

Catholic Fraternal

# Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 132

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

NUMBER 6033

## President's Message

It is finally time for my favorite holiday of the year: Thanksgiving! I look forward to gathering around the table with my loved ones and enjoying a delicious meal, reflecting on all God's blessings this year. I wish everyone a happy holiday as you join with your families to celebrate your traditions and give thanks.



**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
President

One thing I can list that I am thankful for is all our valuable, dedicated Members in the FCSU. Our fraternal is financially sound and we are continuing to grow with new Members each year. I am grateful for everyone's continuous support and for trusting the FCSU with their financial investments. Our Society has been blessed with many opportunities to spend time together in fraternal fun and in worship. I am thrilled with the involvement of our Members this year and ready to continue to grow in the new year.

I am also very thankful for the staff here at the Home Office for their integrity and commitment towards the FCSU. Every person is dedicated to their position and in helping Members with the best service possible.

During the holidays and this time of thanks, the biggest thing I am grateful for is family. I want to make sure my family is safe and protected no matter what life throws at us. In my previous messages, I have talked about the different products the FCSU has to offer and the benefits provided for your loved ones. A big part of protecting your family is making sure they are financially stable when you pass into Eternal life. In those cir-

cumstances, you want to make sure you have a plan to supply the funds they need. How can this be done? By purchasing a product for wealth transfer.

### What is Wealth Transfer?

If you are interested in passing money allocated not for you, your medical or living expenses, but for your heirs, then a wealth transfer plan is ideal for you. Wealth transfer is a product purchased with the intent of generating wealth and increasing the amount passed on to your beneficiaries. How you pass wealth on is an important step when debating what product is right for you. It is necessary to plan where funds go and to whom.

### Life Insurance for Wealth Transfer

Life insurance is a great option to consider for wealth transfer. Life insurance is designed to protect those dependent on your income and help create a supplemental source of income for the future. Your policy can also assist in payment for your final expenses, debts and taxes, or just to leave behind funds for your loved ones. Age, health and policy type play a factor in the rate you will receive for your policy; however, your beneficiaries will be thanking you later for the money left behind. You can request a quote for life insurance on the FCSU website at [www.fcsu.com/request-a-quote](http://www.fcsu.com/request-a-quote).

By purchasing an insurance product to transfer wealth, such as a Single Premium Life Insurance plan, you create an immediate and guaranteed death benefit with tax-free advantages. This means the amount associated with your policy will be the amount your beneficiaries receive.

### Leaving Wealth with Annuities

Annuities are different from any other financial product because insurance companies promise to pay you income on a regular basis for a period of time, including the rest of your life. Immediate annuities begin paying you income soon after you buy it, while deferred annuities begin at a later date of your choosing. This product is perfect for someone looking for a long-term investment

continued on page 4



The Officers & Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union extend their most sincere Thanksgiving Greetings & Best Wishes to all Members on November 23 in the US & to our Members in Canada who celebrated on October 9.

- Rev. Thomas A. Nasta ..... Chaplain
- Kenneth A. Arendt ..... President
- Damian D. Nasta ..... Vice-President
- Kevin J. Collins ..... Executive Secretary
- John V. Tokarsky ..... Treasurer

## Enhance Your Estate through



## Wealth Transfer

### Wealth Management through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

- BENEFITS:**
- Avoid Income Tax
  - Avoid Probate
  - Cash Value Growth

*Leave behind funds you have set aside for your kids, grandchildren or your favorite charity*

**Interested? Call 800-533-6682 Today!**

## Inside

- Editorial/Commentary .....2-3
- Branch Announcements .....16-17,19
- District Announcements ..... 19
- Articles in Slovak/English..... 11



First Catholic Slovak Union | FCSU Financial®

Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office  
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, [insurance@fcsu.com](mailto:insurance@fcsu.com), [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## November Reflection

As the days of summer run into the season of autumn, I can even see nature resisting. The delicate multicolored flowers begin to fold up against the cold winds and decrease of sunlight. The vibrant green of tree leaves attempts a final hurrah with splashes of bright red and orange flowing through their veins.

These changes can remind us in November of the ebb and flow of our own lives. As our years resolve into an autumn, our steps can lose buoyancy and bodily skin colors diminish. We also may come to realize that we are not alone in this life-changing period of life. Family members and cherished friends may have moved on ahead of us to their eternal destiny. Now they live in our loving memories of heartfelt thoughts and prayers.

Our Catholic faith tells us that those with God are blessed and called saints—canonized or non-canonized. We honor and celebrate them especially on November 1st, All Saints Day. There are also, in life beyond the grave, the Holy Souls awaiting their final reunion with God in Heaven. We reach out to them uniquely with offering of Masses and prayers on November 2nd, the day dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Besides this special day of remembrance, the Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of November to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a “purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven,” which is experienced by those “who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified” (CCC 1030). In 2011 Pope Benedict XVI described Purgatory as a process rather than a place. We are reminded in Scripture “. . . to pray for the dead. Looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness it was (is) a holy and pious thought. Therefore, atonement is made for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.” (2 Maccabees 12:44-46).

Thus, we, too, are encouraged to keep our dear ones in ongoing prayer, such as expressed in our hymn, “Grant eternal rest to them, Jesus Lord, we pray, and let perpetual light shine upon them.” Another powerful prayer used in many Catholic churches, especially on All Souls Day, is one that was given by Our Lord Himself to 13th century mystic, St. Gertrude the Great, who is said to have prayed it daily: “Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere—for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.” According to tradition, our Lord promised St. Gertrude that 1000 souls would be released from Purgatory each time it is prayed devoutly.

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

Odpochinutie večne, daj im Pane,  
A svetlo večne nech im svieti.

Grant eternal rest to them, Jesus, Lord, we pray,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

## Message from the National Chaplain

A major work of our elected representatives in government is determining budgets for public needs. They get to decide where money is to be spent and the ways and means to collect the necessary income to pay for these items.

Two budget topics seemingly under continuous discussion fall under the umbrellas of education and transportation. And leaders of both seemingly say the same thing. We never have enough money for what we want to do.

From university presidents to local school boards, the message seems to repeat itself each year. We need more money to have this program or that program. We need more money for our students to succeed. We need more money to provide for basic classroom necessities, to upgrade buildings, to hire the best teachers, and so on.

Public transit officials frequently claim they need more money or there will be service cuts. We hear state and local transportation officials say they want to build and repair bridges, resurface roads, and repair potholes, but they say they need more money to get the jobs done.

In our lifeline journey of discipleship, spiritual perfection and holiness, we realize we are in constant need of God’s grace. We seem never to have enough patience, courage, humility, or mercy. We may find ourselves running short on these virtues and have lost count the number of times we have prayed for them to be stirred up within us. And God, who is full of mercy and whose love endures forever, answers our pleas.

And so we spend Thanksgiving Day expressing our gratitude to God for supplying us with the graces we need at the moments we need them the most. His gifts are never in short supply. They are there for us anytime, everywhere.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta**  
Chaplain

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta**  
National Chaplain

## SS. Cyril and Methodius November Appeal

Thank you to all Branches, Districts, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who donated to the 45th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The final totals will not be known for a few weeks, but as of October 30, 2023, this year’s appeal has raised \$24,573.51 from 195 donors. Money raised goes to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations.

A solicitation for the 46th Annual Appeal is being prepared and will be mailed sometime in January. This mailing is sent to members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, Branches and Districts of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, and previous donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Any member of the First Catholic Slovak Union who wishes to donate to the 2023 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. The 45th Annual Appeal runs from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. Gifts received after November 30, 2023 will be credited toward the 2024 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey’s

continued on page 3

### Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!



Now you can fill out the  
FCSU forms online at  
<https://www.fcsu.com/forms>

Take advantage of our Faster,  
More Readable and  
Time Saving Feature.

Complete - Print - Sign - Mail

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Any article that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday’s issue. All articles will be reviewed for possible publication.

Copy Date	Issue Date
Monday, December 4	Wednesday, December 13
Tuesday, January 2	Wednesday, January 10
Monday, February 5	Wednesday, February 14

When submitting announcements for upcoming events, remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and time is lost in the postal system. Please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be edited and printed. **Please send all Branch & District announcements to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com) or [district@fcsu.com](mailto:district@fcsu.com).**

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:  
Lucy Connolly, Editor; [editor@fcsu.com](mailto:editor@fcsu.com)  
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention “JEDNOTA”  
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398  
FAX: 216-642-4310

## JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal - Published Monthly

Publisher and Proprietor

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada**

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

LUCY CONNOLLY, Editor; [editor@fcsu.com](mailto:editor@fcsu.com)

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00**

**PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1407 Hempstead Road, Lancaster, PA 17602**

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:  
Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

# Home Office Holiday Hours



**Closed: Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24, 2023, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.**



**Closed: Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, 2023 in observance of the Christmas holiday.**



**Closed: Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of the New Year.**

## SS. Cyril and Methodius November Appeal

continued from page 2

Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

### 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Get FCSU In Your Inbox!



Stay up-to-date with the FCSU. Receive the current issue of Jednota right in your inbox – along with all the latest member info. It's free, easy and safe. We'll never share your email address! To sign up: <https://www.fcsu.com/contact/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 2023

- 1 Br 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
- 3 Br 45 – Meeting in New York, NY (elections)  
 Br 112- Meeting in Pottsville, PA (elections) (RSVP 11/26)  
 Br 199 – Meeting in Greensburg, PA (elections)  
 Br 581 – Meeting in Hobart, IN (elections)(RSVP)  
 Br 721 – Meeting in Bannister, MI (elections)  
 Br 743 – Mass/Meeting in Sterling Heights, MI (elections)  
 Dist 3 - Vilija / Stedry Vecer  
 St Andrew Abbey – Vilija / Stedry Vecer
- 4 Br 716 – Mass in New York, NY
- 5 Br 259 – Meeting in Struthers, OH (elections)(RSVP)
- 6 Br 290 – Meeting in Middlesex, NJ (elections) (RSVP 12/1)  
 Akron Slovak J Club – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
- 7 Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA (elections)
- 8 Br 89 – Christmas Party in Menomonee, WI (RSVP)  
 Br 260 – Meeting in Struthers, OH (elections)
- 9 Br 173 – Meeting in Wilkes-Barre, PA (elections)  
 Br 746 – Volunteer Christmas Baking Project in Linden, NJ  
 Br 855 – Meeting in North Royalton, OH (elections)
- 10 Br 35 – Zoom Meeting (elections)  
 Br 213 – Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA (elections)  
 Br 320 – Meeting/Christmas Luncheon in Monessen, PA (elections)(RSVP 12/1)  
 Br 393 – Meeting in Greensburg, PA (RSVP 11/20)  
 Br 484 – Meeting in Indiana, PA (elections)  
 Br 587 – Meeting in Penndel, PA (elections)  
 Br 746 – Meeting in Clark, NJ (elections) (RSVP 12/3)  
 Br 857 – Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA (elections)  
 Akron Slovak J Club - Vilija in Akron, OH (RSVP 12/6)
- 12 Br 682 – Meeting in Austintown, OH (elections) (RSVP 12/2)  
 Dist 14 – Meeting/Christmas Dinner in Austintown, OH (RSVP 12/2)
- 14 Br 410 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA (elections) (RSVP 12/11)
- 15 Br 844 – Meeting in Fullerton, CA (elections)  
 Dist 15 – Meeting in Fullerton, CA (elections)
- 16 Br 6 – Meeting/Play in Streator, IL (elections)(RSVP)  
 Akron Slovak J Club – Santa Visits (RSVP 12/9)
- 17 Br 628 – Meeting in Penn Hills, PA (elections)
- 18 Br 228 – Meeting in Lorain, OH (elections)
- 20 Akron Slovak J Club – Fried Chicken Dinner (RSVP 12/16)
- 25 Home Office closed
- 26 Home Office closed
- 30 Dist 3 – Meeting in United, PA

For more info go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

# President's Message

Continued from page 1

or to subsidize a retirement. Annuities have an accumulation period where your money earns a fixed or variable amount of income. The annuity that's best for you depends on your life and financial situation including age, assets, debts, income, your financial objectives and how you plan to use the annuity. The best part about your investment is any money you earn is tax-deferred, meaning you won't pay income tax until you withdraw money.

Although designed as an investment product, annuities can be used for wealth transfer as well. In the event of a death while in the accumulation period, a basic death benefit will pay some or all of your annuity's value to your beneficiaries in either one payment or multiple over time. If you pass while receiving income payments, your beneficiaries will only receive funds if your annuity guarantees to pay out as much as you paid into the annuity or you choose a payout option that continues to make payments after your death. You also may be eligible to choose enhanced death benefits that increase the value of the basic death benefit.

### Don't Forget to List your Beneficiaries

It is important when purchasing a policy for wealth transfer to plan who the wealth is being

transferred to. Whether you are just purchasing a policy or have had one for years, I want to remind all Members to continue updating your beneficiaries. If you have recently married, had a child, a divorce, a death in the family or any other reasons for necessary changes, check your forms to make sure the correct names are listed. Beneficiary forms can only be submitted by the policy holder prior to their passing. You can go to [www.fcsu.com/forms](http://www.fcsu.com/forms) and click on the beneficiary/ownership change form to start the process today.

