted status she occupies in our faith. In his life and work, Fra Angelico demonstrates how the arts can work in service to the faith to illuminate the figures, stories, and principles at the heart of Scripture. May Fra Angelico intercede for all artists to draw closer to Christ so their work can reveal truth to all people and inspire us to see the beauty of creation and the faith given to us to discover God’s love.

## Insights and Viewpoints

**Luke 6:17, 20-26**, Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B

It is instructive to compare Luke’s Beatitudes with those of Matthew (5:2-11). Luke offers just four Beatitudes while Matthew gives us eight. But the four that Luke shares with Matthew are considered the oldest version and contain the essential teaching. Luke also adds four Woes, not found in Matthew, and intended to re-enforce, by contrast, the message of the previous Beatitudes.

The most important word in all the Beatitudes is the subject of the first one, namely, the “poor.” This English word, suggesting economic destitution, does not at all capture the full meaning of the Hebrew word from which it is ultimately derived. In that fuller sense, the poor are the “afflicted ones” or, more specifically, the “powerless ones.” This often includes the economically destitute but it includes also those who recognize their radical poverty when it comes to the matter of final salvation. In the gospel, the poor stand in contrast to the Scribes and

Pharisees who, though themselves far from materially rich, were so “full of themselves” and so smug about salvation that they effectively closed themselves to the free gift of the Kingdom.

In essence, therefore, God gives salvation to those humble ones who know how powerless they really are in spiritual matters and who are ready to turn humbly to God who is more than willing to give them the Kingdom. The “hungry” and the “weeping” and the “persecuted” are variations on the poor ones. The hungry know that only God can satisfy their needs and do not try to place that burden on any merely human creature. The weeping know that God’s command to love often leads to grieving...and who love nonetheless. The persecuted, or ridiculed ones, gladly embrace the “foolish” wisdom of unselfish service because they realize that God’s gift is only for the generous ones.

The seemingly benign appearance of these well-known Beatitudes conceal a very harsh judgment on many of the attitudes of the secular culture in which we live and by which we are probably influenced far more than we realize. This secular culture (and our natural instincts) lead us to place a very high premium on control. A metaphor for this in our contemporary world is the remote control for our TVs. There is a pleasing sense of power in being able to “zap” advertisements and people on the screen with whom we disagree.

This tendency could be relatively harmless except when we allow it to influence our relationship with God and our attitude toward other people. An excessive yearning for control is clearly a prideful attitude and it is pride, more than anything else, that blocks our access to the free gift of salvation. It can also

destroy the delicate fabric of our loving relationship with other people.

The opposite of our passion for control is our willingness to love to the point of vulnerability. Machismo is unhealthy because it is so out of touch with reality. We are living in a dangerous illusion when we think that we must always be in control. The fact is that we do not control the most important realities in life, such as love, happiness and life itself. These are wonderful gifts and we should be happy to accept them as such. When we try to seize them, they inevitably slip through our fingers.

We need to understand the true role of power. It can be very useful but it must always be guided by love. When that happens, we can also let go of it, when the time comes, and thus be ready for the exquisite gift of God’s Kingdom.



# FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

## FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

helps its young members succeed through education by awarding over \$142,000 in scholarships each year.

### SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOLS (5-8 gr)	\$500
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS	\$1,000
VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOLS	\$1,000
COLLEGES	\$1,500
GRADUATE SCHOOLS	\$1,500

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Applicants must have:** a minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life), or minimum of \$25,000 JEP policy (on new policy); or minimum of \$1,000 of Juvenile Life Savings; or minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA with the FCSU for at least three years prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying.

**Applicants are eligible to win once in each of the 5 categories.**

All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years.

**Applicants must submit** an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) and mail it to: FCSU Scholarship Program, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131 or email to [scholarship@fcsu.com](mailto:scholarship@fcsu.com).

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

Applications available at [WWW.FCSU.COM](http://WWW.FCSU.COM)  
([www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships))

Applications must be received by **MARCH 20, 2025**  
For more info call us at 800-533-6682 ext.114

# Celebrating a Rewarding District 14 Christmas Party

Submitted by Drew Hirt, President

FCSU Joseph L. Kostik District 14 held its Annual Christmas party on the evening of Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at Rachel's Restaurant in Austintown, OH. The festivities were hosted by Branch 682's Sue Carney. The celebration allowed the opportunity for members from Branches 165, 259, 260, 682, 731 and 764 to share fellowship and information. A raffle was conducted at the event and included many gifts for the attendees. Also, special thanks to Tom and Terri Ivanec and to Kevin Collins who all traveled from Cleveland to attend our event.



Sue Carney of Branch 682 who arranged and hosted the event and auctioned the many gifts provided for the attendees.

## Branch 320 Officers

Branch 320 was honored to have James Marmol (Regional Director) swear our 2025 Branch 320 board into office.

From Left: James Marmol (Regional Director), Frances Tarquinio (Financial Secretary), Mary Anne Higginbotham (President), Joseph Tarquinio (Vice President), Patricia Davies (Auditor).

## Reconnect with Your Slovak Heritage and Homeland



Let 2025 be the year you discover your Slovak homeland and reconnect with your family roots. Travel through the ever-changing landscapes. Rediscover the traditions you remember from childhood. Learn about Slovakia's history and why so many families left this beautiful country to settle in America. Walk your family's village streets and reconnect with the family who stayed behind.

Enjoy all of this and more – festivals, castles, music, outdoor heritage museums, the Tatry mountains – as a part of the popular fall Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 12-21, or the new spring Slovakia Heritage Tour, June 20-29, 2025.

"No matter how many generations their family has been in the States, Americans still have a longing to reconnect with their roots...the people, places, and lives that came before. It's in our DNA," said Judy Northup-Bennett, a Slovakia travel consultant who helps people with their Slovakia travel plans. Judy founded the Slovakia Heritage Tour in 2011 with Peter and Jane Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours who now operate the tours.

Judy said people love the relaxed pace of the small-group tour that people can personalize to meet their own travel plans. They have a very good success rate in working with travelers before the tour on genealogical research and reconnecting with relatives that stayed in Slovakia. "People like getting off the beaten-track where they can experience their own family history as well as tour Slovakia and meet Slovaks today."

For more information on these heritage tours and to discuss your personal family travel plans, please contact Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144, slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or text 978-894-6622. For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com).

# Save the Date

Plans are underway for our 2025 National Events. Mark the dates now so you don't double book your social calendar. See pages 12-14 for information on our FCSU International Bowling Tournament and page 24 for information on the Golf Tournament. We'll provide more details as the dates get closer. We can't wait to see you!



**Saturday, June 21**



**Saturday, June 28**

# Seeking Internal Auditor

FCSU Financial® is seeking qualified candidates to apply for the Internal Auditor position which will be held from the time of appointment until the next Convention in 2026 when all positions will be up for election.

The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the FCSU for a minimum of five (5) years, a practicing Catholic, a citizen of the US or Canada; cannot sell life insurance or annuities for any other insurer; and cannot be a national officer in any other fraternal or life insurance company, or if selected must resign from that office.

## Duties - 7.06 AUDITORS

The Internal Auditors shall consist of four members, one of whom shall be elected by the Convention as Chairman.

A candidate for election by the Convention to the position of Internal Auditor cannot be an employee of the FCSU or its subsidiaries. An FCSU employee, an FCSU retired employee or former employee cannot be appointed as internal auditor.

An Auditor must have an associate or higher accounting degree from an accredited college or equivalent accounting experience.

To the extent that they do not conflict with federal statutes, regulatory provisions or other laws related to the tax-exempt status of the FCSU, as the Internal Auditors of the FCSU and of all subsidiaries of the FCSU they shall furnish management with analyses, appraisals, recommendations, counsel, and information concerning the activities reviewed.

The Internal Auditors shall function under the policies established by the Board of Directors. The policies established shall include the following:

- (a) Audit and review on a test basis the supporting invoices for expenditures including the expense accounts of the Officers.
- (b) Have access at all times to the records of the Officers.
- (c) Submit a signed written report and submit same to the Convention and to Annual Meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (d) Demand and receive all property belonging to the FCSU from National Officers who resign or cease to be an officer or branch officer.
- (e) The duties of the Auditors shall be performed throughout the year as appropriate. Semiannually, the Auditors shall review the activities and financial affairs of the Society.
- (f) The Chairman of Auditors, along with the three Auditors, shall submit recommendations or proposals to the Bylaws Committee in time for their meeting five months prior to the next Convention.
- (g) The Chairman of Auditors shall confer with the outside public accountant to determine what work and/or schedules can be prepared by the FCSU auditors to reduce fees.
- (h) Auditors shall ethically perform their duties and maintain proper levels of confidentiality.
- (i) Internal Auditors shall conduct quarterly audits for compliance and adherence to policies and procedures as outlined in these bylaws or as established by the Board of Directors. The Auditors shall furnish the Executive Committee with written analysis, information, and recommendations of the result of their examination. A detailed written report describing their activities, together with any recommendations, corrective actions or findings shall be distributed to the Board of Directors by the Chairman of Auditors at their Board of Directors meeting.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter stating interest and qualifications to:

**Ken Arendt, President, CEO**  
**FCSU Financial®, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300,**  
**Independence, OH 44131**  
**or email karendt@fcsu.com**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 10, 2025**



*“I mailed my check to the gas company two months ago to pay the \$45 bill. Today, the gas company sent me a bill stating I hadn’t paid last month’s bill. So, they charged me again for last month’s bill plus this month’s bill, plus a late payment fee of \$25. I just checked my bank statement, and I noticed that somehow the \$45 check I had written was altered to read \$4,500 and someone cashed it.”*

## Be on the Lookout for Check Washing Scams

Check washing scams like the example above are on the rise, with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service reporting a 161% increase nationwide in recent years. Criminals steal checks from mailboxes or postal facilities, erase the original details using household chemicals, and replace them with their own name and a higher amount. They then cash or deposit the counterfeit checks, leaving victims with significant financial losses.

### How to Protect Yourself:

1. **GO DIGITAL:** Set up automatic payments through your bank to eliminate the need for mailing checks.
2. **USE SECURITY ENVELOPES:** Avoid using envelopes that say “payment enclosed.” Instead, opt for opaque security envelopes.
3. **WRITE SMART:** Gel pens are harder to erase, but counterfeiters are increasingly sophisticated—consider minimizing check use altogether.
4. **STAY VIGILANT:** Check your bank statements daily for unauthorized transactions and report them immediately.
5. **SECURE YOUR MAIL:** Never leave outgoing mail in your outdoor mailbox.

If you suspect check fraud contact your bank immediately. Take steps to safeguard your finances and help protect yourself from becoming a victim of check washing.

Here at FCSU, we are taking steps to ensure your information is gathered safely. One way is encouraging you to use our member portal to make payments to avoid sending checks in the mail.