### Become Informed about FCSU Products

You can find our variety of different products online at: [www.fcsu.com/products](http://www.fcsu.com/products) for more details. Don't forget the Home Office is always here to help! Please do not hesitate to reach out and give us a call at 1-800-533-6682 with any questions regarding our products and wealth transfer. Remember, when considering a wealth transfer policy, please consult your financial advisor to ensure it's the right fit for your financial needs.

I hope I gave some insight as to what wealth transfer is and how important planning ahead for your family is. Once again, I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving! Celebrate with your loved ones and keep in mind the meaning of thanks behind the holiday.

Fraternally,  
Kenneth A. Arendt

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

The financial condition of a life insurance organization is an important factor in public confidence. In this regard we prepared the following report on:

### FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA

featuring a comparative analysis of key financial ratios comparing this company with 25 of the leading Life Insurance Companies in the United States.

These 25 leading Life Insurance Companies have been in business for an average of over 100 years and own a major portion of the invested assets and life insurance in force of all the companies. Thus, a favorable comparison of the financial ratios for the company featured herein with 25 of the leading companies can be indicative of the company's financial stability.

KEY FINANCIAL RATIOS - DERIVED FROM THE ANNUAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(The 25 leading companies are determined by the amount of Admitted Assets as of December 31, 2022)

### SOLVENCY

Assets for each \$100 of Liabilities

A high ratio of Assets over Liabilities is a significant safety factor. This indicates that a company has enough assets to cover its liabilities and to meet all obligations as they become due.

Assets for each \$100 of Liabilities as of Dec. 31, 2022

American National Insurance Company, TX .....	\$116.56
Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation, NE .....	108.11
Connecticut General Life Ins. Co., CT .....	148.17
Equitable Financial Life Ins. Co., NY .....	102.67
Everlake Life Insurance Company, IL .....	107.26
Guardian Life Ins. Co. of America, NY .....	113.17
John Hancock Life Insurance Co., (USA), MA .....	104.80
Life Ins. Co. of the Southwest, VT .....	106.63
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co., IN .....	103.06
Massachusetts Mutual Life Ins. Co., MA .....	109.89
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., NY .....	103.07
Midland National Life Insurance Co., IA.....	106.96
Minnesota Life Insurance Co., MN .....	105.95
Nationwide Life Insurance Co., OH .....	106.74
New York Life Insurance Company, NY .....	112.01
Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. Co., WI.....	109.62
Ohio National Life Insurance Company, OH .....	109.00
Pacific Life Insurance Company, NE .....	107.00
Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, PA.....	110.46
Protective Life Insurance Company, TN.....	107.27
Prudential Insurance Co. of America, NJ.....	104.92
RiverSource Life Insurance Company, MN .....	103.26
State Farm Life Insurance Company, IL.....	121.64
Symetra Life Insurance Company, IA .....	105.35
United Of Omaha Life Insurance Co., NE.....	106.27
AVERAGE OF 25 OF THE LEADING LIFE CO'S.....	\$107.00
<b>FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION.....</b>	<b>\$109.30</b>

### LIQUID INVESTED ASSETS

Assets in Bonds, Stocks, Cash and Short-Term Investments for each \$100 of Liabilities

This ratio measures a company's ability to meet its anticipated obligations to policyholders. A high ratio indicates a more liquid investment position with which an insurer can meet unforeseen emergency cash requirements that may arise.

AVERAGE OF 25 OF THE LEADING LIFE CO'S.....	\$47.54
<b>FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION.....</b>	<b>\$99.55</b>

### ADDITIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTH

The following ratios are Per \$1000 of Life Insurance in Force. They show further proof of financial strength and stability:

	This Society	Average 25 of the Leading Life Companies
Assets per \$1000 .....	<b>\$1,778.67</b>	\$149.03
Reserves per \$1000 .....	<b>1,503.76</b>	63.69
Surplus per \$1000 .....	<b>151.29</b>	9.75

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

Admitted Assets	Benefits to Policyowners
<b>\$568,716,615</b>	<b>\$ 34,787,582</b>
Policy Reserves	Net Investment Income
<b>\$480,814,261</b>	<b>\$ 23,556,485</b>
Total Liabilities	Total Income
<b>\$520,342,069</b>	<b>\$ 78,603,342</b>
Gross Surplus (Incl. Capital, if any) ·	Insurance Issued
<b>\$ 48,374,546</b>	<b>\$ 4,700,000</b>
Insurance in Force	
<b>\$319,742,000</b>	

CONCLUSION: Based on the financial results achieved in the year ended 2022, the comparative analysis made of the organization featured herein is **favorable** when compared to the aggregate averages of 25 of the LEADING LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.



## District 10's Fall Meeting

District 10 held its second meeting of the year at 2:00PM on October 15, 2023, at the Activities Center of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Parma, OH. Approximately 50 members attended, representing all six branches of the district. The meeting was conducted by District 10 President Greg Petrasek. National President Ken Arendt and Executive Secretary Kevin Collins gave updates on happenings at the Home Office. Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec reported on the success of past district activities and shared news about upcoming national and district activities, and FCSU Branch Liaison and Branch 855 President Barb Sutilla answered questions about branch forms. District 10 Officers were elected for 2024.

The meeting was hosted by Branch 855, whose members prepared and served a delicious luncheon of soups, chili dogs, nachos, and desserts. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fraternalism and friendship – and a bonus of watching the Browns win over the 49ers in the last minutes of the game!

Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director



District 10 elected officers for 2024 (L – R): President Greg Petrasek, Chaplain Jared Orndorff, Vice President John Moynihan, Recording Secretary Barb Sutilla, Auditor Joe Oros, and Treasurer Ann Sutilla

(L – R) Region 6 Director Thomas Ivanec, National President Kenneth Arendt, National Supreme Court Officer and Branch 855 Auditor Henry Horvath, and District 10 President Greg Petrasek



(L – R) Chaplain Jared Orndorff and Region 6 Director Thomas Ivanec with retiring District 10 Secretary/ Treasurer Linda Hanko and retiring District 10 Vice President Linda Kolesar

Some 50 members and guests enjoyed a great afternoon at the October 15 District Meeting in Parma.



## November 17 is a National Holiday in Slovakia

November 17 is a holiday in Slovakia known as Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu or the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day commemorating the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939, and especially the demonstration in 1989 in Bratislava and Prague considered to mark the beginning of the Velvet Revolution. The Velvet Revolution or Gentle Revolution (in Slovak nežná revolúcia) was a non-violent transition of power in what was then Czechoslovakia, occurring from November 17 to December 29, 1989. Popular demonstrations against the one-party government of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia included students and older dissidents. The result was the end of 41 years of one-party rule in Czechoslovakia, and the subsequent dismantling of the command economy and conversion to a parliamentary republic

- As posted on Wikipedia



## November 21 is Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church. Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

- As posted on franciscanmedia.org



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

*Slovenská Viliya*  
*Slovak Christmas Eve Supper*  
*Sunday, December 3, 2023*

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

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

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

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

**Your tickets will be mailed out to you.**  
**TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

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

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



## Branch 746 Celebrates 101st Birthday!



The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, met on Sunday, October 15th, 2023, at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. In addition to the regular business of the meeting, there was also a celebration of the 101st anniversary of Branch 746 which included delicious Slovak food and singing of "Happy Birthday"! Thank you to our wonderful members who continue to be very active in our Branch whether in person or virtually! Here's to another 101 years! Na zdravie!

**Submitted by Sabina Sabados,  
Branch 746 President**



## Branch 24 Elects Officers for 2024

On Sunday afternoon, October 22, 2023, Branch 24 met in the Walton Hills Village Hall, Walton Hills, OH. At this fall meeting, general branch business and upcoming fraternal activities were discussed, and election of branch officers was held. Some 31 members were in attendance, along with National President Ken Arendt and District 10 President Greg Petrasek. A delicious hot luncheon of sauerkraut and sausage, veggie lasagna, and many sides were served directly after the meeting. Many thanks to Jennifer Allen and Milan Vrzic as well as John, Sue and Joe Moynihan for coordinating the meal and to Joe Oros for contributing to the desserts.

**Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director**



**Elected Branch 24 Officers for 2024: (L – R, seated) Vice President Jennifer Allen, Treasurer Joe Oros, President John Moynihan, and Recording Secretary Anna Gibson (L – R, standing) Auditor Milan Vrzic, Auditor Sue Moynihan, Fraternal Activities Director Fran Strekal, and Chaplain Fr. Michael Brunovksy, OSB**

## Branch 181 Officers Elected for 2023-2024

Election of Officers for the St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United PA took place on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the semi-annual meeting held at Aroma Italiano in Latrobe PA. Greg Maurer, National Chairman of Auditors, read the Promise of Officers and the officers responded and accepted the duties of their office.

President – Darlene Patty  
Vice President – Ed Mizikar  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer – Dick Mizikar  
Recording Secretary – Vicki Hricik

**Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**



**L-R: Greg Maurer - Chairman of Auditors, Dick Mizikar – Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Darlene Patty – President, Vicki Hricik – Recording Secretary, and Ed Mizikar – Vice President.**

# Region 1 Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine

On the first Sunday of October with the sun shining and birds chirping, St. John Nepomucene / St. Frances X. Cabrini parish in cooperation with Region 1 Jednota members (Branch 45 -NYC, 716-NYC, and 746-Linden, NJ) organized a pilgrimage to Marian Shrine in West Haverstraw, New York. The day commenced with Holy Mass in Slovak with main celebrant Fr. Martin Kertys. The Marian Shrine is located in a peaceful wooded setting above the west bank of the Hudson. The Salesians of Don Bosco purchased the estate in 1945. Mass was held at the Outdoor Altar of white marble which was erected during the Marian Year 1954. Following Mass there were confessions, lunch, and recitation of the Holy Rosary in Slovak. Pilgrims concluded the day by pledging their devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary under the large bronze statue popularly known as the Rosary Madonna. The statue is 48 feet and weighing 6½ tons, it is mounted on a pedestal of Vermont stone with a star-shaped base like the one beneath the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. Designed by Martin Lumen Winer of New Rochelle, N.Y., it was cast in bronze in Pistoia, Italy, in 1959 and blessed by Pope John XXIII.

Pilgrims were excited to come back to the Marian Shrine after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The annual pilgrimage was organized by Branch 716 and St. John Nepomucene for decades with Slovaks gathering from NJ, NY, PA, and CT to celebrate mass together and pray to our Lady of the Rosary. It was wonderful to meet again at this beautiful site.

**Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director**



In front from left: Wells and Reid, In back: Robb and Lindsay Patty

## UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation Receives Donation from Branch 181

The St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of United, PA recently donated \$1000.00 to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Children's Hospital Foundation of Pittsburgh, PA. The donation will specifically benefit the children in the Cardiology Department through The Child Life Program and Pennies from Heaven Fund. The Child Life Department provides developmental, social, and emotional support to children during their hospital stay. The Pennies from Heaven Fund helps to ease financial hardships for parents so they can stay with their children in the hospital. All donations go directly to families in need whether it is assistance with transportation, food, sibling care or other expenses.

Lindsay Patty is the Clinical Leader at Children's Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and suggested the foundation would appreciate this donation. Her husband, Robb Patty and children, Reid and Wells, are members of Branch 181.

**Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**





# Turkey, Turkey Full and Fat

November is Here  
Gobble Up  
These Rates



- FCSU Financial® Founded in 1890
- \$600M in Assets
- Solvency Ratio 115%
- Governed and Regulated by the ODI

First Catholic Slovak Union | FCSU Financial®  
 Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office  
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131  
[annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com) | [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## Annuity Products:

**6 Year** **4.75%**  
Fixed Annuity or IRA

**8 Year** **4.50%**  
Flex Annuity or IRA

**6 Year** **4.25%**  
Flex Annuity or IRA

**Park 2 Annuity** **4.25%**  
*(not available in the state of NY)*

**Park Free Plus** **3.00%**  
**Annuity or IRA -**  
*1st year guaranteed (new Park Free Plus  
max deposit \$25,000 per person)*

**Settlement Options are** **3.00%**  
**based on an interest rate of**  
*(5 yrs +)*

**CALL US AT 800-533-6682**



# Branch 199 Enjoyed Some Fun in the Sun

Members of Branch 199 met for summer fun at Waldemere Amusement Park on July 10, 2023, in Erie, Pennsylvania. A good time was had for all in attendance!

Submitted by Barb Patula, Secretary



# International Fraud Awareness Week

Among all the holidays and celebrations in November, there is a week dedicated to bring awareness to a pressing issue: fraud. Started back in 2000, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) established this period of time to shine a light on the thousands of fraud scams occurring daily. The campaign encourages people, especially those in the workplace, to discuss the recent tactics and measures to take to avoid becoming a victim. At this time, it is important to always question suspicious emails, calls or texts, even if they come from what you believe is a trusted company. Always call the company directly and ask if the message you received was legit. International Fraud Awareness Week for 2023 is November 12-18. You can learn more about International Fraud Awareness Week by visiting the campaign website: [www.fraudweek.com](http://www.fraudweek.com)

(For more information regarding current fraud tactics and how you can protect yourself, read the "Money Scams and Fraud" article from the August 9, 2023 issue of Jednota on page 8.)



## St. Paul Cathedral Parish

### "Vilija" Dinner

Sunday, December 10, 2023



Join us for a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner celebration at the St. Rosalia Social Hall.

Christmas is a time for remembrance—for recalling the joys and blessings of the year, as well as for treasuring memories of Christmases past. The most treasured memories are customs and traditions of our parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents of Slovakia. Many of these customs have been handed down from generation to generation and now are the links that bind us to the past as well as to the future.

You will experience many of the traditions of a people of simple country faith and cherished customs of our Slovak ancestors. We will break the *oplatky* wafer, have a traditional mushroom soup, baked cod, *pirohy*, and *bobalky*. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will present their Christmas pageant - *Jasličkare* - which tells the story of the shepherds bringing their gifts to the Christ child.

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

Please complete and return this form with payment no later than Saturday, December 2, to reserve your tickets.

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

Number of Adult Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 each

Number of Child (Ages 5 - 10) Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 each

Number of Children (Ages 4 and under): \_\_\_\_\_ Free

Make checks payable to St. Paul Cathedral

Mail to:  
Sue Ondrejco  
234 Ilion St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our Society immediately  
**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

## Prezidentka povýšila a vymenovala generálov Ozbroyených síl SR

Bratislava 24. októbra (TASR) - Prezidentka SR Zuzana Čaputová v utorok povýšila a vymenovala generálov Ozbroyených síl (OS) SR. Vo svojom príhovore v Prezidentskom paláci poukázala na to, že bezpečnosť a mier nie sú takou samozrejmosťou, ako sa roky mohlo zdať. Vyzdvihla dôležitosť pripravenosti štátu a ozbrojených síl na akékoľvek scenáre vrátane krízových.

“Bezpečnostná situácia v našom regióne tiež potvrdzuje, že základným kameňom našej bezpečnosti je adekvátna aktívna účasť Slovenska a jeho ozbrojených síl v systéme kolektívnej obrany Severoatlantickej aliancie,” povedala hlava štátu vo svojom príhovore.

Prezidentka do hodnosti generálmajora povýšila brigádnych generálov Ladislava Dovhuna, Martina Stoklasu a Tibora Králika. Do hodnosti brigádneho generála vymenovala plukovníka Martina Kuterku a plukovníčku Beátu Hanušniakovú, historicky prvú nositeľku generálskej hodnosti v slovenskom rezorte obrany. “Verím, že v týchto neľahkých časoch budete aj naďalej našou oporou,” povedala prezidentka.

Návrhy na vymenovanie a povýšenie profesionálnych vojakov OS SR do vyššej generálskej hodnosti predkladá prezidentke vláda na návrh ministra obrany.



**Promoted to Brigadier General Beata Hanušniaková and President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová during the promotion and appointment of generals of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava on October 24, 2023. Photo: TASR**

## The President promoted and appointed generals of the Slovak Armed Forces

Bratislava, October 24 (TASR) - Slovak President Zuzana Čaputová on Tuesday promoted and appointed generals of the Slovak Armed Forces. In her speech at the Presidential Palace, she pointed out that security and peace are not as commonplace as it may have seemed for years. It stressed the importance of state and armed forces being prepared for any scenarios, including crisis ones.

“The security situation in our region also confirms that the cornerstone of our security is an adequate active participation of Slovakia and its armed forces in the collective defense system of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,” said the head of state in his speech.

The president promoted Brigadier Generals Ladislav Dovhun, Martin Stoklasa and Tibor Králik to the rank of major general. She appointed Colonel Martin Kuterka to the rank of Brigadier General and Colonel Beata Hanušniaková, historically the first holder of the General rank in the Slovak Ministry of Defence. “I believe that you will continue to support us in these difficult times,” the president said.

Proposals for the appointment and promotion of professional soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic to a higher general rank are submitted to the President by the Government on the proposal of the Minister of Defence.

## The 2023 Freedom Lecture

Friends of Slovakia, The Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the United States, The American Friends of the Czech Republic, The Embassy of the Czech Republic to the United States, and The Transatlantic Democracy Working Group invite you to this year's Freedom Lecture at noon for lunch on Friday, November 17, at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (1744 R St NW Washington DC 20009).

The Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture was established in 2000. Intended to commemorate the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the lecture is scheduled annually close to November 17. Conceived as a joint activity of the Czech and Slovak Embassies, together with American Friends of the Czech Republic and Friends of Slovakia, the choice of speaker and topic alternates each year between the Czech and Slovak groups.

The featured speaker Mr. Rasto Kuzel, Executive Director of Memo98, will discuss the importance of free and fair elections for democracy in the aftermath of the recent elections in Slovakia and Poland and ahead of the US elections in 2024.

As space is limited, please RSVP to [acameron@gmfus.org](mailto:acameron@gmfus.org).

## Perinbaba a dva svety predstavuje trailer, do kín príde 7. Decembra

Bratislava 20. októbra (TASR) - Perinbaba a dva svety patrí medzi najočakávanejšie slovenské filmy posledných rokov. Príchod do kín avizuje trailer vianočnej rozprávky Juraja Jakubiska (1938 - 2023). Tvorcovia ho zverejňujú spolu s plagátom pri príležitosti blížiacej sa premiéry.

Film je záverečným veľdielom legendárneho slovenského režiséra a scenáristu. Rodený východniar Juraj Jakubisko sa so svojimi fanúšikmi rozlúči tak, ako mu to bolo blízke. “Filmová rozprávka Perinbaba a dva svety je Jurajkova zhmotnená bohatá fantázia. Veril, že si diváci v kinách pri jej pozieraní oddýchnu, vrátia sa do detstva a opäť uveria v zázraky, lásku a dobro. Popravde, všetci to teraz potrebujeme,” hovorí producentka Deana Jakubisková, ktorá prednedávnom odhalila na počtu svojho manžela pamätnú dlaždicu na Filmovom chodníku slávy pred bratislavským Divadlom P. O. Hviezdoslava.

“Deti by mali mať vzory v ľuďoch, ktorí cieľavedome a vlastným pričinením dosiahnu svoje šťastie. Mój Lukáš, syn Alžbetky a Jakuba, ktorý sa vyberie do sveta hľadať šťastie a lásku, je akčná postava, ktorá na svojej púti zažíva príbeh plný nebezpečenstiev, ale aj neskutočne krásnych situácií a priateľstva, cez ktoré dosiahne svoj vytúžený cieľ,” vysvetlil Jakubisko pred začatím nakrúcania svoje režisérske plány, ktoré aj naplnil.

(Trailer k filmu Perinbaba a Dva svety si môžete pozrieť na: [tinyurl.com/perinbaba-twoworlds](http://tinyurl.com/perinbaba-twoworlds))



**Director Juraj Jakubisko. Photo: TASR**

## Perinbaba and Two Worlds Unveils Trailer, Coming to Theaters on December 7

Bratislava, October 20 (TASR) - Perinbaba and Two Worlds is one of the most anticipated Slovak films of recent years. The trailer of the Christmas fairy tale by Juraj Jakubisko (1938 - 2023) announces its arrival in cinemas. The creators publish it together with a poster on the occasion of the upcoming premiere.

The film is the final masterpiece of the legendary Slovak director and screenwriter. Native Easterner Juraj Jakubisko will say goodbye to his fans as he loved it. “The film fairy tale Perinbaba and Two Worlds is Juraj's rich imagination materialized. He believed that cinema-goers would relax while watching it, return to childhood and again believe in miracles, love and goodness. In truth, we all need it now,” says producer Deana Jakubisková, who recently unveiled a commemorative tile on the Film Walk of Fame in front of the P. O. Hviezdoslav Theatre in Bratislava in honor of her husband.

“Children should have role models in people who achieve their happiness purposefully and through their own efforts. My Lukáš, the son of Elizabeth and Jakub, who goes out into the world in search of happiness and love, is an action character who on his pilgrimage experiences a story full of dangers, but also incredibly beautiful situations and friendship, through which he will achieve his desired goal,” Jakubisko explained his directorial plans before starting filming, which he also fulfilled.

Thanks to his ingenuity, youthful fearlessness and skill, the cinematic Lukas finds a way not to get lost in the world. A four-legged friend, the dog Ucho, will help him with this. “The knowledge that Lukáš gains during his journey will ultimately help him get the love he dreamed of and find a place where his incredible dream will come true,” explains the distribution company Bontonfilm, which will bring the fairy tale to theaters on December 7.

(You can watch the trailer of Perinbaba and Two Worlds at: [tinyurl.com/perinbaba-twoworlds](http://tinyurl.com/perinbaba-twoworlds))

## The New Slovak Citizenship Law



The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association in Pittsburgh (WPSCA) presented Dr. Victor Valla, from the Slovak Embassy, to speak on Slovakia's new dual citizenship law at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library this past May. Dr. Valla went into detail discussing the new law, explaining how it expands the eligibility to become a Slovak Citizen and answered the audience's questions regarding the recent changes. You can watch the lecture on WPSCA's Facebook page by searching [tinyurl.com/slovakcitizenship](http://tinyurl.com/slovakcitizenship) or scanning the QR code.

# Christmas Coloring Contest 2023

FCSU members, it's time to break out your crayons and sharpen your colored pencils to enter the 2023 Christmas Coloring Contest. This year's competition will be fun for all ages, as everyone can now participate in one of six age categories. Best of luck to all.



## CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

### Children and Youth Categories

**Ages 4-6** **Ages 7-9** **Ages 10-12** **Ages 13-16**

**First Place (\$50) - Second Place (\$35) - Third Place (\$25)**  
**Three winners chosen per age group in each Region.**

### Young Adult and Young at Heart Categories

**Ages 17-39** **Ages 40+**

**First Place (\$100) - Second Place (\$75) - Third Place (\$50)**  
**Three winners chosen in each adult age group.**

## OFFICIAL RULES

- Contest entry is limited to current FCSU members, with one entry per member.
- Complete all information on the entry form. Entries without age and branch # will be disqualified.
- Cut out and color the Christmas picture for your age. Pictures are printed in the November and December 2023 issues of the Jednota. Copies may be made for additional entries for your family. Pictures may also be printed off the FCSU website -- [fscu.com/events](http://fscu.com/events). Please print/copy at the original picture size, as enlarging or reducing the image is not allowed.
- Mail your colored picture with the entry form taped to the back of the picture to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
- Color your entry with crayons or colored pencils. The use of markers or glitter is not allowed. Do not add any type of embellishments to the pictures such as borders, stickers or craft items.
- Deadline: Entries must be received before January 5, 2024.** Please mail early to ensure timely delivery.
- Decisions from the independent judges will be final.

### **2023 Coloring Contest Official Entry**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

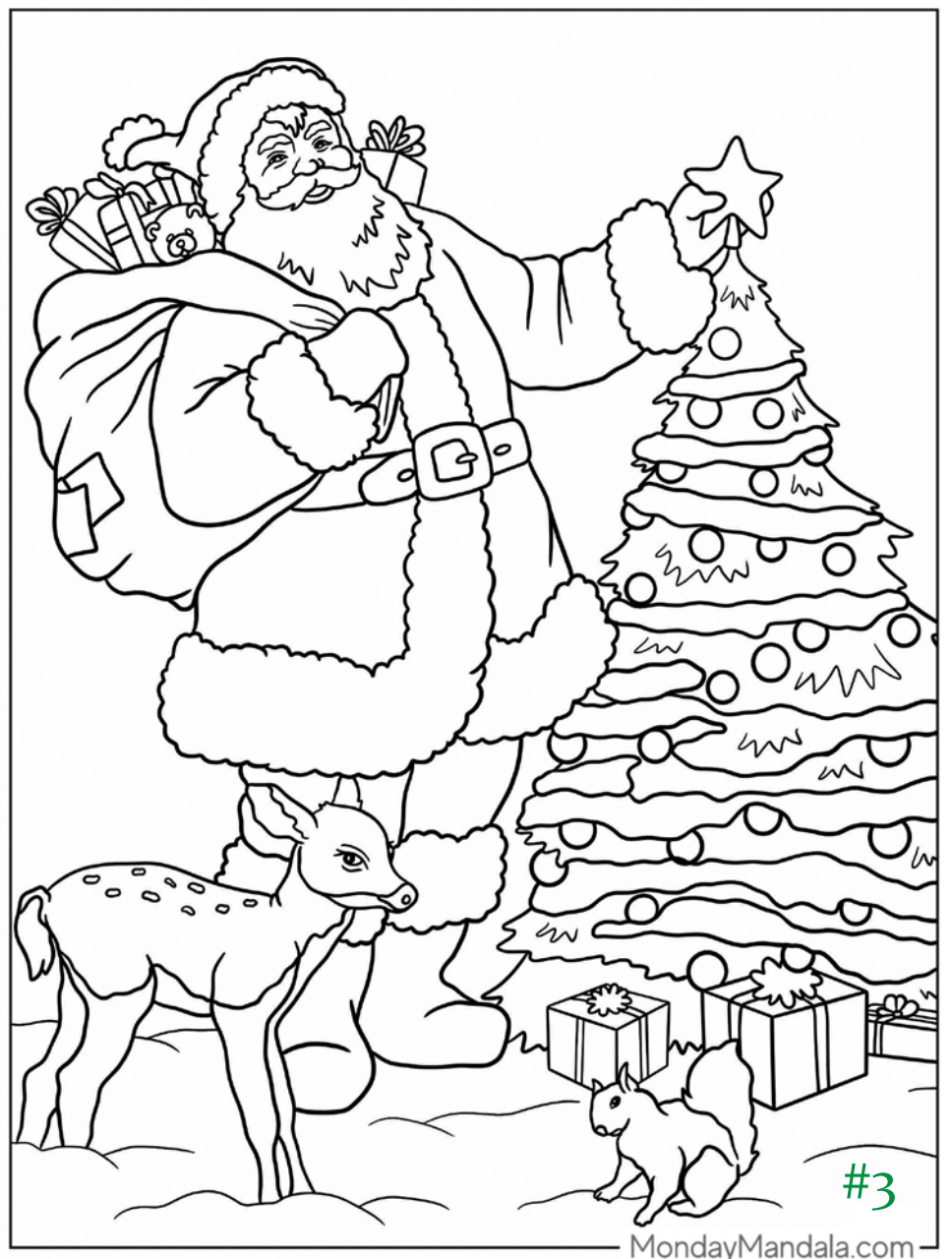
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print Clearly Using Ink. Thank you.**