### CREATE:

- Go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)
- Click **MEMBER LOGIN**
- Click **Create Account**
- Enter the required information
- Create your username & password
- Click Create User

### VERIFY:

- Verify your phone number and click TEXT
- Enter the 4 digit code and click OK
- Congratulations! You’ve created your account.

### LOG IN:

- Next time you want to check your account, just go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)
- Click **MEMBER LOGIN**
- Enter your username/password
- Verify your phone number/Text
- View your policies

## The Blessing of Easter Baskets

Traditional Easter foods are gathered in “blessing baskets” comprising of cooked eggs, bread, preserved meat, beetroot and horse-radish, along with dairy products like syrek (a cheese dish) and hrudka (a loaf made from eggs and milk), as well as paska sweetbread.

FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta will be blessing Easter baskets via live-stream on Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 12:00pm (EST).

The blessing will be live streamed from Our Lady of Grace Church, Penn del, PA. You can watch the blessing on-line at [www.olgparishpenndel.org](http://www.olgparishpenndel.org).



## Stay Connected with Us! Update Your Contact Info Today!

As a valued member of FCSU Financial, it’s important to keep your contact information up-to-date. This ensures you receive the latest updates on your policies, as well as news about our fraternal activities and benefits.

LET US KNOW IF YOU’VE HAD ANY CHANGES TO YOUR:

**Address • Phone Number • Email Address**  
**Marital Status • Death of a Loved One**



# Sole Mates Across the Americas

*We are happy to recognize the FCSU branches who reported their participation in the first FCSU Sole Mates Across the Americas initiative. Thanks to their generosity, we helped the less fortunate this winter. We look forward to more branches participating next year. It is amazing the good that can be accomplished when FCSU members work together.*

## Branch 162, Uniontown, PA

Branch 162 collected socks for three weekends at Catholic Churches in the Uniontown area. Through this wonderful effort, and the generosity of many parishioners, 1,450 pairs of socks were collected! Branch members distributed socks to men and women with children at City Mission houses, Mary's House, the Rendu Houses for homeless veterans with children, A.B.A.T.E., Mt. Macrina Manor, St. Mary's Children's Closet and Laurel Highlands H.S. Clothing Closet. The members felt this community project was a wonderful experience. The branch extends its sincere thanks to all who contributed to such a worthy cause. The FCSU is most grateful to Branch 162 for embracing Sole Mates Across the Americas.



## Branch 587 Aliquippa, PA

Branch 587 collected 150 pairs of socks at their annual meeting. Seventy-five pairs of socks were donated to St. Vincent de Paul/Our Lady of Fatima Church in Hopewell Twp. The other 75 pairs were donated to Resurrection Parish's Religious Education Program in support of their sock drive for Outreached Arms, a non-profit which provides basic necessities to the inner city homeless and working poor of Pittsburgh, while sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Kayla Fibbi and Ethan Fibbi are shown gathering their branch's donations.



## Region 1's Community Project

Branches 45 (New York, NY), 716 (New York, NY), 290 (Bridgewater, NJ) and 746 (Linden, NJ) joined together to collect socks for the needy at their branch and District 4 and 16 meetings, making it a true community project for Region 1 members.

Through their generous efforts over 300 pairs of socks were donated several deserving charities. Branch 746 donated to The Mercy House of the Archdiocese of Newark who provides food, clothing, life necessities and a variety of services to the poor of New Jersey, including newly arriving immigrants and refugee families. Branch 290 donated their collection to S.H.I.P. (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program). Thank you all for your participation and kindness.



# FRANtastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL

## CHICKEN PAPRIKASH

### YOU WILL NEED

- 1 large cast iron skillet or Dutch oven
- 3lbs thawed boneless skinless chicken thighs & breasts sliced & seasoned with paprika
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 medium onions sliced and diced
- 2 cloves of minced garlic
- Sweet Paprika (at least 2 Tbsp)
- 6 oz. of Sour cream (or more to taste)
- 1/4 cup of Flour
- 3 Tbsp. of Butter or olive oil to sauté the onions and garlic
- 1-2 Tbsp. butter to make the rue
- Optional: chopped peppers and tomatoes (skinned/seeded), salt and pepper to taste



In a large skillet or Dutch oven, sauté the chopped onions with some olive oil or butter. Add 2 Tbsp. of paprika and continue to sauté. Add garlic when the onions are about half way done. Once onions and garlic are done, add the seasoned chicken on top of the cooked onions and garlic and cover mixing occasionally so the onions don't stick. Cook for 15-20 minutes. In the middle of the skillet, add about 1-2 Tbsp. of butter, once melted, stir in 1/4 cup of flour to make a rue. (You may need more flour depending on how thick you like it). Add chicken broth and simmer to thicken. Add more paprika, salt, or pepper to taste. Turn the heat to low and add approximately 6 ounces of sour cream (more or less depending on your preference). Stir until mixed in and serve over homemade dumplings or egg noodles.

***For whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.***

*Matthew 25:40*

# MEMBER *Spotlight*

## ANDREW HIRT



Andrew M. (Drew) Hirt is the President of and Senior Scientist for Materials Research Laboratories, Inc. (MRL), specializing in experimental design, materials science research and development, failure analysis, and a number of other scientific endeavors. Drew is a product of the Catholic School system in Youngstown, having attended St. Matthias grade school and Cardinal Mooney High School. With a calling to science from an early age (5), Drew pursued his goal to become a scientist and received his B.S. degree in Physics from the Case Institute of Technology in 1977. He continued his education at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he did graduate work in Materials Science. He also holds certifications in surface analysis and microscopy, having authored over fifty professional papers and books over the span of his 50 year career in science. His prior professional experience includes Technical Assistant for the Case Institute of Technology (CIT), employment as a lab scientist for Perkin-Elmer, Physical Electronics Division and Laboratory Manager for Structure Probe, Inc. MRL was founded in New Jersey in 1988 and moved to Ohio in 1993 when many of the R&D centers located in New Jersey dispersed throughout the country. In addition to its efforts in analytical R&D and failure analysis, the company employs summer and part-time students, makes its facilities available to elementary, high school and college level students and works with several universities on publishable R&D projects.

Since moving to their laboratory to Struthers, Drew and his wife Carol Jean have assisted the Struthers School system by participating in career days, judging science fairs, mentoring students in the middle and high schools and providing tours of their laboratory facilities. They also hosted overnight 'lock-ins' for students associated with local church youth groups for many years. Drew has assisted in the establishment of the STEM and entrepreneurship programs in the Struthers School system and has helped facilitate the formation of the Digital Media Arts and Robotics programs at the high school that include both coursework and participation in school system events and competitions.

Mr. Hirt has numerous professional affiliations and has been listed in "American Men and Women of Science" and "Madison's Who's Who of Professionals". Drew is involved in the American Physics Society (AVS/APS), the American Chemical Society (ACS), ASM International, the Catalysis Society and several other professional groups and actively participates in local, national and international meetings and symposia. Drew is married to his business partner, Carol Jean Hirt who specializes in electron microscopy. Drew and Carol work with several community groups including the Struthers Rotary (Drew is a former and current President), the Struthers School Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Chamber of Commerce and the CASTLO community improvement corporation. Their company (MRL) is involved with the internship programs with YSU and serves as a senior project mentor site for the Westminster College Chemistry Department. Drew is also currently an Adjunct Professor with the YSU chemistry department and

MRL has partnered with the STEM program on several of their recent instrument grant awards. He was recognized as the Outstanding Community Partner to the YSU STEM College at their 2016 Awards Banquet. Drew and Carol Jean have also served their Catholic parish as members of the Choir (Drew sings and plays guitar), Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and with the Catholic Marriage Preparation Program.

Drew spent 20 years assisting in providing meals at the Saint Matthias Annual Slovak Day. He has been active in FCSU Branch 682 over the last 30 years. In 2022, he attended and served as a Sargeant-at-Arms at the FCSU Convention. Currently President of Branch 682, Drew has filled that office since 2016 after serving several years as its Vice President. As President, he has promoted community involvement by providing food for the hungry through local programs, donations to rescue mission programs and scholarships to graduating Slovak high school students in the Struthers School System.

*We are proud to spotlight Drew Hirt, who has been an integral part of our organization for over 30 years. He has demonstrated commitment, leadership, and a spirit of fraternalism. His contributions have strengthened our community, inspired others, and upheld the values we hold dear. On behalf of the entire organization, thank you for your decades of service, vision, and dedication.*

## Feast Day of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows

*Submitted by Helen vonFriedl, Branch 785 Member and District 19 Public Relations*

On this feast day, Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, Ontario, celebrated with 2 Masses (English & Slovak) to honor Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia.

Both Branch 785 and District 19 participated in the Masses and the free breakfast of fresh bagels and cream cheese and fresh Pumpuski Plum donuts.

Many parishioners and other Spolky members attended as well. This event is always a great hit!



# Enjoy A World of Entertainment & Support Branch 24's Lexi Glova

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director

Celebrating their 88th Season, the Tamburitzans are headed to Independence High School on Sunday, April 27th. The event begins at 3:00pm and will be held in the auditorium of the school, located at 6001 Archwood Road in Independence, OH. They will showcase their new show, Legacy!

Folk with a Fresh Coat of Paint. That's how the group's Artistic Director George Kresovich describes his vision for every show. With a background in entertainment at Disney, he strives to create a Tamburitzans production that is a delicate balancing act, blending tradition and modernity, education and entertainment, all ingredients mixed to craft a phenomenal experience. "Whether this is your first show or your 50th, it's never a dull moment with the Tamburitzans." says Alyssa Bushunow, Executive Director of the ensemble.

Started in 1937, the Pittsburgh, PA based folk ensemble is the longest running live stage act of its kind. However, the group proudly boasts a new show every year, full of exciting steps and lively songs that will have you dancing in your seat. This year's show promises to be no exception.

The 2025 Tamburitzans tour around the world traverses such countries as Croatia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Mexico and – this year as in last – Slovakia. The featured number from Slovakia in 2024 was met with thunderous applause from the many FCSU and members of the Slovak-American community in Greater Cleveland who showed their appreciation for the number and Branch 24's Lexi Glova. For one final year, Lexi will be among the 25 talented artists of the Taburitzans to escort audiences across the globe in two hours of song and dance.

Tickets for the show can be purchased at [www.thetamburitzans.org/events/tickets](http://www.thetamburitzans.org/events/tickets). For more information about tickets, including possible discounts, contact Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 or Dana Glova at 216-409-4513.



# Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Submitted by Patty Marmol, Treasurer

"Sweet Christmas" was the theme of a tree decorated by members of the St. Wendelin Branch 162. It was covered with pastel colors and ornaments shaped like cookies, popsicles and macarons. It was also covered with instant lottery tickets. The tree was donated to the WVU Medicine Hospital Volunteer Services Annual Festival of Trees fundraiser, which benefits the hospital's volunteer services.