**More FCSU Fun for Everyone!**

# Christmas Coloring Contest Pictures



**Ages 4-6**  
**Image #1**  
**Santa's Elf**

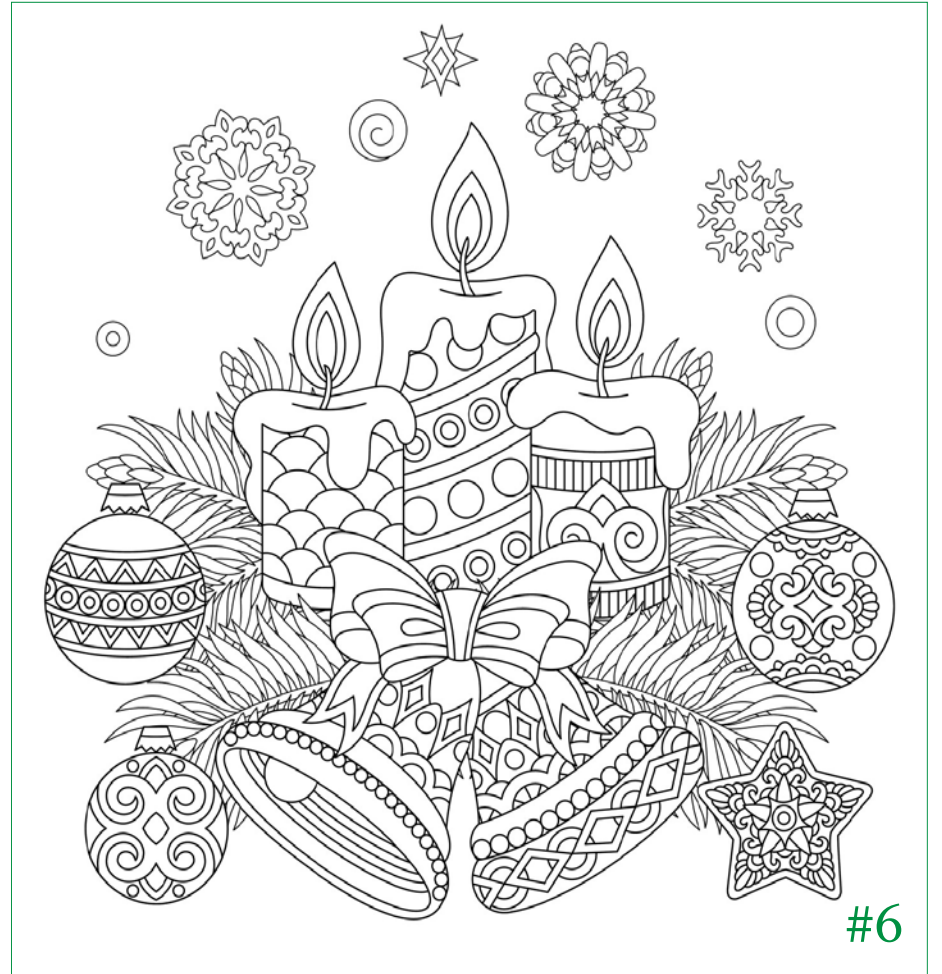
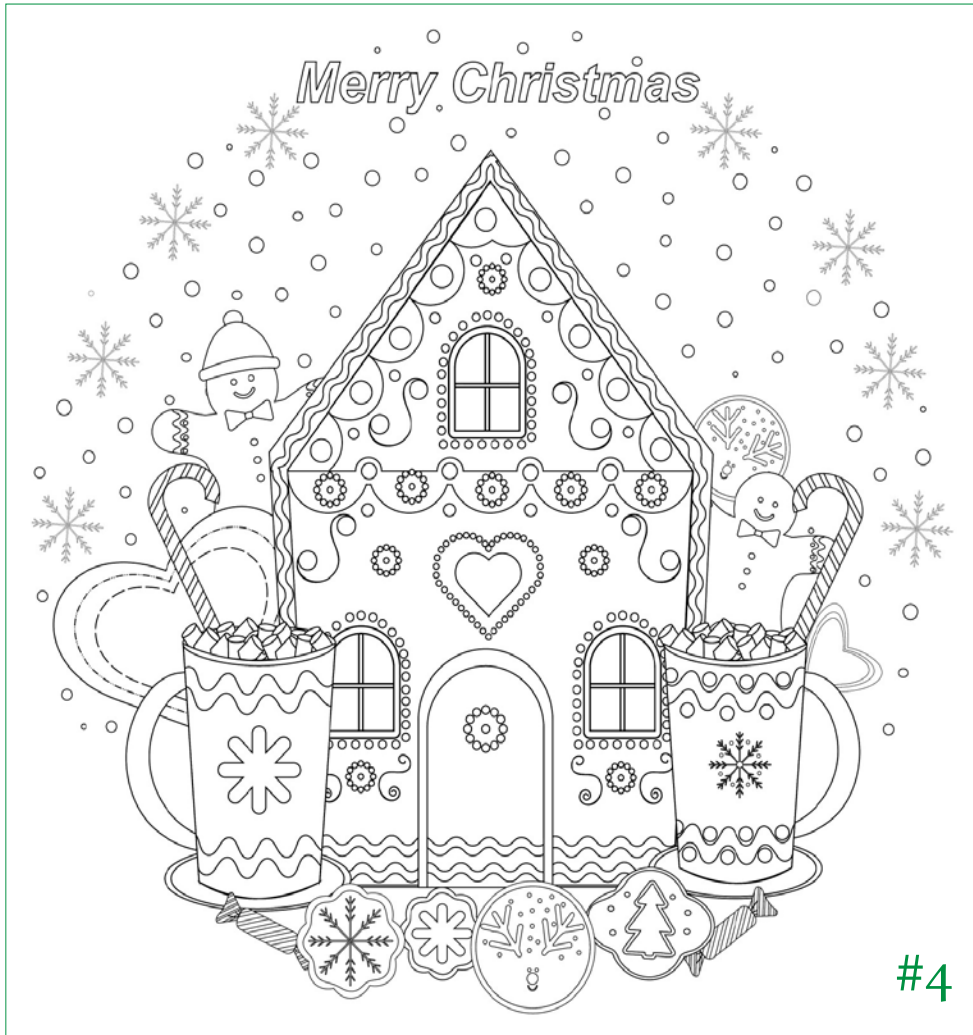
**Ages 7-9**  
**Image #2**  
**Santa Stringing Lights**

**Ages 10-12**  
**Image #3**  
**Santa and Animal Friends**

**Merry Christmas!**

Images # 1, 2 and 3 are courtesy of MondayMandala.com

# Christmas Coloring Contest Pictures



**Ages 13-16**  
**Image #4**  
**Gingerbread House**

**Ages 17-39**  
**Image #5**  
**Snow People**

**Ages 40+**  
**Image #6**  
**Candles, Bells, Ornaments**

**Wishing You a Wonderful Christmas Season  
and Many Blessings in the New Year.**



# FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

## “November” Word List

THANKSGIVING	VĎAČNÝ (Thankful)
ALL SAINTS’ DAY	MORIAK (Turkey)
PUMPKIN PIE	LISTY (Leaves)
AUTUMN	ZEMIAKY (Potatoes)
PILGRIMS	RODINA (Family)
CRANBERRY	DUŠIČKY (Souls)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rules

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. **One entry per member!**  
 Complete the word puzzle and email it along with your name, address, email and branch number to [contest@fcsu.com](mailto:contest@fcsu.com) or mail it to:

### FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **December 20, 2023**.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

**Each winner will receive \$50.**

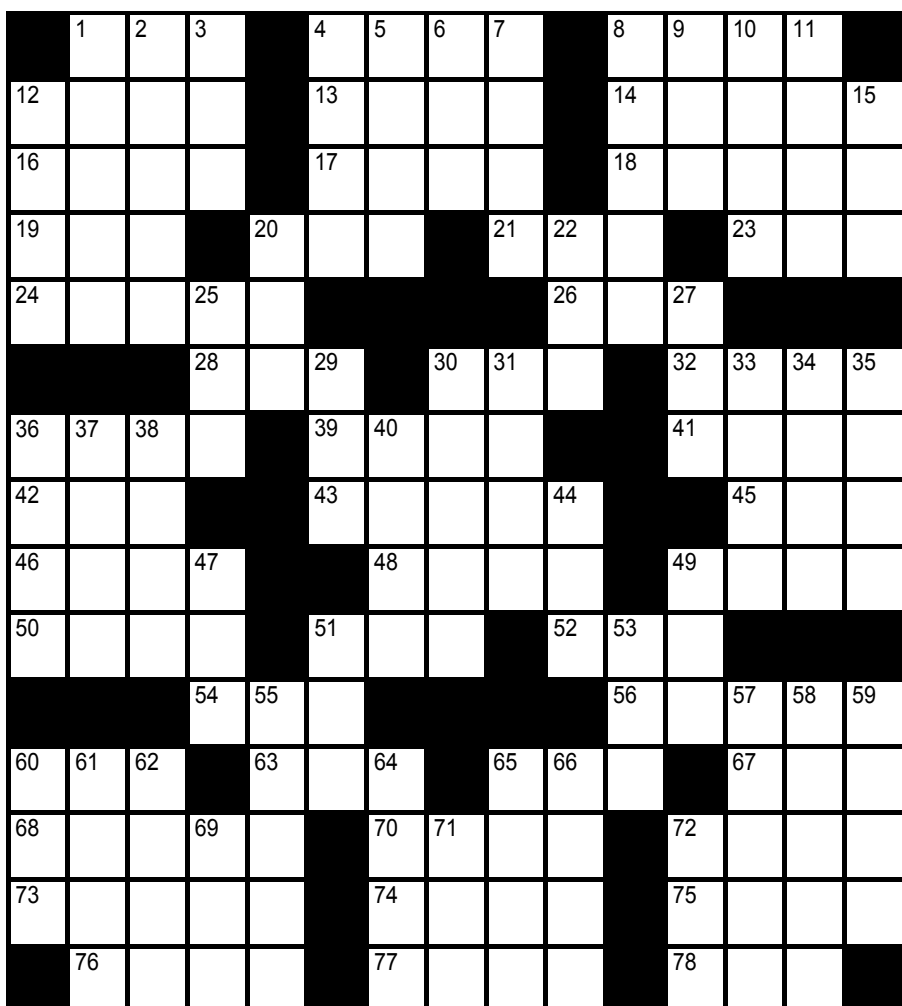
## October Puzzle Contest

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER WINNERS  
 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER ISSUE.