Pictured from left: Front Row - Becca Mills and Betty Rozzell; Second Row - Paulette Mills and Branch Secretary Dolores Marmol; Back Row - Paul Mills and Joyce Campbell. Others included in the event included the officers and several members.



# Celebrating the Season with Branch 320

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President

Branch 320 met in a fraternal seasonal celebration this December. We were honored to have James Marmol (Regional Director) attend our Holiday Celebration.

Traditional Italian favorites were served with a twist of holiday cheer at LaEda's (Monessen, PA). Bruce Higginbotham led the Blessing followed by Our Father and Hail Mary, which was led by Frances Tarquinio. Please keep in your thoughts & prayers all who are not with us. Sarah Bury updated her THON fundraiser and Bruce Higginbotham talked about his Eagle Scout Project progress. May God bless FCSU in the upcoming year.



Open to the Public

# SLOVAK J CLUB



## FEBRUARY

- Feb. 19 Stuffed Pepper Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm \*RSVP REQUIRED
- Feb. 22 Chardon Polka Band – 6pm Food; 7-10pm Music – \$15 per person; Cash Bar \*RSVP Required by 2-19.
- Feb. 23 Breakfast Buffet – 9:00-11:45am Adults – \$12.00 / Under 12 - \$6.00

## MARCH

- Mar. 5 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- Mar. 7 First Fish Fry of the Season! 4:30-7:00pm
- Mar. 19 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm \*RSVP REQUIRED
- Mar. 22 Karaoke Night – 6:30pm Food; 7:00pm Crooning – \$15 per person \*RSVP REQUIRED

## APRIL

- Apr. 2 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- Apr. 16 Pork Chop Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm Call early to reserve your spot to enjoy this popular dinner!!

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

**485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH**

## Branch 670 2025 Scholarship Program

### Three \$1000 Scholarships Available

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2025 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria, up to three one-time \$1000 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend ANY post education institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:  
Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022  
matinko305@comcast.net

**ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS  
MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 30, 2025**



## ANNOUNCING Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

- ✓ Are you a member of Branch 746 with a paid-up life insurance premium of \$5,000 or more?
- ✓ Are you currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, another post-secondary educational institution, or vocational institution?
- ✓ Are you active in Branch 746 or want to become active?

**If you answered YES to the above,  
you may be eligible for a  
\$1,500 scholarship!**

For more information on how to apply go to:  
[fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/](http://fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/)

**Deadline to Apply: April 30th**



## Chewy's Corner

Brrrr! It has been COLD here in Northeast Ohio. Many people tend to stay inside in the winter, but I want to go outside. I heard a saying, "there's no bad weather, just bad clothes". So bundle up, put on your gloves (rukavice) and snowshoes (čičmy) and get some fresh air!

In February, we celebrate Valentine's Day. It's a day to show how much we care for other people. You will see lots of hearts and candy. At my school, we decorate boxes and give cards (karty) and treats (sladkosti) to our classmates. It is fun! It's nice to have a day to celebrate love, but you can tell those you care about that you love them any day of the year. It will make them feel special and it will make you feel good to share your feelings. So, don't forget to tell your parents, siblings or people close to you that you love them and care about them. It is the best gift you can give them.

Your friend, Chewy (ČUVAČ)

## Cleveland Monsters Hockey Night

**Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm**  
**Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, Cleveland**

Monsters vs. Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins

**Only \$27 per seat** (group rate)

with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch.  
Special Offer Includes Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!

**Deadline to order:**  
**Thursday, February 28th**  
**Seating is Limited: First Come,  
First Serve, So Don't Delay**

For branch discounts and tickets, contact your branch representative.  
TICKET DELIVERY: From your branch officer or OH Regional Director Tom Ivanec

Branch 1.....	Rochelle Popovich .....	216-789-6390
Branch 24 .....	Fran Strekal.....	216-308-1728
Branch 228 .....	Lisa Trifiletti-Palos.....	440-960-2111
Branch 450 .....	Frank Woyma .....	216-225-5688
Branch 553 .....	Linda Hanko.....	330-706-0151
Branch 855 .....	Barbara Sutila .....	440-864-4744

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in the arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.



## Branch 844 Attends Mass



St. Joseph Branch 844 Los Angeles members take a picture with Fr. Pavol Sochulak S.V.D, pastor of St Anthony's Catholic Church, San Bernardino, CA after celebrating a pre-Christmas Slovak Mass on December 14, 2024.

# 2025 FCSU INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**CASH PRIZES**  
**FABULOUS FOOD**  
**FUN & FELLOWSHIP**  
**RAFFLES**



**WINNER'S SHIRTS**  
**DOOR PRIZES**  
**BRAGGING RIGHTS**  
**GIVEAWAYS**

## APRIL 26-27

Exclusively for FCSU Members and Their Guests\*

**Bowling Alley: Kent Lanes-11th Frame**  
**1524 South Water St. • Kent, Ohio • 330-673-1448**

**Headquarters Hotel: Kent State University Hotel**  
**215 South Depeyster St. • Kent, Ohio • 330-346-0100**

Reservations Group Code: FCSU 25 • Group Rate \$189 + tax • Expires March 22, 2025

Call hotel now to secure your reservations at 330-346-0100. Rate valid for April 25th and/or April 26th.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AT BOWLING ALLEY	
8:45-9:45am	Registration and Breakfast
10:00am-12:30pm	Teams Event
12:00-1:30pm	Open Lunch Buffet
1:00-3:30pm	Doubles Event

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AT HEADQUARTERS HOTEL	
4:30pm	Vigil Mass
5:15pm	Cocktail Hour
6:15-9:15pm	Dinner, Program and Raffles

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH AT BOWLING ALLEY	
8:45-9:45am	Registration and Breakfast
10:00am-12:30pm	Singles Event

*\*One guest per member, as space allows*

Please Note Our Guest Policy:

- Individuals may participate in only one FCSU bowling tournament as a guest.
- If a non-member participated in a previous FCSU Bowling Tournament, they cannot bowl as a non-member guest.
- We invite all to consider opening a \$5,000 Life Insurance Policy or a \$500 Annuity to enjoy all the fraternal benefits the FCSU has to offer.
- Member benefits at the bowling tournament include free meals, and the opportunity to win thousands of dollars in tournament prizes, raffle gifts and door prizes.
- To become a member, please contact the FCSU a minimum of 30 days prior to the tournament.
- Call 800.533.6682, ext. 826 for Life Insurance or ext. 802 for Annuities.

**Questions?**  
**Contact Joanne Fibbi**  
**[jfibbi@fcsu.com](mailto:jfibbi@fcsu.com)**  
**412-953-4721**  
**or the Home Office**  
**email [events@fcsu.com](mailto:events@fcsu.com)**

See Page 13 for registration information, Page 14 for Rules and Page 24 for Sponsorship Opportunities.

# 2025 FCSU International Bowling Tournament

## OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

**\*New This Year, One Entry Per Bowler\***

**Deadline April 11, 2025**

**Entry Forms Are Also Available [www.FCSU.com/events](http://www.FCSU.com/events)**

**IMPORTANT ENTRANT INFORMATION**

- Non-USBC Bowlers: Men must enter 175 as highest average. Women must enter 150 as highest average.
- Non-Members must be invited guests of current FCSU members in good standing.
- Bowler and Team Captain agree to relinquish their rights to prize money, should any information provided herein be found to be false.
- All tournament information, rules and regulations, etc. will be disseminated by email and available online at [fcsu.com/events](http://fcsu.com/events). Please advise if you do not have an email address. The tournament will be conducted under USBC Rules and Regulations.



**Personal Information**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FCSU MEMBER?  YES  NO FCSU BRANCH #: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST 4 DIGITS SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

IF NO, FCSU MEMBER SPONSOR & BRANCH #: \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF PAYMENT:  Check enclosed payable to FCSU  Credit Card payments may be made by phone. Call 800.533.6682, ext. 122.

**Tournament Information**

Please select your events\*  Teams  Doubles  Singles-Men  Singles-Women  All Events-Men  All Events-Women

NAME OF TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM CAPTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

MY ORDER IN THE TEAM LINE-UP IS BOWLER #:  1  2  3  4

MY ORDER IN THE DOUBLES LINE-UP IS BOWLER #:  1  2 MY DOUBLES PARTNER IS: \_\_\_\_\_

USBC HIGHEST AVERAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ USBC #: \_\_\_\_\_  NON USBC BOWLER

LOCAL USBC & CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Teams and Doubles are open to men, women or mixed teams. To compete in All Events you must bowl Teams, Doubles & Singles.

FCSU MEMBER BOWLER FEES	
Check All That Apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teams .....	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Doubles .....	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Singles.....	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events.....	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast.....	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch .....	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Drink Tickets (2) .....	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner .....	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast.....	No Cost
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	

NON-MEMBER BOWLER FEES	
Check All That Apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teams .....	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Doubles .....	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Singles.....	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events.....	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast.....	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch .....	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Drink Tickets (2) .....	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner .....	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast.....	\$8.00
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	

FCSU MEMBER GUEST FEES	
Check All That Apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast.....	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch .....	\$12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Drink Tickets (2) .....	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner .....	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast .....	\$10.00
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	
* Seating is limited, with preference given to bowlers.	