Thank you

**KEEP PUZZLING!**

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 Outlaw
- 4 “The very \_\_\_!”
- 8 Start of some cloud names
- 12 Tender
- 13 Pickle flavoring
- 14 Goddess of the hunt
- 16 Farm equipment
- 17 Thousand \_\_\_, Calif.
- 18 Ne’er-do-well
- 19 Money dispenser
- 20 Down with the flu
- 21 Plastic \_\_\_ Band
- 23 Sea eagle
- 24 Ivan and Nicholas
- 26 N.Y.C. clock setting
- 28 Easily tamed bird
- 30 Warmed the bench
- 32 Do as directed
- 36 Graze
- 39 Tailless cat
- 41 Newbie
- 42 Cutting tool
- 43 To no \_\_\_
- 45 Delivery from Santa
- 46 Calamitous
- 48 Gaelic language
- 49 Cancún coin
- 50 Antares, for one
- 51 Web browser entry

- 52 Mr. Potato Head piece
- 54 Churchill’s “so few” (Abbr.)
- 56 Strip beginner
- 60 Salad ingredient
- 63 Anonymous John
- 65 Sandpiper
- 67 Biographical bit
- 68 Courtroom event
- 70 Bit of kindling
- 72 Fish part
- 73 Literally, “dwarf dog”
- 74 Pepsi, for one
- 75 Hydroxyl compound
- 76 Coagulum
- 77 Pay attention to
- 78 “Seinfeld” uncle

### Down

- 1 Lightning units
- 2 Bouquet
- 3 Current
- 4 Matinee hero
- 5 Watch face
- 6 Canada’s \_\_\_ Island National Park
- 7 In addition
- 8 So long
- 9 Jack-in-the-box part
- 10 Yarn
- 11 Unique person
- 12 Petty quarrel
- 15 Son of Prince Valiant
- 20 Philosopher’s study
- 22 Like some prices
- 25 Checkers color
- 27 Moppet
- 29 Thurman of “The Avengers”
- 30 Tangle
- 31 \_\_\_ of Evil
- 33 Memory unit
- 34 Oscar Wilde poem “The Garden of \_\_\_”
- 35 Toy that does tricks
- 36 Crazes
- 37 Do magazine work
- 38 Pound of poetry
- 40 Allege as fact
- 44 Stan who created Spider-Man
- 47 Drop the ball
- 49 Debate position
- 51 NASA concern
- 53 Air hero
- 55 Improvise
- 57 Acadia National Park locale
- 58 Ice house
- 59 Lockup
- 60 List abbr.
- 61 Hot rum drink
- 62 Demoiselle
- 64 Use acid
- 65 Tick off
- 66 “Good grief!”
- 69 Opposite of hence
- 71 Heartache
- 72 Goopy stuff

# 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 will be held November 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm. at the Burntwood Tavern, 19304 Detroit Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116.

This will be our annual Christmas party and also the election of officers meeting.

Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by November 1, 2023. All members are welcome to attend.

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

## BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, IL

The St Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual meeting and Election of officers for 2024, Saturday at 11:30am on December 16, 2023 at Gaetano's Vault - 202 E. Main St - Streator, Illinois.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Following the meeting, the branch will sponsor a fraternal activity Saturday December 16, 2023 at 2:00pm at the Engle Lane Theatre - 1012 Coumbus Rd - Streator, Illinois. The play: "The Meanest Man in the World" will begin at 2:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting and fraternal activity. All attending should call 815-822-8851.

Submitted By **Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 is again providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Branch 24 members may purchase a Vilija dinner at the special discounted price of \$5. This discounted ticket is for Branch 24 members only. It is non-transferable and may not be used for carryout orders. The regular cost per dinner is \$25 and may be purchased at this price for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24 FCSU. The deadline to order your meals from Branch 24 (for members and non-members) is Friday, November 17, 2023.

Submitted by **John Moynihan, President**

## BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PA

St Michael, Branch 35, will hold their annual meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The agenda will include officers' reports, branch business, upcoming events, and election of officers. Branch members who would like to attend the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185.

Submitted by **Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, IL

St. Clement Society, Branch 40 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 7, 2024 at Chipper's Grill 1733 N. Bloomington St. Streator, IL at 2:00 PM. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Election of officers will take place. Lunch will follow the meeting. Please RSVP by calling (815) 257-6142 (leave a message) by January 5, 2024.

Submitted by **Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, the election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by **Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## ROČNA SCHÔDZA SV. MATÚŠA ČÍSLO 45 1KSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 1KSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 3. decembra 2023 o 13:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti

na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Dakujem s pozdravom, **Mária Jurási, pokladníčka**

## BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

Please note that Saint Joseph Society (Weather Permitting) will meet on Sunday, January 7th, 2024, the Feast of the Epiphany, at the Slovak Church of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene, 319 Brown Streets in Philadelphia 19123, for the 9:30 AM Mass, after which we will go to the Wesley Dining Room, 8401 Roosevelt Blvd. in Philadelphia 19152, for our combined traditional Vilija, Christmas Party, and Epiphany Celebration at Noon, followed by our Annual Branch Meeting for 2023 for the purpose of Election of Officers for 2024. and the Election of Voting Delegates to the District 8 Semi-Annual Spring Meeting. The Festivities and Meeting will also be held via ZOOM.

The Meeting Agenda will also include the reading of all Officer and Delegate Reports; Reports from those who attended any FCSU Events and Picnics and Mass at the Shrine in DC for Our Mother of Sorrows Feast Day and the Festival at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Discussions will be held on Branch Business, Charitable Donations, review of 2023 Activities, and plans for 2024.

For information and to RSVP your attendance on ZOOM for January 7, 2024, please e-mail John Gaydos, [john@johngaydos.com](mailto:john@johngaydos.com), to request the ZOOM Invitation Link. If you plan to attend the Luncheon or for any other questions you may call or text President Erik Payne's Cell Phone, (215) 280-1554, or call Helena Gaydos at (215) 613-8987.

May everyone enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving Day, and a Most Blessed Christmas Season with the Blessings of good health and good fortune in the New Year. Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!

Submitted by **Helena T. Gaydos, Recording Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WI

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Dear Members of Branch 89 - Please join us for our Christmas party on December 8nd 2023.

Time is 6:00 PM

Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal.

Cost is \$40.00 per person.

Location: Brisco County Wood Grill  
N96W16865 Cumberland Court  
Menomonee Falls, WI  
that is at Highway 41 North and  
County Q Exit

Please call Mike Novak President Branch 89 at 414.445.5382 to make your reservation by 12/1/2023. You MUST CONFIRM

Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89

Mail to Mike Novak 3237 N. 93rd Street Milwaukee, WI, 53222

Submitted by **Mike Novak, President**

## BRANCH 89 – MENOMONEE FALLS, WI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS MEETING:

Please join us for our meeting for The Election of Officers for 2024

Date: Sunday January 28, 2024

Time is 11:30 AM

Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal.

Cost is \$40.00 per person.

Location: Brisco County Wood Grill  
N96W16865 Cumberland Court  
Menomonee Falls, WI

That is at Highway 41 North and County Q Exit  
Please call Mike Novak, President Branch 89, at 414-445-5382 to make your reservation by 1/22/2024. You MUST CONFIRM

Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89

Mail to Mike Novak 3237 N. 93rd Street Milwaukee, WI, 53222

Issues: 2024 Election of Officers - Donations and Activities for 2024

Submitted by **Mike Novak, President**

## BRANCH 112 - MAHANOY CITY, PA

All members of St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA are invited to attend our annual

meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at noon.

The meeting will be held at Palermo's Restaurant in Pottsville, PA.

The agenda will include officers reports, old business (charitable donations), new business and election of officers.

Lunch will be served after the meeting.

If you are interested in attending please contact [karenenglesterling@hotmail.com](mailto:karenenglesterling@hotmail.com) by November 26, 2023.

Submitted by **Matthew Sterling Secretary**

## BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, IL

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

Anton Trubiroha, Wendel Monyak, Donald Kempkiak, John Capiak, Maria Capiak, and Francis Barrett.

Submitted by **Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Shoney Restaurant, Uniontown, PA. Breakfast will be served following the meeting. On the agenda: Officers' Reports will be given and branch activities will be discussed and the Election of Officers for 2024 will take place. Please call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before November 13, 2023, for reservations for you and your guest to attend the meeting.

Branch members are invited to participate in the WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital Volunteer Services Annual Festival of Trees to be held November 29 thru December 13, 2023. The trees will be located in the main corridor off the hospital lobby. Tickets will be sold at \$2 each which are deposited at the trees of your choice. Drawing for winners will be held at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. All winners will be notified if not present. Winners will receive the decorated tree and tree skirt. Proceeds from this event will be used in support of Volunteer Patient Projects. Branch 162 members will decorate the 7ft slim tree with decorations provided by the branch with this year's theme being "Winter Wonderland/Frosty Christmas". All members are welcome to decorate on Friday, November 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby corridor.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Submitted by **Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its last meeting of 2023 on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at Norm's Restaurant, 275 N. Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, starting at 1:00 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU. Election of officers will also take place.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy Ungvasky, at (570) 403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Submitted by **Matthew Ungvasky, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

A meeting for Election of Officers for 2024 will take place at the Christ Our Shepherd Center on Sunday, December 3, 2023 immediately following The Stedry Vecer/Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner. A branch photo will be taken following the election if officers.

Submitted by **Barb Patula, Secretary**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Branch 200 wants to remind our members, we meet the 1st Thursday of each month except June and July at 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. On December 7, 2023 Election of Officers will be held. Board meets at 7:00pm and the members meet shortly after. We look forward for your ideas and suggestions. All members are welcomed to attend.

After a rainy, hot summer, we can now cool down and enjoy the Fall. Many love the autumn season and wish it were year round me included. Some like it because it's football season. Take a drive and

enjoy the sites around us as the leaves change. As they say, "Stop and smell the roses".

Submitted by **Vicki Schaub, Sec/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 213 - PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 1:00 pm. It will take place at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting may also be accessed via phone. Contact information: [weaz1958@aol.com](mailto:weaz1958@aol.com).

The agenda will include: Officer's Reports, Election of officers for 2024, Branch business, and an overview of this year's activities and charitable donations. We will also discuss new business, any upcoming activities, and ways to increase membership.

We will continue to take all precautions regarding Covid, and all safety guidelines will be followed.

Submitted by **Anita Nixon, President**

## BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on December 18, 2023.

This will be the annual election of officers and bylaw review. We will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

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

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

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

DECEMBER MEETING:

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259 will hold their Annual Meeting at Donavito's, 139 S. Bridge St., Struthers, OH on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2024 followed by a luncheon. Reservations are to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Submitted by **Beverly Yurcinis, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at 175 Harvey St., Struthers, Ohio.

We will conduct an Audit and discuss activities for 2024. The members are invited and encouraged to attend.

On behalf of all the officers WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Submitted by **Beverly Yurcinis, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OH

Please join us for our meeting and election of officers on Friday, Dec. 8th at 5:00pm. the location of the meeting will be Belleria Pizza in Struthers, Ohio. All branch members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone. God Bless!

Submitted by **Carlie M. Peshek, Vice President**

## BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NJ

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a dinner meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 starting at 6:00 pm for all members. The agenda will include election of officers, membership, and branch activities.

The location is Carpaccio Ristorante at 651 Bound Brook Rd, Middlesex, NJ. RSVP is required, so please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by December 1.

Submitted by **Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

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

continued on page 17



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## continued from page 16

**ELECTION of OFFICERS:** All Branch 320 members are invited to attend the second meeting of 2023. Along with normal branch business, election of officers will be held. This meeting will be held at 11:00 am on December 10, 2023, at LaEda's in Monessen PA.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** All Branch 320 members are invited to attend the 2023 Christmas Luncheon. Immediately following Branch 320 meeting, we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior with prayer and a meal. Please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 by Dec 1. Branch 320 would like to wish all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**NATIONAL FRATERNAL EVENTS:** Branch 320 members expressing interest in any fraternal events, please see this issue of Jednota for details.

Submitted by **Joseph Tarquinio, Vice-President**

### BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

St Joseph Branch 367, Fairchance, PA 15436 meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023. The meeting will take place at Bob Evans, 681 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 12:30 PM. Officers for 2024 will be elected and all suggestions for Christmas donations will be decided on. Christmas letters for our 16 and under members will be mailed around the first of December. If your child did not receive one last year or this year please call Patty Speshock 724-564-5764. If planning on attending please call Kathryn Baranek 724-569-1006.

Submitted by **Kathryn Baranek, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

The St. Joseph branch 372 of Beaverdale, PA would like to announce their November 24th meeting to elect officers. This will be held at their office at St. Joseph Cemetery in Beaverdale, PA at 11:00am on November 24, 2023.

Please feel free to join us. If you have any questions, please call me at (814) 533-1826 and leave a message. Thank you,

Submitted by **Ruth Ann Gerko, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

Inviting all family members of the Saint Joseph Society Branch 393 to the dinner meeting on Sunday December 10, 2023. The meeting will be held at 6:00 PM followed by dinner. The location is Giannilli's II Restaurant, 4816 Rt. 30, Greensburg PA 15601. All members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Eileen at 724-539-2764 by November 20, 2023. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by **Eileen Myers, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul Branch 410 of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main St., Uniontown, PA.

Election of officers for the year 2024 will be held. All members are encouraged to attend. Please call for reservations by Monday, December 11, 2023, at 724-425-2576.

Submitted by **Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary**

### BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

St. Joseph Society Br. 484 KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023, 2:00 P.M., at Eat'n Park, 2301 Rt. 286 So., Indiana, Pa. The agenda will include: election of officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, membership, district meeting information and schedule, as well as general branch and business issues.

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

Submitted by **Monica Rura, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will be holding the final Lodge Meeting for 2023 on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 1 PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. The Lodge will

be electing officers for 2024. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please send your letter of intent to the Nominating Committee c/o the Slovak J Club. The letter of intent should include the position you wish to serve under and must be received by November 15, 2023.