**Mail entry and payment to by April 11th to: FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131**

**Payment must accompany entry form. Make check payable to FCSU (with Bowling on the memo line).**

**QUESTIONS? Contact Joanne Fibbi at [jfibbi@fcsu.com](mailto:jfibbi@fcsu.com), call 412-953-4721, or email [events@fcsu.com](mailto:events@fcsu.com)**

### Important Information for All Tournament Entrants

## RULES and REGULATIONS for the 2025 FCSU International Bowling Tournament

- The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).
- This event is being sponsored by FCSU Financial® for the exclusive enjoyment of its members and their guests. The goal of the tournament is to promote fraternalism and good sportsmanship and generate interest in our Slovak fraternal organization. The National Officers of FCSU wish to extend a cordial invitation to all members and their guests.
- ELIGIBILITY:** This Tournament is open to all FCSU Members (age 18+) in good standing at the time of entry. Those with lapsed memberships/policies may not participate in the tournament or its related social functions.
- The total cost per **FCSU MEMBER** per event:  
 Prize Fee ..... \$10.00  
 Bowling Fee ..... \$10.00  
 Hospitality Fee ..... \$5.00  
**TOTAL COST (per event) ..... \$25.00**  
 Saturday Dinner ..... No Cost  
 \*All Events Fee ..... (Optional) \$5.00
  - The total cost per **NON-MEMBER** per event:  
 Prize Fee ..... \$15.00  
 Bowling Fee ..... \$10.00  
 Hospitality Fee ..... \$5.00  
**TOTAL COST (per event) ..... \$30.00**  
 Saturday Dinner ..... \$35.00  
 \*All Events Fee ..... (Optional) \$5.00  
 \*Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 All-Events fee are eligible for the cash awards.
- The Prize Fees will be awarded 100% in each specific event. At least 1 in 10 participants in each event will win prizes.** NOTE: Bowler may win only one cash prize per event (scratch or handicap), whichever cash prize is higher, excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Bowlers who roll the highest scratch and handicap scores in each event.
- SUBSTITUTES:** Bowlers may compete only once in each event. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee, provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The Tournament Director shall have power to approve the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitute's score and handicap from the said event will be used.
- As of March 15, 2025, if any contestant's current average, of *at least 21 games*, is ten pins or more above their highest average from the previous season, they must use their current average.
- HANDICAP: Men's Division** will be calculated at 90% of the difference between 240 and their last season's 2023-2024 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2025. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as having a **175 average** and will be handicapped accordingly.
- HANDICAP: Women's Division** will be calculated at 90% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2023-2024 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2025. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as having a **150 average** and will be handicapped accordingly.
- FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY:** The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling. All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.
- RE-RATING OF BOWLERS:** According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-F, bowlers may be re-rated by the Tournament Committee.
- All entry applications and bowling fees are to be mailed to: FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131; and must be received before April 11, 2025. Rule 310-A2 is in effect.**
- Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before the public and when possible, to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.
- FEE WILL NOT BE REFUNDED.** All prize fees will be paid in prizes.
- In the Doubles Event, the names of both bowlers must be listed on the entry. Incomplete forms will be returned for information. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as entered and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry has been filed.
- LANE ASSIGNMENTS:** The Tournament Committee will assign lanes.
- Bowlers in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.
- Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score, if the submitted average results in a lower classification or greater handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.
- DISPUTES:** Any dispute is to be brought promptly to the attention of the Tournament Committee, with final determination made by the Tournament Director.
- GUESTS:** We welcome guest bowlers. Each FCSU member in good standing, may register one first time non-member bowler.

## Jednota Crossword Puzzle

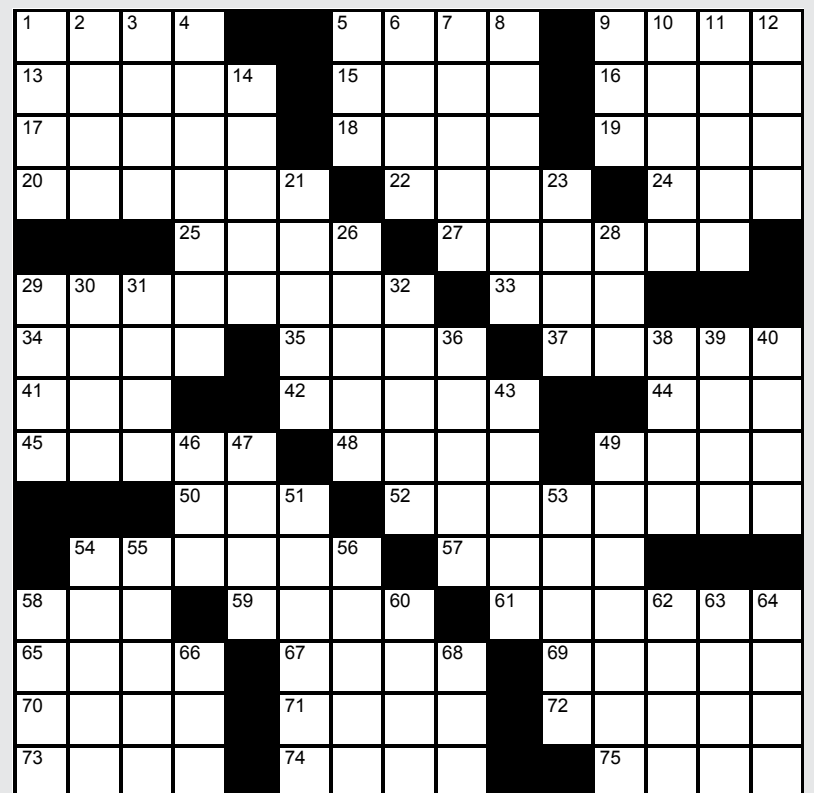
### Across

- Darlings
- Struggle for air
- Gumbo vegetable
- Acid in proteins
- Christmas season
- "That was close!"
- 60's protest
- Entreaty
- Identical
- Miller's \_\_\_ of Capricorn
- Shelters
- Young goat
- Impoverished
- Persian Gulf seaport
- Gun muffler
- Sunburn
- Dill seed
- Heavy load
- Florida city
- Bar stock
- Mine passages
- Writer Fleming

### Down

- Tahoe and George, e.g.
- Winter forecast
- Military group
- Be indisposed
- Football aim
- Lingo
- Stead
- Prom rental
- Tones
- Ozzie or Ricky
- Novelist Bagnold
- \_\_\_ the Terrible
- Proportion
- Collar type
- Parched
- Pink-legged bird
- Doll's cry
- Great Lakes city
- Gaelic
- Bygone
- Dubai dignitary
- Former Yugoslav leader
- Scrap
- Swindle
- "\_\_\_ Lang Syne"
- Polished
- Goober
- Saturn's wife
- Uniform shade
- Send, as payment
- Stunned
- Burger topper
- Hot chocolate
- Kill a fly
- Rips
- Literary collection
- Spinnaker, e.g.
- Old Peruvian
- Relative of 14 Down
- Regretting
- Bar seat
- Subcompact
- Ache
- Kitty starter
- Beau
- Listening device
- Sound of frustration
- Wail
- Actress Fletcher
- Lascivious looks
- Military clique
- Adage
- At no time
- Swarm
- Indian dress
- Mix up
- Painting types
- Memo
- Paternity identifier
- Maiden name

Answers can be found on Page 16



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society Branch 1 will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 1:00pm at Panera Bread, 19705 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by April 15th. All members are welcome to attend.

\*\*\*

Branch 1 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event of attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. Branch 1 members who wish to attend will receive a free ticket. Additional tickets for non-member guests may be purchased for \$27.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390. The deadline to order tickets is February 28th. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

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

## BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:00pm at Eat-N-Park, 1002 Ohio River Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA. Please notify the branch secretary, Linda Collins, if you are planning to attend by email at [lindaco243@gmail.com](mailto:lindaco243@gmail.com) or by phone at 412-266-2119.

Submitted by **Linda Collins**,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 11:30am at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA. Pizza luncheon will be provided.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend should contact Marion Rubino, President, by February 20th at 570-693-0399.

Submitted by **Mary Jo Rubino**,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

The St. Joseph Society will offer a mass in celebration of the feast day of our patron saint, St. Joseph, for the living members of our branch on March 9, 2025 at 8:30am in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT.

The first meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Sunday, March 9th at 10:00am. Officers' reports will be given and plans for activities during the year will be discussed. We cordially invite interested members to join our Zoom meeting:

Link: [tinyurl.com/Jednota1](https://tinyurl.com/Jednota1)

Meeting ID: 731 995 9778

Passcode: 3jGbmh

If you have any questions, please contact me at [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com). We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Submitted by **Deborah M. Nelson**,  
Secretary

## BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Branch 23 will hold our 1st annual meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 1:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Graystone Restaurant located in the Graystone Apartment Building on 375 Theatre Drive, Johnstown, PA. All new and long-time members of Branch 23 are welcome. We need more members to join us. Please come and see what you're missing. Bring new ideas or just bring yourself for a nice lunch with fellow members. A light lunch will be served. Any questions, call Theresa at 814-254-2532.

Submitted by **Theresa Cassat**,  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event of attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. Branch 24 member tickets will be \$7. (Tickets must be paid in full at \$27. A \$20 refund will be given at the game.) A non-branch member ticket is \$27. Reservations are required and available by contacting Fran at 216-308-1728. The deadline to order tickets is February 28th. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by **Fran Strekal**,  
Fraternal Activities

## BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 1:00pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York, NY. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by **Maria Jurasi**,  
Financial Secretary

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

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

**Mária Jurášiová - pokladníčka**

## BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Branch 60 of McKeesport will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Tillie's Restaurant (308 36th Street, McKeesport, PA) at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be officers' reports and upcoming events. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Julie Perla**, Secretary

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 9:00am at the Shoneys Restaurant, 285 McClellandtown Rd, Uniontown, PA. All members and their guests are invited to attend by calling Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 for reservations. Officer's reports will be given and discussion of branch activities, charitable donations and upcoming FCSU events will follow. Secretary, Dolores Marmol, will read the Annual Report to the Home Office. We hope you will join us to learn more about our branch and activities.

Submitted by **Dolores Marmol**,  
Secretary

## BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

SAVE THE DATE: Our next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2025. Details to follow in an upcoming announcement.

Submitted by **Judie Dendler**, Secretary

## BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

The St. John the Baptist Society members are invited to the dinner meeting at Aroma Italiano at 5:00pm on Saturday, March 29, 2025. It is located at 220 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA. BYOB if desired. Reservations are required, so please RSVP by Thursday, March 20th. Call Vicki at 724-433-8469 or Darlene at 724-493-8712. Walk-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner. The agenda will include planning for the Annual Family Picnic and other branch activities.

**This will be a combined branch and district meeting.** Dinner will be served first, then The George Onda District - District 3 meeting will take place with the Branch 181 meeting to follow.

We look forward to a great turnout!

Submitted by **Vicki Hricik**,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

The Slovak CU Branch 200, located at 910 6th Ave., Ford City, PA is having a soup sale on Saturday, March 15, 2025. Price is \$8.00 a quart. Pick up between 12:00pm and 2:00pm. No presales. Questions may be directed to Vicki Schaub 724-763-9229. This benefits the Building Fund.

\*\*\*

Branch 200 wants to welcome those who took advantage of the Christmas Special Annuity. Please join us at our regular Board Meetings on the first Thursday of each month except June & July. Our next meeting is March 6, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave., Ford City, PA. The Board meeting starts at 7:00pm. All other members will be called in at approximately 7:20pm.

Bring your ideas and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by **Vicki Schaub**,  
Secretary & Treasurer

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

Branch 228 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event of attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. Branch 228 members who participate will receive a free ticket for themselves and one (1) guest if they choose to do so. Additional tickets for non-members may be purchased for \$27.00. Reservations are required and **MUST** be made by Thursday, February 28th.

Please call Lisa at 440-960-2111 to make your reservation.

Submitted by **Thomas B. Zuffa**,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:00pm IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH.

This past December's election results for Branch 228 officers were as follows: Luis Palos (President), Ryan Trifiletti (Vice President), Lisa Trifiletti-Palos (Financial Secretary), Theresa Arendt



**American Slovak Club**

# FRIDAY FISH FRY

*Every Friday All Year Long* (Not Just During Lent)

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

**2915 Broadway Ave, Lorain, OH**

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

**AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry**

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

(Activities Director/Auditor) and Thomas Zuffa (Recording Secretary) were all re-elected to one-year terms expiring December 31, 2025.

For Representatives to the American Slovak Club Board of Directors, Kathy Trifiletti and Ryan Trifiletti were re-elected to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2027.

We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to pray for a calm environment and unity among the leaders of the world.

Submitted by Thomas B. Zuffa,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

Branch 260 will be having the following meetings for 2025:

- Thursday, April 24th
- Thursday, September 25th
- Thursday, December 4th

(This will be our election of officers and holiday celebration.)

All of our meetings will begin at 5:00pm and are at Belleria Restaurant, 1010 Youngstown-Poland Rd., Struthers, OH. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

Submitted by Carlie Peshek,  
Vice President

## BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

The next branch meeting will be held Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 1:00pm at Tillie's Restaurant at 308 36th Street, McKeesport PA. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. We will also review the Pittsburgh District meeting held in April.

Submitted by Margaret Nasta,  
President

## BRANCH 290 – BRIDGEWATER, NJ

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 starting at 6:00pm for all members. The location is Carpaccio Ristorante at 651 Bound Brook Rd., Middlesex, NJ. The agenda will include report of officers, membership, and branch activities. RSVP is required, so please call or text Steve Minarovich at 908-507-0505 by March 19, 2025 if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Steve Minarovich,  
Recording Secretary

### Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 14

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

## BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Branch 320 is in the process of planning various 2025 outings. Please watch Jednota for District 12 and Branch 320 events. Stay safe this year.

Prayers for Dorothy Jean (Yugas) Petrus, President Emeritus, District 12. Dorothy was proud of her Slovak heritage and served as President of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) Branch 670, as well as President of District 12. Dorothy passed January 25th. She will be missed.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio,  
Vice President

## BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

St. Joseph Society Branch 367 of Fairchance, PA will hold its next meeting Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 12:30pm. The location is Jamie Lynn's Cafe, 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA. A discussion of this year's donations and projects will be finalized. All members are invited to attend. Call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary, at 724-569-1006 if planning to attend.

Submitted by Kathryn Baranek,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society will conduct its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2025, in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Auditors will meet at 12:30pm to check the books. Officers and members will meet for the business session at 1:00pm.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and auditors. Members will also discuss future branch activities, the District 17 baseball game, and a bus trip to the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Information from the home office will be disseminated. A copy of the Annual Report to the Home Office will be presented.

A social with food, beer, and soda will follow. All members are urged to attend. Please contact Branch President Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570-344-3854 by Wednesday, March 5th, to confirm your attendance and to allow for arrangements.

Other branch officers are Michael J. Czankner (Vice President), Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., (Treasurer), Laura Christianson (Recording Secretary), and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., (Financial Secretary).

Submitted by Elizabeth M. Slovenkai,  
President

## BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

Branch 393 members are encouraged to attend the George Onda District 3 dinner meeting at Aroma Italiano, 220 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA at 5:00pm on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Please see the District 3 Announcement on page 20 for more details.

Submitted by Eileen Myers,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2024 Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 4:30pm. This meeting will be held at the President's home at 1223 Wysocki Avenue, North Apollo, PA. Dinner will follow the meeting. Members are encouraged to attend as upcoming activities will be discussed.

Submitted by Kathy Froncek,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul Branch 410 of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main St., Uniontown, PA. All members are welcome to attend. Please call for reservations by March 17th at 724-425-2576.

Submitted by Geraldine Buchheit,  
Financial & Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 450 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event of attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. A Branch 450 member ticket is \$7. A non-branch member ticket is \$27. Reservations are required and available by calling Frank Woyma at 216-225-5688. The deadline to order tickets is February 28th. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by Frank Woyma, President

## BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

All members are invited to our lodge meeting on April 6, 2025 at 1:00pm at 485 Morgan Ave., Akron, OH. Following our meeting, there will be a District 10 meeting at 2:00pm. Branch 553 will be hosting the district meeting. Lunch will be served after the conclusion of both meetings.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring any of the following items to support our local charity, The Christ Child Society of Akron. Please be generous in your donation of disposable diapers, onesies, socks or booties, newborn hats, blankets, baby wipes, washcloths, baby lotion, etc. The FCSU Home Office will graciously donate \$250.00 to The Christ Child Society of Akron on our behalf.

We look forward to seeing you at all of our Slovak J Club events.

\*\*\*

Branch 553 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event of attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. A non-branch

member ticket is \$27.00. A Branch 553 member ticket is \$7.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151. The deadline to order tickets is February 28th. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

See Page 10 for our events flyer.

Submitted by Debbie Speck,  
President

## BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

We welcome all Branch 670 members to join us for some fraternal fun! We are attending the Annual Wheeling Polka Festival at Oglebay's Wilson Lodge at Oglebay Resort, 465 Lodge Dr., Wheeling, WV on March 29, 2025. This year's entertainment features the area's most acclaimed polka performers. Plus enjoy dancing and delicious Polish eats! The cost for this event is \$25. The branch will pay the \$25 for all Branch 670 members who wish to attend. However, if you RSVP and are unable to attend you will be responsible to reimburse the branch for the cost.

Please RSVP by March 9th to Maureen at [branch670secretary@gmail.com](mailto:branch670secretary@gmail.com).

\*\*\*

Our branch will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 12:00pm at Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd., Canonsburg, PA. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Any branch member wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact [branch670secretary@gmail.com](mailto:branch670secretary@gmail.com), a day in advance for the Zoom link. All Branch 670 members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by Maureen Massafra,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Jednota Lodge Branch 721 will have their Spring meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at the Remenar home located at 8977 S. Mason Rd., Bannister, MI at 2:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Joseph Beno,  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The branch approved its 2025 Schedule of events. Mark your calendars!

- Patron Saint Mass: March 20, 2025 at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral (159 W Rayen Ave, Youngstown, OH)
- Branch Meetings: May 18th, July 13th, September 14th, November 16th (meeting + election of officers) - all meetings at 5:00pm at Belleria (8485 Market Street, Boardman, OH)
- Mass for Deceased Members: November 11th at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral (159 W Rayen Ave, Youngstown, OH)

Submitted by Anna Schwanitz,  
Recording Secretary

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 16, 2025, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30am for all living and deceased members at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day.

**A Branch meeting will take place at 1:30pm in the Slovak Heritage Room.**

Any member who has recently moved or requires a beneficiary update should contact Branch Secretary:

Joseph C. Rimarcik  
4945 Wavewood Dr.  
Commerce Twp., MI 48382  
248-714-9620  
[josephrimarcik@gmail.com](mailto:josephrimarcik@gmail.com)

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

Submitted by **Joseph C. Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th.

\*\*\*

The first meeting of 2025 will be on Sunday, March 30th at 1:00pm in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church at 210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ. The agenda will include discussion and planning of this year's activities. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

**FRATERNALISM IN ACTION:** Please bring non-perishable food items for the St. John the Apostle Church Food Pantry. The FCSU Home Office will

generously donate \$250.00 to the food pantry on our behalf.

Please note the Okres meeting will follow after the luncheon. Kindly RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by March 21st if you plan on attending.

\*\*\*

**SAVE THE DATE:** Members will be attending the May 10, 2025 showing of NOAH at the SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER in Lancaster, PA. Transportation will *not* be provided. We will meet in front of the theater prior to the 11:00am show. Cost of theater tickets is \$79.00, a portion of which will be reimbursed by the branch. We will meet for lunch after the show. More details to follow.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

Branch 796 will hold their semi-annual meeting on February 23, 2025. The meeting will convene at 1:00pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church located at 4456 Main St. in Egypt, PA. We welcome all members to join us.

Submitted by **Monica Fabian, Secretary**

## BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

Join the members of Branch 853 for Mass being said for the benefit of the branch members at the St. Katharine Drexell Parish, St. Luke's campus, Ellsworth, PA, at 9am on February 17, 2025. If questions, contact [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com).

\*\*\*

Join your fellow branch members for these upcoming events:

February 25, 2025 – Our 4th annual Painting Event at Off the Wall Arts, 532 McKean Ave, Charleroi, PA. The event begins at 12pm. There is no cost for branch members. Non-members pay their own expenses, painting is approximately \$40.00 per person which is due upon arrival at the event. Reservations are required; space is limited. RSVP by February 20th by emailing [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com).

March 4, 2025 – Our first meeting of 2025 will take place at Armando's Pizza, 583 Fallowfield Ave, Charleroi, PA at 11:00am. Make your reservation for a seat count by emailing [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com).

**FRATERNALISM IN ACTION:** At this meeting the branch will take part in the Fraternalism in Action program. Members will collect items for the Washington Area Humane Society. Desired items are dog and cat food, cleaning supplies, blankets and toys. The Home Office will donate \$250.00 to the Humane Society on our behalf. Members are asked to be generous as we help those without a voice.

March 8, 2025 – Members are invited to attend a Pysanky Egg Dyeing event which will be held at the South

Branch 855

## Social Saturday

March 15, 2025 • 10:00am - 1:00pm

Briarcliff Plaza Shopping Center  
7535 Pearl Road • Middleburg Heights

**Receive \$50 in Gift Cards to Spend Any Way You Choose!!**

- #1** Meet at Sips n Such Social House where you'll receive a \$20 gift card towards your meal.
- #2** You'll receive a \$10 gift card for each of the following: Jaworski's Meats  
Cleveland Popcorn Co. • Twisted Sweets

Park Library, 2575 Brownsville Rd, South Park, PA at 11:00 am. The price is \$25.00, but there is no cost to Branch 853 members who make a reservation. RSVP to [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com) by February 17th to attend this event for free. Do not make a reservation through the library. Reservations are limited. No one will be admitted without a reservation.

April 6, 2025 – Save the date for the Hlinka District meeting at 1:00pm.

June 1, 2025 – Save the date for the Hlinka District Picnic at 1:00pm.

Reservations are required for all events and tickets to events are limited. Contact [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com) to get the details and/or to make a reservation.

Keep watching the Jednota for Branch 853 events. Looking forward to seeing branch members for a fun and productive year.

Submitted by **Monica Boone, President**

## BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

March 15, 2025 – Come join us for Social Saturday as we support four local businesses. Our first stop is Sips n Such Social House anytime between 10:00am – 1:00pm, where Branch 855 members will receive a \$20.00 gift certificate for a home-cooked meal and beverage. After brunch, members will receive three additional gift cards for \$10.00 each to spend in the plaza at Jaworski Meats, Cleveland Popcorn Company and Twisted Sweets Chocolates. Guests are welcome to join us at their own cost. This fun social gathering will take place at the Briarcliff Plaza Shopping Center. The address for Sips n Such is 7535 Pearl Rd. in Middleburg Hts., OH. We look forward to seeing you there!