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

Wed. 11/15 Swiss Steak Dinner served 4:30-6:30 pm Call 330-786-9972 for reservations by 11/13

Wed. 11/22 Scotch- Doubles 6:30 pm \$10.00 per person

Sat. 11/25 Ohio St. vs Michigan – Tailgating begins 9 am/Game Noon

Sun. 11/26 Breakfast Buffet 9:00 – 11:45 am

Wed. 12/6 Spaghetti Dinner served 4:30-7:00 pm

Sun. 12/10 Annual Vilija dinner Call Linda Hanko 330-706-0151 for reservations by 12/6/2023

Sat. 12/16 Santa Visits the Club

Members sign-up your children and grandchildren at the bar by 12/9

Event will start at 1 pm (Children must be signed up)

Wed. 12/20 Fried Chicken Dinner served 4:30-6:30 pm Call 330-786-9972 for reservation by 12/16

The Board of Directors extends its Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season to all members of the Branch 553 St. John the Baptist and their families.

Submitted by **Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 581 – PORTER, IN

The FCSU Branch 581 will hold their meeting December 3, 2023, at Noon at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave. Hobart, IN 46342. The agenda will include Elections of Officers and other new business. Please join us for a fine dinner and a great time to meet some of the members. RSVP Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793.

Submitted by **Ann Buczek, President**

### BRANCH 587 - ALIQUIPPA, PA

Branch 587 will hold its Annual Meeting/Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 2:00 pm, at the home of branch president, Joanne Fibbi. The address is: 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

The meeting agenda includes the election of branch officers, a discussion of year-end charitable donations and future activities.

Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-953-4721 or jfibi@gmail.com by December 3, 2023. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Joanne Fibbi, President**

### BRANCH 628 – PITTSBURGH, PA

The December meeting of Jednota Branch 628 will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4:00 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Rd., Penn Hills, PA. There will be a year-end summary of our branch activities and election of 2024 officers.

Please contact me at sjvehc@aol.com or 412-580-9729 if there are any questions or additions.

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

### BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 11:30 AM at Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA. This meeting will include the election of officers for 2024. 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, 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 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The next meeting for Branch 682 members will take place at the District 14 Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 at 6:00pm at Rachel's Restaurant & Catering, 54 Westchester Dr. in Austintown, OH 44515. As we have the highest level of attendance at this function, we will be holding election of branch officers for the 2024 fiscal year. Contact Drew Hirt, drew@hirt.com or 330-750-0776, if you are interested in an officer position

with Branch 682.

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Sue Carney, 6810 Blue Ridge Dr., Poland, OH 44514 (330-770-6810). Please provide the number of persons attending and the gender and ages of any children that will be attending. Branch 682 pays the cost for all its members. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with all.

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Friday, January 12th, 2024 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include the assembly of the branch annual report.

Submitted by **Drew Hirt**

### BRANCH 716- NEW YORK, NY

Masses at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY, are offered for the intentions of all Branch 716 members living and deceased on the following dates: November 13th, and December 4th. We invite all Branch 716 members, families, parishioners, and prospective Jednota members to our events. For additional information or questions, contact our branch president Eva Lysakova at (718)-223-0379.

Submitted by **Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NY

Branch 716 had its second semi-annual meeting on October 22nd, 2023. The meeting agenda entailed reviewing all branch events from 2023 and having the election for branch officers. The following members were re-appointed as branch officers: Eva Lysakova as President, Jan Skrkon as Vice President, Maria Bozekova as Treasurer and Financial Secretary, Emily Lysakova as Recording Secretary, and Anna Billik & Peter Gaspar as Treasurer Correspondences. Branch 716 has also been active in preparations for events towards the end of the year at St. John Nepomucene Church, such as the Svätý Mikuláš celebration on Sunday, December 3, 2023, in addition to the Silvester celebration on December 31, 2023. We also wanted to thank all Jednota members and parishioners for attending our branch events this year, and we hope to continue planning events for the community. We wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Submitted by **Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Jednota Branch 721 will have their winter meeting of Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Remenan Home located at 8977 South Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 743--- STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, 2023 financial report, approval of the 2024 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The election of 2024 Branch Officers will also take place.

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

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall at 1:30.

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date and gender.

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

### BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Christmas Baking at Holy Family Church (210

Monroe Street, Linden, NJ) will be on Saturday, December 9, 2023. Volunteers are needed from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Baking is done in the basement of the church under the supervision of Julie Rada. Orders for kolachi (nut, poppy, cheese or lekvar (prune)) will be taken from November 24th to December 2nd. Please call Mary Lou @ 908-862-0379 to place your order. Cost of cakes is \$20.00 each. Pick up will be on Sunday, December 10th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Volunteer bakers can pick up their orders Saturday after the baking. All proceeds will go to Holy Family Church.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

### BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00 PM (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. A mass offered for the intention of all Branch 746 members living and deceased will take place on December 1, 2023.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

### BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Our last meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at Bistro 1051 (1051 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ 07066) in the glass atrium room. The meeting will start promptly at 1:00 PM. The agenda will include election of officers and discussion/planning of next year's activities. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$50.00 for non-members). Please call or text Mary Ann Ranahan @ 732-589-1608 by December 3rd if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local pantry.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

### BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, CA

Branch 785 Mississauga Canada will hold their Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 14, 2024 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall - 5255 Thornwood Dr - Mississauga, ON. Lunch is to be served.

We will review the past 6 months and what future events are to come to the end of the year. Please RSVP attendance to Milan Zoldak at 647 350 0604.

Submitted by **Anne Mitro, Secretary**

### BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

Branch 796 will hold their annual meeting on November 12, 2023. Meeting will convene at 1:00 pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the basement. Location is 4456 Main St., Egypt.

Election of officers for 2024 will take place at this meeting.

We would enjoy seeing some new faces at our meetings. We encourage members to join us as we need to encourage new and younger members to participate.

Concluding our meeting we will have a luncheon with our fellow Fraternal Sokol members.

Branch 796 wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas Season. We will continue to pray for an Improved and Happy New Year. May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Submitted by **Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday December 15, 2023, at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Meeting will start at 11:00 AM with agenda as follows: Officer Reports and financial report, Election of officers for the year 2024, preparation of the Slovak Christmas mass, and plan activities for year 2024. All members in our area are encouraged to participate. After the meeting lunch will be served at the restaurant.

Submitted by **Milan Konkol, Secretary**

### BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Branch 853, St. Pio, will hold its Annual meeting on November 28, 2023, at 11:30 am at Speers Street Grill in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The meeting will discuss the review of the 2023 activities, plan activities for the 2024 year as well as hold the election of officers for 2024. Branch members attending will be treated to lunch. If you want to attend by zoom link, leave a message and in a return

Continued on page 19

# 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.

*Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im svieti. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen*  
*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.*

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Rev Mark Q Fedor	045K	Milan Zakovic	290K	Peter Sepesi	682K	Florence E Hirt
001P	John M Lazo	055K	Theresa Starecky	293K	James Sloboda	682K	Joseph J Chismar
002K	Danielle M Malchano	086K	Virginia Chlebowski	293K	Joseph M Micko	706K	Eleanor Stasiewicz
002K	Richard A Spisak	0144P	Joan M Horowski	313K	Dorothy Ann De Gasso	706K	Mary A Silkowski
002K	Shirley Ann Bodnar	153K	James J Massura	313K	Mark Hepner	746K	Joyce Fedorco
003K	Joseph John Fignar Jr	162K	Joseph Skala	313K	Robert J Siska	831K	Helen Schaefer
003P	Miriam J Murman	166K	Jacob Michael Dvornicky	315K	Geraldine Kushner	831K	Steve Sutara
004K	Alfreda F Dobos	166K	Margaret Ondrako	348K	John Rocco Gonsorcik	900K	Emma Lue Snively
004K	Patrick Hanlon	173K	Joseph Baloga	367K	Donald R Pavelko	900K	Gerard Psenko
005P	Lillian Gilga	173K	Paul J Alles	367K	Francis Tomko	916K	Nancy J Rager
023K	Peter Knaze	173K	William Vigilante	372K	Edward J Hudak	924K	Mary Christine Daprato
024K	John F Janosik Jr	181K	Joseph S Burik	456K	Eugene Mehallow	924K	William D Minium
038K	Andrew Joseph Oross	181K	Lynda R Firment	465K	Agnes Claire Kozel		
038K	Andrew Skolnik	199K	Margaret S Walor	484K	Michael M Buzi		
038K	Robert John Kosko Jr	200K	Mary K Ronto	553K	Edward J Simkanin		
040K	Chrisann Tallis	228K	Stephen S Stasny	587K	Veronica C Panizza		
040K	Linda Dodge	254K	Margaret A Mulgrave	652K	Albert W Wardell		
045K	Mark M Mendlovsky	254K	Mary Ann Gilbert	682K	Dorothy Michalko		

\* Processed in the month of October 2023

## Nekrológy – Obituaries

### VERONICA C. (ZAHORSKY) PANIZZA, BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA

On Friday, July 14, 2023, Veronica (Verna) C. Panizza of Harmony Township, and formerly of Squirrel Hill/ Pittsburgh, passed away at the age of 80. Born October 5, 1942, she was the beloved daughter of the late John P. and Anna P. (Misko) Zahorsky, of West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Verna is survived by her siblings, John (the late Sheila) (Marjorie) Zahorsky, Aliquippa, PA, Joanne M. (the late Edward) Fibbi, Monongahela, PA, and Michael (Karen) Zahorsky, Harmony Township, PA.

She is also survived by her nieces and nephews, John (Jackie) Fibbi, Joanne Fibbi, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director, James Fibbi, Kenneth (Michelle) Fibbi, Alan Zahorsky and Janet Zahorsky. She was the Great Aunt of Angela (Joel), Christopher (Sarah), Rachel, Matthew, Natalie, Kayla, Ethan, Miles and Mason.

Verna graduated from Aliquippa High School, with the class of 1960, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Veronica was an educator and choral director in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, sharing her love of music and passion for the arts with many students throughout her 40-year teaching career.

Blessed as a vocalist and instrumentalist, Veronica was a member of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. During her high school and college years, she served as organist for her home parish of St. Joseph's in West Aliquippa, PA. Veronica was a lifelong member of FCSU, Branch 587, Aliquippa, PA. Both her parents, John and Anna served the FCSU as members of the Supreme Court.

Verna was a devoted mom to her rescued fur babies, Bunny, Snoopy and Boots. Memorial contributions may be made to the Beaver County Humane Society, Aliquippa, PA.

Visitation and services were private with arrangements by Alvarez-Hahn Funeral Home in Ambridge, PA. Internment in Economy Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

Submitted by Joanne Fibbi

### JENNIE ANN KOVACH BROYLES, BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

A funeral Mass was held at St. Anthony's Catholic church in Tigard, Oregon for Jennie Ann Kovach Broyles, who died September 4, 2023 at 97 years of age. Recitation of the Rosary was said by Deacon David Hammes and Father John Henderson was celebrant for the funeral Mass.

Jennie Broyles was born July 16, 1926 in Linnton, Oregon and was also raised in Linnton. She attended St. Patrick's School and graduated from Immaculata College.

She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Lodge in Portland, a Catholic Daughter member and a longtime parishioner at St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

In 1946 she married Kenneth Broyles at St. Birgitta's Church in Linnton by Father John Hoyerborer.

Mom was a stay-at-home mother and raised five daughters. She made dresses for all her girls, especially for major holidays; later she made clothes for Nancy's two children, Amy and Todd.

Jennie was a devout Catholic and her faith and family were extremely important to her. She enjoyed tradition and the holidays. We always looked forward to the Slovak traditional Christmas Eve supper, which consisted of split pea soup, Kolaches, pupocki and other foods. She said a special blessing to the family and sprinkled unleavened hosts with Holy Water. Mom made her superb kolaches for the holidays and special occasions.

Jennie was a gift- not only to her family, but to relatives and friends. She lived life. Jennie touched many people; she will be missed greatly.

Survivors include her daughters, Sharon Spencer, Nancy Broyles-Gergen of Tualatin, Janie Broyles of Tigard, Colleen Petersen of Bend, Audrey Broyles of Salem; brothers Joe Kovach of Santa Barbara, California, John Kovach of Portland; 8 grandchildren and 2 great granddaughters.

Interment was held at St. Anthony's cemetery, followed by a reception.

The family suggests remembrances to the

Knights of Columbus, Tigard Council #3591, the Jesuits, S.J., St. Jude, St. Jude Hospital for Children, Our Lady of Peace Retreat and the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother the Grotto in Portland.

Submitted by Nancy Gergen

### JOAN SKRKON, BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Joan Mary Skrkon passed away peacefully on March 23, 2023 at Mount Sinai Hospital Queens, early in the morning.

Joan Mary Kanyer born October 11, 1939, only child to parents Mary Bolebruch and Nicholas Kanyer. Lived in Manhattan at 73rd St and Fifth Ave, for 15 years before moving to Astoria, NY.

Joan attended Julia Richmond High School in Manhattan. Later in years she went to school again and graduated with a Bachelor degree in accounting.

She worked at Astoria Federal Savings Bank for 32 years in the credit department until retirement. Even after retirement she went to work whenever they needed her.