April 5, 2025 – Branch 855 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event and attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday April 5th at 7:00pm at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. Branch 855 members who wish to participate will receive a free ticket.

(Ticket must be paid for in advance and a full refund will be given at the game. Ticket is non-transferable and can only be used by the member). Additional tickets for non-members may be purchased for \$27.00. Reservations are required and MUST be made by Thursday, February 28th. Please call Barbara at 440-864-4744 or email [fcsu855@gmail.com](mailto:fcsu855@gmail.com) to make your reservation.

April 6, 2025 – Join District 10 members at the Slovak J Club at 485 Morgan Ave. in Akron, OH for the District 10 meeting at 2:00pm. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to [Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com](mailto:Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com) by March 25th.

**FRATERNALISM IN ACTION** – We are collecting items for a "Baby Drive" at this meeting. The donations will be donated to The Christ Child Society of Akron. Please bring disposable diapers, onesies, socks, booties, blankets, baby wipes...anything baby related.

April 26-27, 2025 – Come join other FCSU members in Kent, OH for the FCSU International Bowling Tournament. Branch 855 members will receive their bowling fees paid for by the branch. Let's get together and form some teams. This is a fun fraternal spring event. See the Jednota newspaper and website for more details.

April 27, 2025 – Save the date for the return of the Tamburitans. This folk ensemble of highly talented college students performs musical numbers from different countries. It is a show that will blow your socks off as they sing, dance and play instruments in native costumes of the countries they are celebrating. This year they are featuring Croatian and Slovak productions too. This spectacular show will take place at the Independence High School in Independence, OH at 3:00pm. Branch 855 members will be free to attend. Watch for details in the next issue of the Jednota on how you can get your ticket!

Submitted by **Stephanie Sutilla, Activities Coordinator**

2025

## KARAOKE NIGHTS

**SATURDAYS**

**MARCH 22**

**JUNE 28**

**SEPTEMBER 27**

**NOVEMBER 22**

**\$15 per person**

**Food Provided @ 6:30pm**

**Crooning from 7:00-11:00pm**

**SLOVAK J CLUB**

**330-786-9972**



# Rest in Peace Our Departed Members



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

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

BRANCH	NAME
005P	Jacqueline O'Brien
024K	Mark Grega
038K	Andrew S. Olsakovsky
038K	Annette Dukovich
038K	Dana M. Tomajko
045K	Frances Prieto
055K	Joseph Sklencar Sr.
055K	Mary C. Narkin
060K	Constance Pauline Rapach
060K	Patricia Lugaric
075K	Elizabeth P. Gilger
153K	Steven Kochalka

BRANCH	NAME
157K	Stephen A. Roman
173K	Ronald S. Kubala
181K	Helen B. Homulka
226P	Rev Fr. Stephen Gergel
260K	Raymond Orlovsky
276K	Joseph C. Gaudy
313K	Alfred Michuda
321P	Josephine Bachani
333K	Andrew C. Petkac
333K	John M. Petkac
333K	Michael J. Petkac
367K	Robert P. Rocheck

BRANCH	NAME
456K	Joseph Patrick
553K	M. Therese Burik
553K	Rose I. Moskos
581K	Stephen Caco
682K	Rita M. Vicarel
731K	Angela Yannucci-Cameron
731K	George J. Svetlak
731K	Gerald I. Ferencak
731K	Rita J. Barbush
743K	John Maruschak Jr.
746K	Margaret Sharisky
764K	Michael E. Ballish

BRANCH	NAME
780K	Helen Mudd
796K	David A. Stuber
900K	Warren A. Schindler
904K	Joyce E. Myrick
916K	Ronald J. Karun
916K	Royal Hernandez
917K	Wilbert H. Wessel Jr.
921K	Thomas J. Chock
924K	Barbara Matty
926K	Lenore Stetz

\* Processed in the month of January 2025

## OBITUARIES – NEKROLOGY

### Audrey J. Balazik Branch 367 Fairchance, PA



Audrey J. Balazik, 87 of Uniontown, PA passed away at home with her loving family by her side on Saturday, February 1, 2025.

She was born December 11, 1937 in Collier, PA to her parents, John Zentkovich and Mary Louise Rerko Zentkovich.

She was employed at Connellsville Sportswear and Meloni's Restaurant. She was a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church and the Confraternity of the Christian Mothers.

Audrey was President of First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 367 of Fairchance, PA for over 50 years. She was a strong supporter of her Slovak roots and attended the FCSU conventions as an elected delegate for her branch. She was honored in the Jednota newspaper for earning the distinguished title of "Top Gun" for her exceptional sales of FCSU life insurance products. She was a dedicated FCSU officer and proud Slovak.

Surviving are her sister, Barbara Adams; nephews, Albert Ridenour Jr. and Terry Zentkovich; niece, Audrey Ridenour and other loving family members. Preceding her in death were her parents; brother, Richard Zentkovich; sister-in-law, Dolores Zentkovich and her husband, Samuel Balazik.

### Mildred "Millie" Josephine De Paolis Branch 670 Donora, PA



Mildred "Millie" Josephine De Paolis, age 93, passed away on October 25, 2024. During her

final days, Millie was comforted by the presence of her family as she spoke of her love and Jesus' love for all of them.

Millie was born in Donora, PA on March 30, 1931, to Julia (Krall) and John Marconyak. She is survived by five children: Mary Ellen (Dave) O'Boyle, Gloria De Paolis, Richard J. (Cheryl) De Paolis, David A. De Paolis and Diane S. (Craig Barron) De Paolis. She is also survived by eight grandchildren: Colleen (O'Boyle) Sullivan, Brian O'Boyle, Richard Z. De Paolis, Danielle (De Paolis) Ryan, Angela (De Paolis) Leister, Aaron De Paolis, Liam Barron, and Max Barron. Ten great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews complete Millie's loving family.

Millie was preceded in death by her parents and older siblings: Brother Paul (John) Marconyak, OSB, Stephen Marconyak, Reverend Albert Marconyak, Margaret Duda, Sister Mariella Marck, SFCC and Bertha Nungesser.

The entire Marconyak family proudly lived and promoted their Slovak heritage, through their Catholic worship, customs, food and music. On May 1, 2008, Millie's proud-to-be Italian husband of nearly 54 years, Richard G. De Paolis, passed away after a nearly four-year battle with cancer, during which Millie steadfastly nursed and supported him.

Millie held numerous roles, including a secretary and expeditor for U.S. Steel, secretary for an insurance office and a church rectory, Donora Tax Office manager, member of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, CCD Religious Education teacher and St. Dominic Catholic Church Bereavement Coordinator. Artistically talented, she excelled at painting, sewing, crocheting, embroidering, crafting dolls, and designing jewelry. She also enjoyed gardening, cooking, baking, and watching the Pittsburgh Steelers. But what Millie treasured the most was

being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Although Millie spent most of her life in Donora, she moved to Vincentian Villa in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA in August 2011, where she found happiness in her new community. In April 2023, she transitioned to Vincentian Home Personal Care, and in May 2024 she entered hospice care.

### Theresa M. "Terry" Kuruc Branch 19 Bridgeport, CT



Theresa (Terry) M. Spodnik Kuruc, age 96 of Trumbull, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at Mozaic Senior Life with her loving family by her side. She was the beloved wife of the late George M. Kuruc, Sr. Born in Bridgeport, CT on January 15, 1929, she was a daughter of the late Anthony and Mary (Tomascak) Spodnik and was a longtime resident of Bridgeport and Trumbull.

Theresa was a graduate of Sts Cyril & Methodius Commercial High School and Harding High School before meeting the love of her life George. The two started a family and Theresa was dedicated to raising her four children. She was a woman of great faith, devoted to her church and her family. She was an outstanding and talented baker, whether it was baking cookies or cakes for family occasions or delivering them to shut ins at the nursing homes. Her attention to detail and meticulous cake decorating will be missed by all who had the privilege of having one of Theresa's delicious cakes. She was a lifelong and active parishioner of Sts Cyril and Methodius Church in Bridgeport where she was a member of the Ladies Guild and baked countless cakes for the many bake sales over the years.

She was member and past officer of the St. Joseph Society Branch 19 First Catholic Slovak Union attending many of their conventions as well a founding member and past officer of the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport.

Theresa was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother and her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew her and her traditions will be passed on for generations to come.

Survivors include her four devoted children, Michael Kuruc, Raymond (Lynn) Kuruc, Diane (Ralph) Fico and George M. Kuruc, Jr., seven loving grandchildren, Jennifer (Stephen) Barone, Daniel (Kim) Fico, Timothy (Mary) Fico, Aletia Kuruc (David Frederick), Robert (Trisha Crone) Kuruc, Nicholas (Chelsea) Kuruc and Alex Kuruc and his fiancée Kasey Jimenez, and nine cherished great-grandchildren, Khloe, Kaden, Kallie, Cole, Reese, Luke, August, Abraham and Gianna as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by four siblings, Margaret Evancho, Anthony Spodnik, Mary Gerics and John Spodnik.

### Dorothy Jean Petrus Branch 670 Donora, PA



Dorothy Jean (Yuhas) Petrus, 96, of Donora PA, passed away on January 25, 2025 at The Haven Convalescent Home in New Castle. She was born on October 2, 1928, to the late Andrew and Anna (Milasko) Yuhas. Dorothy married Edward W. (Merfe) Petrus on October 3, 1948, who preceded her in death in 2005.

A lifelong resident of Donora, Dorothy graduated from Donora High School, and attended comptometer school. She worked at U.S. Steel Donora Zinc Works

## Welcome New Member

In December, Branch 587, Aliquippa, PA welcomed its youngest member, 6-month old Lyla Elizabeth Fibbi, to her first branch meeting. Lyla is a sixth generation FCSU member from her family. Pictured from left with Lyla are her father, Christopher Fibbi; Joanne Zahorsky Fibbi, Lyla's great-grandmother, and her grandfather John E. Fibbi. Mrs. Fibbi's paternal grandfather, John Zahorsky began the family's FCSU legacy over 100 years ago.



## Branch 393 Holiday

Branch 393 celebrated the Christmas season with dinner at Giannilli's II. Members enjoyed both good food and each other's company.



## District 3 Celebrates Štedrý Večer

On Sunday, December 1, 2024, District 3 celebrated their annual Christmas Vilija (Štedrý Večer) at the Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, PA. Many FCSU members and National Officers gathered to partake in Slovak traditions at this year's event.

The Štedrý Večer begun with Holy Mass celebrated by FCSU Protector Bishop Larry J. Kulick in the St. Joseph Chapel. Choir and musical assistance were provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Following Mass, the Pittsburgh Slovaks performed a traditional Slovak pageant. The audience was wowed by beautiful traditional attire, dancing, singing, examples of Slovak traditions and a Christmas story spoken in Slovak. All guests were then directed to the dining hall and asked to be seated as District 3 President William Patty welcomed and thanked all for attending. Bishop Kulick then led guests in prayer and spoke on the symbolism behind the meal. Dinner began after the youngest attendees spotted the first star.

Attendees dined on a traditional Vilija dinner starting with homemade Oplatky. Everyone was served mushroom and sauerkraut soup, followed by the main plate of fish, peas, pierogis, pagach and bobalki. Nuts, fruit, honey, garlic and dates were also passed around the table as well as apricot and nut kolache for dessert. During dinner, District 3 Vice President Darlene Patty (with help from some of our young members) passed out raffle prizes including gift cards and plenty of holiday décor. Martin Meyer and Daniel Shulik entertained guests, playing a combination of seasonal and classical music. Special thanks to everyone who attended and organized this year's fantastic Štedrý Večer. A wonderful time was had by all! We hope members will continue coming together to celebrate this Slovak tradition!



## OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

and later became an office manager for the Washington County Housing Authority at Highland Terrace. Dorothy was very involved in her family and her community. She was a den mother in the Cub Scouts, a religious educator at the former St. Dominic Church, a member of the Christian Mothers, and sang in the church choir (directed by her husband.) She was a long-time member of the St. Dominic Rosary Society, and gave many hours of service working at the St. Vincent De Paul thrift store. She was an avid bowler and attended many bowling tournaments.

Dorothy was proud of her Slovak heritage and served as president of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) Branch 670, as well as president of District 12, the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District. She maintained a license to sell life insurance until 90 years of age, regularly being awarded FCSU recognition as a "Top Gun" for

recommending FCSU insurance policies to others. In 2018, Dorothy earned the Fraternalist of the Year Award, given to a person who, through example and accomplishment, provided outstanding volunteer service to her Branch, District, and Society. She was also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 127.

Dorothy is survived by a daughter, Dr. Claudia J. (Raymond) Parker of DeLand, FL; a son, Edward X. (Lorraine) Petrus, of New Castle, PA; grandchildren Christopher (Tanya) Petrus, Sarah (Christopher) Kurowski, and Brian (Traci) Petrus, and great-grandchildren Luke and Nina Petrus, Aiden and Mason Kurowski, and Casper and Salem Petrus. In addition to her parents and husband, Dorothy was preceded in death by her brothers Joseph, John, Edward and his wife Margaret Yuhas, and her sister and brother-in-law Eleanor and Joseph Matinko.

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## DISTRICT 2 – REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – IL, IN, WI

District 2 will hold its semi-annual meeting in person on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. There will be socializing and refreshments at 1:30pm; the meeting will begin at 2:00pm. Reservations are required. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at 708-995-7378.

Submitted by Paul Chismar, President

## DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – PA

The members of the George Onda district are invited to a dinner meeting at Aroma Italiano at 5:00pm on Saturday, March 29, 2025. It is located at 220 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA. BYOB if desired. Reservations are required, so please RSVP by Thursday, March 20th by calling Darlene at 724-493-8712. Walks-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner. **This will be a combined branch and district meeting.** Dinner will be served first, then the George Onda District - District 3 meeting will take place with the Branch 181 meeting to follow. We look forward to a great turnout!

Submitted by Kirstin Meyer, Recording Secretary

## DISTRICT 4 – MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT - NJ

The next semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025 in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ). Lunch will be served at 2:00pm. The Okres (District) meeting will follow the luncheon. The agenda will include discussion and planning of this year's activities.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring non-perishable food items for the St. John the Apostle Church Food Pantry. The FCSU Home Office will generously donate \$250.00 to the food pantry on our behalf. Kindly RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by March 21st if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

## DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, PA

Branch 35 will host the Spring District 6 business meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 1:00pm at the Holy Trinity Church hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, PA. We will discuss business matters and plan events for the season. Other events of local interest.

- WPSCA: Meets at 7:00pm first Monday at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. March 3: Slavic heritage definitions; April 7: Slovak pastries; May 5: Julia Warhola.
- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts various events such as wine tastings. Become a member and get the newsletter.
- Slovak language classes: February 20 to April 10. Contact Bozena Hilko at [bozi@comcast.net](mailto:bozi@comcast.net).
- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 17, 2025.
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 2, 2025.
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM / 730 AM.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters, social events, and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at [FCSU.com](http://FCSU.com)

Submitted by Margaret Nasta, Recording Secretary

## DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – PA

District 7 will hold our first Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2025. The meeting place will be at the Hoss's Family Restaurant at 441 Theater Drive in Johnstown, PA. The meeting is scheduled to start at 1:30pm with New Year, New News. We will have lunch following the meeting. Branch 23 will host this meeting. Any questions, please call Theresa at 814-254-2532.

Submitted by Mary Kuzilla, Secretary

## DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T HOLLY JR DISTRICT – PA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold their next meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 1:00pm at Shoney's at 285 McClellandtown Road in Uniontown, PA. The Election of Officers will be held. Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Monday, March 3rd, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

## DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

All members of District 10 in Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 are invited to our first meeting of the year on April 6, 2025. The meeting will take place at 2:00pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron, OH. Branch 553 has graciously offered to host this meeting. We will discuss news from the Home Office along with upcoming events happening in the district. Please be kind to our cooks- your advance notice of attendance will allow them to accurately prep for the meal.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We are having a "baby drive". We are joining Branch 553

in participating in our project to support The Christ Child Society of Akron. Please be generous in your donation of disposable diapers, onesies, socks or booties, newborn hats, blankets, baby wipes, washcloths, baby lotion, etc. The FCSU Home Office will kindly donate \$250.00 to The Christ Child Society of Akron on behalf of the District. Please RSVP to the District Secretary, Barbara, by texting/calling 440-864-4744 or emailing [Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com](mailto:Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com) by March 25th.

### Attention Hockey Fans:

District 10 is going to the Cleveland Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse on April 5, 2025 at 7:00pm. Check out the ad in this issue on Page 11. Contact your branch officer for news on your discounted tickets. Hurry, Hurry!!! Deadline to order is February 28th!

### Attention Bowlers:

The FCSU International Bowling Tournament will be taking place in our own backyard at Kent Lanes in Kent, OH on April 26-27, 2025. Be sure to sign up for this fun fraternal event! You can bowl as a single bowler on Sunday, get a partner for doubles bowling or form a team of four for team bowling on Saturday. Don't have enough for a team? That's ok – you will be placed on a team. See pages 12-14 and the FCSU website for details. Look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by Gregory Petrasek, President

## DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT – PA

The Msgr Josef Tiso District will conduct its semi-annual meeting March 2, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Monroe Hotel, 400 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA at 2:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend and bring your ideas for events for the upcoming year. Lunch will be served.

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

## DISTRICT 12 – MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

Save the date: June 1, 2025 - District picnic.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. God's blessings to all and a special wish for prosperity for all District 12, Hlinka District members.

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The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District of the Mon Valley will hold the first meeting of the year on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at the Kings Family Restaurant at 580 McClelland Rd., Canonsburg, PA. On the agenda will be the activities for 2025.

The Hlinka District will also take part in the Fraternalism in Action program. We are asking district members to bring shelf stable foods for the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Food Bank, 624 Washington Ave., Charleroi, PA. By participating in the program, our FCSU Home Office will donate \$250.00 to the food bank on our behalf.

Any Hlinka District member interested in being on the district bowling team for the 2025 FCSU International Bowling Tournament, please contact Nikki, the District Activities Coordinator, at [Branch670activities@gmail.com](mailto:Branch670activities@gmail.com). Costs will be the responsibility of the bowler.

Hlinka District members are urged to attend the district meeting. Each branch is responsible for the cost of their own meals.

If you have any questions, please contact the Hlinka District Secretary, Monica Boone, at [Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Submitted by Monica Boone, Secretary

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

SAVE THE DATE: We are making plans to have a district meeting in April. The meeting will include Election of Officers for 2025. Watch for more details.

Submitted by Carlie Peshek, Vice President

## DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NY

The District 16 semi annual meeting of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District in New York City will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 1:00pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St. in New York City. The agenda will include financial report updates and discussion of District 16 activities for the upcoming year 2025. After our meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že členská schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Mons. Štefana Krasulu sa uskutoční v New Yorku v nedeľu 6.aprila 2025 o 13:00 hodine po svätej omši na fare slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Na schôdzi prejdeme plán činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančnú správu. Po schôdzi bude malé občerstvenie. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Autorka textu Renáta Jurášiová-Vasil', pokladníčka

## FCSU Search-A-Word

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

## FEBRUARY Word List



<b>JOY</b>	<b>CUKRIK (CANDY)</b>
<b>HEART</b>	<b>BOZKY (KISSES)</b>
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>LÁSKA (LOVE)</b>
<b>RING</b>	<b>PARTNER (PARTNER)</b>
<b>CHOCOLATE</b>	<b>PRIATELIA (FRIENDS)</b>
<b>HUG</b>	<b>PREKVANIE (SURPRISE)</b>

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](mailto:contest@fcsu.com). Or mail puzzle and form to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

**Entries must be received by March 28, 2025.**  
Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

## December Puzzle Winners

David Bacha (Branch 200)  
Dolores Hornack (Branch 1)  
Kenneth Jurinak (Branch 313)  
Gregory Katynski (Branch 228)  
Kathleen Woods (Branch 916)

**Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!**



## RULES

Each member must be 18 years old, have an active policy and be in good standing.

1. Limit of one entry per person.
2. Each player must use their own, unique email address – no sharing of addresses.
3. Each player must complete the entry form below.
4. Mail your entry form to the address shown on the form.
5. Entry must be postmarked by **March 1, 2025**.
6. Entry form must be received by **March 7, 2025**.
7. Once your entry is reviewed and found to be in good standing, an email will be sent to you to enter the online pool. Please print your email address clearly on the entry form.
8. Check your email and junk/spam folders frequently for this entry email from the FCSU.
9. Once you receive the email, follow the instructions to sign up on the game site.
10. The deadline to set up your account on the game site is **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, no exceptions.
11. Once you have signed up on the game site, your account will be frozen.
12. Your account will reopen on **Monday, March 17, 2025 at 5:00 pm**.
13. All pool rules will be listed on the official contest website.  
This pool is conducted by a third party, all play is online.

FCSU members, it's time once again for March Mania, one of the biggest, most exciting and fun events in all of sports. March Mania is based on the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament. It includes 68 teams competing in seven rounds of competition. The final round – known as the Final Four – is played with the winning teams from each of the four brackets in the tournament.