She met her husband Jan Jozef Skrkon and were married for 43 years. They traveled extensively many places by cruising, land tours and pilgrimages. They also traveled almost every year to Velke Rovne in Slovakia, husband Jan's hometown, and to her mother's birthplace at Myjava in Slovakia.

Joan had a passion for collection: stamps, coins, Bradford collection of plates, birds, crystal, glasses, Slovak ceramics, vases, Valasky, Slovak paintings and Christmas santas. Their basement was a museum to numerous collections for the delight of visitors and friends.

Her husband Jan was employed as a cooperate chef, and made many dinners in their home. Joan was a very proud hostess to many distinguished guests through

the years. Joan was very active at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church New York. Joan was the recording secretary to Branch 716 and District 16.

Joan is survived by her husband, Jan Jozef Skrkon; sister-in-law Marienka, and Henry Michtalik; their children Mary Michtalik White & family; Anna Michtalik Hernandez, Henry Michtalik Jr; sister-in-law Marcela Skrkon and son Jozef Skrkon; extended family of husband Jan- brothers in Slovakia and their families, friends in America and in Slovakia.

Submitted by Jan Skrkon

### HELEN MARIE (STENS) SCHAEFERS, BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PA

Helen Marie (Stens) Schaefer, 97, of Tarentum passed away on Saturday July 8, 2023. Helen was born in what was known as Normantown, East Deer Township on February 26, 1926, and lived all of her life in the Creighton/Tarentum area.

Helen graduated from Tarentum High School in 1944. During WWII, Helen went to Washington, DC where she worked in the secretarial pool at the Pentagon. On September 6, 1947, she was united in matrimony with the love of her life, Joseph Conrad Schaefer, of Tarentum who passed away May 25, 1995. They moved to East Tarentum where she lived in the same house until she was 97 years old.

Helen and Joe were former members of the West Penn Radio Club and Carriage Pines Campers.

She was also active in the Tarentum Elks where she helped with bingo and visitations to the Veteran's Hospital for many years. She loved to dance at the Elks, especially the "Cha-cha-cha". Her favorite songs were "Under the Boardwalk" and "Dancing

continued on page 19

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT, MI

The Michigan District will hold a meeting on January 7, 2024 at Saints Cyril and Methodius -41233 Ryan Road in Sterling Heights, MI 48314. The meeting will begin at 1:00pm followed by lunch. On the agenda will be our plans for 2024 along with the election of officers for 2024. We have open positions for officers and would like to fill them. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Robert Kristofik, President

### DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH PA

The Fall Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Holy Trinity Church Hall at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extn, West Mifflin PA. Branch 60 will host and the meeting starts at 1 PM. We will discuss business matters and plan events for next year. Officers for 2024 will be elected.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPCSA: meets at 7 PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. December 4: Show & Tell. - Slovak Film Fest: Pitt-Frick Fine Arts Building; November 26 at 2 PM: Lonely Runners (2019).

- WPCSA sponsors scholarships and hosts various events such as wine tastings. Consider joining the organization and get the newsletter.

- Slovak Radio Program - WPIT 96.5 FM / 730 AM

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

Submitted by Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

### DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT, UNIONTOWN, PA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 3,

2024, at 1:00 PM at Shoney's at 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA. The election of officers for 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 Wednesday, February 26, 2024, by contacting District President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

### DISTRICT 14 - REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT, OH, PA

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2023: Attention all District 14 members - the Rev. Joseph Kostik District will be holding its Annual Christmas Dinner after a short meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Rachel's Restaurant, 54 Westchester Drive in Austintown, OH. The cost is \$27.00 for those 10 and up; \$17.00 for children 9 and under. Reservations are required and must be paid by December 2, 2023. Contact Tom Krispinsky at (330) 716-8169. Mail payments to Tom Krispinsky to be received by December 2, 2023 at 1300 St Andrews Ave. NE, OH 44484. Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District. Include your Branch number, number of persons attending, and the gender and ages of any children who will be attending. If you have any questions you can contact John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. at 330-559-5981. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with all our members.

Submitted by John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

### DISTRICT 15 - LOS ANGELES, CA

Prince Pribina District Los Angeles will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday December 15, 2023.

The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: Officer Reports and financial report, Election of officers for the year 2023, preparation of the Slovak Christmas mass and plan activities for year 2024. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meeting. After the meeting lunch will be at the Old Town Placentia restaurant.

Submitted by Paul Skuben, President

## Nekrológy – Obituaries

continued from page 18

Queen". She loved watching the Pittsburgh Pirates play baseball and enjoyed gardening, puzzles and especially spending time with her family, where she was always ready with a new joke to share.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, John Stens and Justine Hrustinec Stens Skubel, both of whom immigrated to the United States from Slovakia; infant son, Ronald Joseph Schaefer (who died in 1948) and son Joseph John Schaefer who died February 29, 2008.

Survivors include her son, Gary J. (Linda) Schaefer of Buffalo Township, granddaughters Jessica (James) Campana of Collier Township and Jacqueline Lee Schaefer (Nicole Lee Kochasic) of Allison Park; great-grandsons, Anthony Brayden Campana and Troy James Campana as well as several cousins. She will be missed by many friends, including Sharon Leonardi and her dance partner, Mary Ann O'Dell. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, 1 University Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15240

Submitted by Gary Schaeffers

### EMMA LUE SNIVELY, BRANCH 900 - OHIO

Emma Lue Bunnell Snively, 85, of McComb, was escorted to Heaven by her guardian angel at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023.

She was born Nov. 6, 1937, in Bluffton, to Harry R. and Doris Irene (Dick) Bunnell. She was a "preemie" baby, weighing barely five pounds. She was put in a roaster pan on the oven door and bathed with olive oil. At about two years old, she developed polio and her mother tirelessly massaged her muscles so she wouldn't be an invalid the rest of her life. Growing up through grade school, she

couldn't play with others, but began to grow stronger as she entered seventh grade. Her family moved from Mt. Blanchard to a farm at McComb her seventh-grade year. She was in band, 4H, and FHA. She had a cow as a 4H project and milked her for many years. She graduated from McComb in 1955.

God introduced her to her "soulmate," Robert Snively, and they enjoyed two years of getting acquainted and Sept. 9, 1956, they married, living a lifetime of 67 years together. God blessed them with eight children, Rick (Jenni), Roger, Cindy (Mike) Waslewski, Ron (Pam), Debra, Teri (Scot) Schaffer, Russell (Dawn), and Randall (Janelle); 23 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was a Proverbs 31 mother, housewife, nurse, business partner, farmer, and always available to help anyone in need. With seven of her children many states away attending universities, she kept busy with care packages, visitation, graduations, and wedding trips.

Her summers were full with gardening, helping with the family's purebred sheep in getting them ready for many county fairs, and Ohio State Fair (one year six children showed 88 head of sheep). She assisted with eight marriages - even two granddaughter's marriages - and traveled to help with newborn grandchildren. She was blessed when one granddaughter chose her wedding anniversary for their own marriage.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Bernita (Gene) Bishop.

She never missed church services until lately when her health wouldn't allow. She trusted Jesus as her Savior at church camp and served the church in many ways. She will be missed by her family, friends, and neighbors. We now have one more reason to make ready for Heaven!!

Submitted by Teresa Schaffer

### SCHÔDZA OKRESU PRINC PRIBINA - LOS ANGELES, CA

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať výročnú schôdzu v piatok 15-tého decembra 2023.

Výročná schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe sú správy funkcionárov a finančná správa, voľba funkcionárov na rok 2024, príprava slovenskej sv. omše plán activity na rok 2024. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučuje sa základným organizáciám v Distrikte FCSU vykonať súčasne výročné voľby. Po schôdzke bude spoločný obed v Old Town Placentia reštaurácii.

Predkladá Paul Skuben, Predseda

### DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT/OKRES - CANADA

The Monsignor Michael Shuba District will hold their Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 14, 2024 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall - 5255 Thornwood Dr - Mississauga, ON. . Lunch is to be served.

We will review the past 6 months and what future events are to come to the end of the year. Please RSVP attendance to Mike Kapitan at 416-621 1534

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 17

call, information will be given on how to attend. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com) or 412-341- 1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be attending.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President

### BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 will hold our last meeting of the year on Saturday December 9, 2023 at Ruma's Restaurant - 12841 State Rd - North Royalton, OH 44133 at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be our election of officers for 2024 and lunch. In support of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate, please bring a winter donation for the West Side Catholic Center for adults and/or children (hat - scarf - gloves, etc).

Immediately following the meeting (3:00pm) we will board a bus to experience the "Deck the Halls" Christmas display at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron. We will have the opportunity to take a self-guided tour of the Manor House and grounds decorated for Christmas with its' millions of holiday lights!

All branch 855 members are free all day. Members may bring a non-member guest for a cost of \$50.00. Reservations are required for all members

and guests. RSVP to Stephanie by calling or texting 440-409-9405 or by email to [fcsu855@gmail.com](mailto:fcsu855@gmail.com). Reservations and payments must be made by November 30, 2023. Checks should be payable to FCSU Branch 855 and mailed to Ann Sutilla - 4410 Redfern Rd - Parma, OH 44134. Break out the Christmas sweaters and join us for a meeting and fraternal fun!

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

### BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PA

The St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 from Levittown, PA announces the following branch meetings:

Sunday November 12, 2023 at 2PM via zoom meeting.

Sunday December 10, 2023 at 1PM. The meeting will be held at The IHM Center, 338 Hulmeville Road, Penndel, PA, 19047. This will be our Annual meeting for election of officers.

Please contact Damian Nasta at [dnasta@fcsu.com](mailto:dnasta@fcsu.com) for the link to the meeting and further information.

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

Submitted by Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary

## Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

### Sister M. Clarissa

Religious vocations are implanted in an individual in various ways. Mary Skala believes her vocation to be a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius took root when she was just a young child in Slovakia. Her grandmother borrowed books from the library in Vienna and shared with her grandchild what she read, especially about the lives of saints.

Mary was born in Kopčany, Nitra, on October 11, 1911, to Joseph and Clara (Tomančík) Skala. She began her new life in the U. S. in 1920 when she and her family took up residence in Binghamton, NY. She began her



education in the second grade at St. Cyril's School, then staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Because she was able to read numbers in Slovak, Father Martinček decided Grade 2 was the right place for her to begin her education. Even at that young age Mary said to herself, "When I grow up, I'm going to be a Sister" (According to her Jubilee booklet article when she celebrated 60 years as a Cyrilite.).

At first Mary did not take school too seriously. She and the student assigned to help her with her reading had a "fun" time in the cloakroom during their learning sessions, but when Mary began to apply herself and learned English better, she found she enjoyed school and made greater progress. After her freshman year, however, she found a job and worked for three years.

When Mary decided to become a religious in the congregation who staffed St. Cyril's School, Father Cyril Orendáč, O.F.M. Conv. directed her to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Mary's parents objected for two reasons: first, she was their only daughter and second, they believed that religious life was not her calling. Because of Father Cyril's influence and encouragement and her own persistence and prayer, they saw she was in earnest. Father's words, "God is beckoning to you from a distance...respond," were the deciding factor. Within a week Mary was on her way to Danville to don the dress of a postulant to begin her first step on the road to religious life.

Mary became Sister Clarissa and spent fifty-four years as a dedicated teacher in the intermediate grades. She is proud of the fact that she missed only three days because of illness. Sister's greatest joy came from preparing children for the Sacraments.

After her years in the classroom, Sister Clarissa remained in the field of education and served as a librarian. Sister had the distinction of being the first religious to graduate from the Citadel in Charleston, SC where she spent happy times studying Library Science. Her final paper entitled THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY merited an A. In the paper she described the qualifications she wanted to see in a librarian. Since they provide insight into the type of educator Sister was it is worth listing them: 1. A healthy person who likes books and people; 2. Who wants to serve others; 3. Who sees humor in human beings and in words; and 4. Who has an active mind that seeks knowledge. Another achievement that year was her receiving a certificate of merit for participating in a class "en Espanol."

Later Sister used her expertise in library science to team up with PTO members on a project to renovate and improve the library at St. Joseph Memorial School in Hazleton. In 1994 the project was completed and the school, whose principal was Sister Georgeann, had new book shelves and storage areas as well as new books and reference materials. The Memorial and Honor Book Program enabled donors to memorialize someone by purchasing a book.

Sister Clarissa admitted that in her years as a religious she had had her share of loneliness, failure, and disappointment, but also moments of joy and achievement. One of her greatest joys was being accepted by Bishop Underkoeffler as a Eucharistic Minister, an office she exercised almost daily when she taught in the South. Another memorable moment occurred when she was able to exchange a few words with the Holy Father, John Paul II, during a private audience on a visit to Rome.

In her article in a Jubilee booklet, she shared these views: "The words 'You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you,' are words emblazoned on my heart. I praise and thank God for my Cyrilite vocation." She also shared that her spiritual guides were the Blessed Mother, St. Anthony and the Little Flower. "The Blessed Mother showered her love on me all my life."