The NCAA Men's Division I Tournament Committee seeds the teams in the established brackets. On Selection Sunday all teams and their brackets are announced. This year, watch for the selections on **Sunday, March 16th**.

## 2025 ENTRY FORM

Print Legibly – Entry must be completed in full.  
Missing information will be cause for disqualification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THIS FORM CAN NOT BE EMAILED!**

Mail Entry Form to:  
2025 MM Contest, FCSU Financial  
6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131  
Multiple entries may be mailed in the same envelope

## FCSU March Mania Prizes

**1st Place - \$1,000 • 2nd Place - \$750**  
**3rd Place - \$500 • 4th Place - \$250 • 5th Place - \$50**

# News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

## SPP began importing Russian gas through TurkStream

Bratislava, February 6 (TASR) - From February 1 this year, the Slovak Gas Industry (SPP) began importing Russian gas to Slovakia via the TurkStream gas pipeline. From April, these deliveries should be doubled. This was said on Thursday at a meeting with journalists by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SPP, Vojtech Ferencz.

Ferencz did not specify what the volumes would be. He reminded that SPP has a valid contract with Russia's Gazprom and the price for gas transit of this company is significantly lower than that of other suppliers.

Michal Ľalík, director of the SPP trade division, explained that despite this agreement, Slovakia will probably have to import gas through other routes, because the capacity of the gas pipeline through Hungary is not sufficient to cover the entire consumption. A route from Germany through the Czech Republic, where SPP has reserved capacity, is likely.

In January, SPP covered the needs of its customers mainly by pumping gas from a storage facility in which the company still has above-average gas reserves due to the current date.

Ferencz emphasized that ensuring sufficient gas supplies for customers is paramount for SPP. The problem is the rising price for gas and the higher price for supplies via alternative routes.

Gas prices are currently exceeding long-term highs and are at around €53 per megawatt hour (MWh). Back in December, before Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's announcement to stop any gas transit through Ukraine, they were at around 40 euros/MWh. Gas prices have risen at the current price after information about the gas shortage in Ukraine and the publication of a negative weather forecast for the coming weeks.

The price of gas on the stock exchange with delivery in the summer of this year, which is higher than the price of gas with delivery in the winter months, is also non-standard. This means that traders are worried about gas shortages in the summer, when EU countries have to fill storage facilities to meet the EC regulation on sufficient gas supplies at the beginning of the heating season.

## SPP začal dovážať ruský plyn cez TurkStream

Bratislava 6. februára (TASR) - Od 1. februára tohto roka začal Slovenský plynárenský priemysel (SPP) dovážať na Slovensko ruský plyn prostredníctvom plynovodu TurkStream. Od apríla by sa mali tieto dodávky zdvojnásobiť. Povedal to vo štvrtok na stretnutí s novinármi predseda predstavenstva SPP Vojtech Ferencz.

O aké objemy pôjde, Ferencz nespresnil. Pripomenul, že SPP má s ruským Gazpromom platnú zmluvu a cena za tranzit plynu tejto spoločnosti je výrazne nižšia ako u iných dodávateľov.

Riaditeľ divízie obchodu SPP Michal Ľalík priblížil, že napriek tejto dohode bude musieť Slovensko pravdepodobne dovážať plyn aj inými trasami, pretože kapacita plynovodu cez Maďarsko nepostačuje na pokrytie celej spotreby. Pravdepodobná je trasa z Nemecka cez Česko, kde má SPP zarezervovanú kapacitu.

V januári SPP pokrýval potreby svojich zákazníkov najmä čerpaním plynu zo zásobníka, v ktorom má podnik vzhľadom na aktuálny dátum ešte stále nadpriemerné zásoby plynu.

Ferencz zdôraznil, že pre SPP je prvoradé zabezpečenie dostatočných zásob a dodávok plynu pre zákazníkov. Problémom je rastúca cena za plyn a vyššia cena za dodávky alternatívnymi trasami.

Ceny plynu v súčasnosti prekračujú dlhodobé maximá a sú na úrovni okolo 53 eur za megawathodinu (MWh). Ešte v decembri, pred vyhlásením ukrajinského prezidenta Volodymyra Zelenského o zastavení akehokoľvek tranzitu plynu cez Ukrajinu, boli na úrovni okolo 40 eur/MWh. Na súčasnú cenu plyn zdražel po informáciách o nedostatku plynu na Ukrajine a zverejnení negatívnej predpovede počasia na najbližšie týždne.

Neštandardná je aj cena plynu na burze s dodaním v lete tohto roka, ktorá je vyššia ako cena plynu s dodaním v zimných mesiacoch. Znamená to, že obchodníci sa obávajú nedostatku plynu v lete, keď musia krajiny EÚ plniť zásobníky, aby splnili nariadenie EK o dostatočných zásobách plynu na začiatku vykurovacej sezóny.

## Pres. Pellegrini assured that no one wants to leave the European Union and NATO

Bratislava, February 4 (TASR) - President Peter Pellegrini assured that none of the coalition leaders or the chairman of the opposition KDH wants or is preparing the withdrawal of the Slovak Republic from the European Union (EU) and NATO. He therefore considers one of the main reasons for the regular demonstrations to be irrelevant. He said this after Tuesday's meeting with the chairmen of the coalition parties Smer-SD, Hlas-SD, SNS and the opposition KDH.

"It was very clear from this joint meeting of ours that no one, neither from the coalition parties nor the representative of the opposition KDH party, was interested in Slovakia's withdrawal from the European Union and NATO, no one is even planning such a withdrawal, no one is organizing and no one even assumes that Slovakia would see its future outside these two organizations," the president said. At the same time, according to him, everyone perceives the challenges and problems that the EU and the Alliance will have to face in the future. "Because we live in a very turbulent time. There are geopolitical shifts, there is a change in political systems," he outlined.

The president recalled that he convened the round table mainly at the request of the opposition parties KDH, PS and SaS, which expressed concern about the development of Slovakia's foreign policy. He was also led to this by the fact that fears of Slovakia's withdrawal from the EU or NATO are a motive for protesters at rallies. "If citizens continue to want to express their disagreement with something in this country, they have every right to do so, but it is useless if they express their disagreement with Slovakia's withdrawal from the EU or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, because it is not true," he summed up.

He appreciated that the KDH leader attended the meeting. He considers the rejection of the invitation by PS leader Michal Šimečka and SaS chairman Branislav Gröhling as a sign of their immaturity and unreadiness to take over the country. He suspects them of wanting the continuation of the contradiction and questioning of foreign policy orientation.

The president endorses the idea of organizing further round tables on current challenges. "I will do everything to ensure that we once again find at least some basic consensus in the field of energy security of the country and in the field of foreign policy and speak the same language," he added. After the election of the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, he wants to continue in the format of regular meetings of the three highest constitutional officials.

The meeting was attended by the leader of Smer-SD and Prime Minister Robert Fico, the chairman of the SNS and deputy speaker of parliament Andrej Danko, the chairman of the Voice-SD and Minister of the Interior Matúš Šutaj Eštok and the leader of the KDH and member of parliament Milan Majerský. PS and SaS rejected the president's invitation.

## Prez. Pellegrini uistil, že nikto si neželá vystúpenie z Európskej únie a NATO

Bratislava 4. februára (TASR) - Prezident Peter Pellegrini ubezpečil, že nikto z koalíčných lídrov ani predseda opozičného KDH si neželá ani nepripravuje vystúpenie Slovenskej republiky z Európskej únie (EÚ) a NATO. Jeden z hlavných dôvodov pravidelných demonštrácií považuje preto za irelevantný. Uviedol to po utorkovom stretnutí s predsedami koalíčných strán Smer-SD, Hlas-SD, SNS a opozičného KDH.

"Z tohto nášho spoločného stretnutia vyplynulo veľmi jasne, že nikto, ani z koalíčných strán a ani predstaviteľ opozičnej strany KDH, nemal záujem o vystúpenie Slovenska z Európskej únie a NATO, nikto takéto vystúpenie ani nechystá, nikto neorganizuje a nikto ani nepredpokladá, že by Slovensko videlo svoju budúcnosť mimo týchto dvoch organizácií," vyhlásil prezident. Zároveň podľa neho všetci vnímajú výzvy a problémy, ktorým budú musieť EÚ a Aliancia v budúcnosti čeliť. "Pretože žijeme vo veľmi pohnutej dobe. Dochádza ku geopolitickým posunom, dochádza k zmene politických systémov," načrtol.

Prezident pripomenul, že okruhly stôl zvolal najmä na žiadosť opozičných strán KDH, PS a SaS, ktoré vyjadrili znepokojenie z vývoja zahraničnej politiky SR. Viedlo ho k tomu aj to, že obavy z vystúpenia SR z EÚ alebo NATO sú motívom pre protestujúcich na zhromaždeniach. "Ak občania naďalej chcú vyjadrovať svoj nesúhlas s niečím v tejto krajine, majú na to plné právo, ale je zbytočné, ak vyjadrujú svoj nesúhlas s vystúpením Slovenska z EÚ alebo zo Severoatlantickej aliancie, lebo to nie je pravda," zhrnul.

Ocenil, že líder KDH sa na stretnutí zúčastnil. Odmietnutie pozvania zo strany lídra PS Michala Šimečka a predsedu SaS Branislava Gröhlinga považuje za prejav ich nevyzretosti a nepripravenosti prevziať riadenie krajiny. Podozrieva ich, že chcú pokračovanie rozporu a sponchyňovania zahraničnopolitickej orientácie.

Prezident sa hlási k myšlienke organizovať ďalšie okrúhle stoly k aktuálnym výzvam. "Budem robiť všetko pre to, aby sme opäť v oblasti energetickej bezpečnosti krajiny a v oblasti zahraničnej politiky nachádzali aspoň aký-taký bazálny konsenzus a hovorili sme jedným jazykom," dodal. Po zvolení predsedu Národnej rady SR chce pokračovať aj vo formáte pravidelných stretnutí troch najvyšších ústavných činiteľov.

Na stretnutí sa zúčastnili líder Smeru-SD a premiér Robert Fico, predseda SNS a podpredseda parlamentu Andrej Danko, predseda Hlasu-SD a minister vnútra Matúš Šutaj Eštok a líder KDH a poslanec parlamentu Milan Majerský. PS a SaS odmietli pozvanie prezidenta. Líder PS Michal Šimečka označil formát stretnutia za pascu na opozíciu. Pripomenul, že o stretnutie ho žiadali tri opozičné strany, no hlava štátu pozvala aj koalíčné strany. SaS odmietla byť súčasťou "falošnej hry" na nadstraníckosť, premiéra Fica nepovažuje za dôveryhodného partnera.



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