Sister Clarissa died on Saturday, "Our Lady's Day," January 10, 2009, at Emmanuel Center. On January 15, Father Gerard Heintzelman, Basilica rector, celebrated her funeral liturgy at Maria Hall.



## History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as "The Great War" – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." An Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the after celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

From a post on the US Department of Veterans Affairs

(This article was originally published in the November 11, 2020 Jednota issue)

## Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania celebrated their 40th Anniversary at their Annual Meeting at The Café Route 315. Twenty-seven members were in attendance. Chairman, Elaine Paliscak gave an oral report on the activities that were held during the year. She also announced activities planned for next year. Anna Hudock and Michael Stretanski gave a presentation on the history of the society. Several of the Board Members are members of First Catholic Slovak Union. Martha Zavada, Regional 3 Director of First Catholic Slovak Union was in attendance.

The first activity will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023. The Feast of St. Nicholas will be celebrated at St. Ignatius Loyola Church 339 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, PA at 2:00 P.M. The church is handicapped accessible.

An afternoon filled with song and storytelling of past Slovak Christmas traditions will take place. Refreshments will be served followed by fellowship. Everyone is invited to participate free of charge; a free-will offering will be accepted. For further information, call Anna Hudock at 570 510-1655.

Submitted by Anna Hudock, Branch 173

Check Out the First Catholic Slovak Union  
Website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

# LIGHT ONE CANDLE The Gift of the Eucharist

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

We are in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival, which began on June 19, 2022, the Feast of Corpus Christi, and will culminate with our nation's first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly 40 years taking place in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 17 to 21, 2024. All Catholics should look to take part in some way in this beautiful celebration as we join in honoring Christ's great gift of the Eucharist to the Church, giving thanks for the gentle way it enables us to grow closer to His loving heart.

In his address to young people in Bologna, Italy, in 1997, John Paul II said, "The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world...Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: He is God with us. Seek Him without tiring, welcome Him without reserve, love Him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever!"

These words exemplify the fire of love the Eucharist can kindle in our hearts when we open ourselves to its transformative power. We see this fire in all the great saints throughout history, as well as in the many humble and faithful Catholics in the world today, people who treasure every opportunity to draw close to Christ in the Eucharist. It is always amazing to see the solace that reception of the Eucharist can bring to people of faith when they are facing the most trying situations in life. This is truly one of the great proofs of the power of this Sacrament. History is filled with stories of Eucharistic miracles, but we are also called to see the spiritual miracles at work in the Eucharist on a daily basis.

In the Gospel of John, we read about how Christ responded to Thomas' doubts about the Resurrection by allowing him to see and touch the wounds of the Crucifixion. But then Jesus says to Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." We see here that, although Christ does provide amazing proofs of the miraculous in the Gospels and throughout history, He prizes the faith of those who believe without experiencing such occurrences. Perhaps this is why the most important gift He left to the world manifests itself in a way that engages our faith rather than simply revealing its miraculous nature in a visible way at every sacrifice of the Mass.

In establishing the Eucharist, Christ called us to exercise our faith in His power to perform miracles even when we don't clearly see how this is happening. The Eucharist is the starting point for understanding His hand at work in the world. Christ has made it clear to us that the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass entails a miraculous transformation of bread and wine into His body and blood, but believing in this relies on our faith.

So, we are left with the question Christ posed to His disciples after He first presented this profound mystery that would take place in the Eucharist. Some followers recoiled at that point, and Christ turned to the disciples and asked, "Will you also go away?"

To this question, we must always be prepared to join with Simon Peter in answering, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

## Answer to Crossword Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 15*

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

## Insights and Viewpoints

### Advent Begins



### Sunday, December 3

### First Sunday of Advent

Mark 13: 33-37

#### Gospel Summary

In this gospel passage Jesus illustrates the mystery of his future, final coming in power and glory with a simple parable. He says to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." He compares his final coming to a man traveling abroad who had placed his servants in charge of his house. The servants must do the work assigned to them, and the gatekeeper must be on constant watch awaiting the return of the master of the house. The parable, with its accompanying admonition to work and watch for the Lord's final advent, completes Chapter 13 of Mark's gospel—Jesus' last teaching before his passion.

#### Life Implications

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year: the liturgical actualization for us of the saving events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The gospel passage proclaims the essential truth that will be celebrated in all its dimensions throughout the year—namely, the "advent" truth that God has come in the person of Jesus Christ, and that the same Lord, now invisibly present through the Spirit, will come again in power and glory.

This Sunday's homily might serve as an overture, anticipating some of the life implications of the Lord's coming which will be celebrated on the Sundays and holy days of the coming year. Here are a few of the major themes.

In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, we hear that the exiles have returned from Babylon to find their homeland devastated and the holy temple destroyed. We can remember the prophet's prayerful plea and make it our own at those times when our life-situation appears hopeless, and God seems far away: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 63: 19).

Paul, in the second reading from his First Letter to the Corinthians, presents a life implication that can also be a constant throughout the coming year. Paul assures us that the heavens have been rent, and God has come among us. Jesus, the Risen Lord, is now truly "God with us." Because of this grace, we are able to stand firm with the Lord's strength as we await his final revelation in glory. And as we wait, despite difficulties and suffering, we thank God always for the gifts of the Spirit that we have received.

Because the Church gives us the gospel in the context of the celebration of the liturgy, we are reminded that throughout the year the Lord comes, not only to proclaim the word, but also comes to give himself to us as friend and life-giving savior. It is in the context of the liturgy of the Last Supper that Jesus says to his disciples: "I have called you friends" (John 15: 15).

The First Sunday of Advent is also a good moment to hear a major theme of the liturgical drama—every human being, particularly a person in need, is a sign or sacrament of the Lord's coming. In fact, as Jesus tells us in the parable of his final Advent, our treatment of even the least of his brothers or sisters will be the essential criterion of judgment (Matthew 25: 30-46).

Finally, there is the beautiful Advent theme of the sacrament of the present moment. Each moment, each event of our life is a sign of the Lord's coming. Whatever the moment, we can say in faith: It is the Lord. And it is the Lord who awaits our response of love and gratitude.

"The one who gives this testimony says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22: 20).

Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B.



## SASW Announces Slovak Endowment at NCSML

The Slovak American Society of Washington, DC (SASW) [www.dcslovaks.org](http://www.dcslovaks.org) would like to announce its newly established Slovak Endowment at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The purpose of this new endowment is to provide funding for:

- Slovak exhibits;
- Speakers on Slovak topics;
- Acquisition of Slovak materials;
- Promotion of scholarship on Slovak topics; and
- Other means of increasing the visibility of Slovak culture and heritage in the U.S.

As a Smithsonian Institution affiliate, NCSML is a professionally-managed organization that adheres to very high standards. In September 2021, two former SASW presidents and I saw this for ourselves. However, we also noticed that NCSML had mostly Czech exhibits and displays.

The current President and CEO of NCSML, Cecilia Rokusek, has been actively working to increase the Slovak presence at NCSML. She has also been working to increase NCSML's cooperation with museums and other institutions in Slovakia. One result of this international effort was the spectacular "Treasures of Slovakia" exhibit that opened during NCSML's 25th Anniversary Gala in September 2021.

Inspired by that trip to Cedar Rapids in 2021, SASW, its members, and its friends created the Slovak Endowment at NCSML as a way of fulfilling SASW's purpose, as stated in our bylaws: "to promote a greater understanding of Slovak history, culture, language, and customs." We have been pursuing these goals on a small scale in the Washington, DC, area for almost 35 years, but believe that we can achieve something even greater in the Slovak-American world through more-extensive collaboration.

SASW started the Slovak Endowment with \$13,000, exceeding our original goal of \$10,000 by nearly one-third. The endowment funds will be held at NCSML; only the income produced by the endowment will be available for use by NCSML, and only for Slovak purposes, while the capital will be preserved—and added to—for future income generation.

Now we invite you to take part in our fall fundraising campaign. With your help, the Slovak Endowment will serve to make the history and culture of Slovakia available to everyone who visits NCSML, and even to those beyond its walls. A brilliant example of the latter is the travelling "Treasures of Slovakia" exhibit (a set of 8 panels available on loan to outside groups and organizations) that was created with funding from the Slovak Endowment.

You can make your contribution by sending your check (with "Slovak Endowment" written on the memo line) directly to: NCSML, 1400 Inspiration Place SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4918 ATTN: CECILIA ROKUSEK

Or, if you prefer, you can make your contribution online, via SASW, at [dcslovaks.org](http://dcslovaks.org) or via Paypal. SASW is a 501(c)3 organization. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

It's up to us Slovak-Americans to take the lead and make sure that Slovak culture is preserved in the U.S. Let's help educate all Americans about our wonderful Slovak culture!

**Submitted by Georgene Chastain, President of Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. [gchastain@dcslovaks.org](mailto:gchastain@dcslovaks.org)**

(Read more about "Treasures of Slovakia" in the August 11, 2021 Jednota Issue online at: [fcsu.com/newspaper](http://fcsu.com/newspaper))

## There's so much to do with the FCSU: benefits of membership



When you sign up for an FCSU insurance or annuity product, you become our member. Among the many great benefits of FCSU membership: the opportunity to participate in fun events, enter contests, apply for scholarships, and so much more. Just what you can do with the FCSU? Visit [fcsu.com/community](http://fcsu.com/community) – and

**JOIN US TODAY!**

## Jednota Publication Schedule for 2024

Copy Deadline Date:	Issue Date:
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Wednesday, Jan. 10
Monday, Feb. 5	Wednesday, Feb. 14
Monday, March 4	Wednesday, March 13
Monday, April 1	Wednesday, April 10
Monday, April 29	Wednesday, May 8
Monday, June 3	Wednesday, June 12
Monday, July 1	Wednesday, July 10
Monday, Aug. 5	Wednesday, Aug. 14
Tuesday, Sept. 3	Wednesday, Sept. 11
Monday, Sept. 30	Wednesday, Oct. 9
Monday, Nov. 4	Wednesday, Nov. 13
Monday, Dec. 2	Wednesday, Dec. 11



**Charles Boone of Dormont, PA and Branch 853, holding medals belonging to late fraternal FCSU brothers Steven A. Matta and William F Gavenda.**

## History of the FCSU Medal for Those Who Served

FCSU was proud of our members who served their new country in WW2 and honored the members by presenting them with a medal. Some people carried the medal with them, others held the sentiments close at heart. Thank you FCSU for taking the extra steps for giving the written word for the emotional support from our Society and our heavenly Father.

The card on which the medal was presented reads:

"In gratitude to you for having dedicated yourself to the service of Our Country in her hour of trial and in recognition of your self sacrifice when you took up arms in this righteous war and for thus fulfilling the age-old motto of our fraternity "for God and Country" it is our privilege to present this token as a symbol of our appreciation and of our solicitude for your welfare and your safe conduct. Jednota prays with you to the Blessed Virgin Mary may She protect and guide you at all times."

Signed by: Jednota US Service Committee

(Names interpreted from hand written signatures:) M. Oeaegonch, Rev Joseph A Banik, John Sabol, Andrew G Putka, Chas. A. Chaples

We think the signature of John Sabol was the same person who later became President of the FCSU.

The medal reads: Patroness of USA, Immaculate Conception BVM, Protect Me. Medal obverse: Member – The First Catholic Slovak Union U.S.A. Fighting for God and Country In the Armed Forces of the U.S.A. 1942. The member's name was inscribed on this obverse side of the medal.

**Submitted by Monica Boone, Branch 853 President**

(You can read the full article online at [www.fcsu.com/community/stories](http://www.fcsu.com/community/stories))

# Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

## Friday, September 29, 2023

### VIDEOCONFERENCE

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 11:00 AM and asked Vice President Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Kenneth A. Arendt, National President (videoconference)  
Damian Nasta, National Vice President (videoconference)  
Kevin J. Collins, Executive Secretary (videoconference)  
John Tokarsky, Treasurer (videoconference)  
Milos Mitro, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (videoconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 28, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting held on September 23, 2023. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2023 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions. The President stated he will invite representatives from MAI, UBS and Clutterbuck to attend a future Executive Meeting to review our investment portfolios.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of August for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	265,998.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	43,520.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

The Board of Directors reviewed the Treasurer's monthly written report at the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting held on September 23, 2023. Each member of the Board received a copy of the report in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**Annuity Rates:

The President gave a full report of the current 6% annuity campaign to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting held on September 23, 2023. There has been an excellent response to the program and it was decided to extend the deadline to the end of the year.

The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The President led a discussion on rebranding the FCSU logo and a marketing program for our insurance and annuity products to the Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting held on September 23, 2023.

The President stated that he is working with our actuary consultants to develop an insurance campaign that should be finalized by the end of the year. Details will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

The Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi is working on a new Pumpkin Carving Contest. The details will be published in the Jednota and on our website. She is also looking for new sites for our Bowling and Golf Tournaments for 2024.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

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

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt  
President

Kevin J. Collins  
Executive Secretary

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**FCSU HOME OFFICE  
6611 ROCKSIDE RD  
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, 44131  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023**

*The QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING* of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

***Saturday, December 16 at 9:00am  
Virtual Meeting***

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, December 8, 2023.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 8, 2023.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

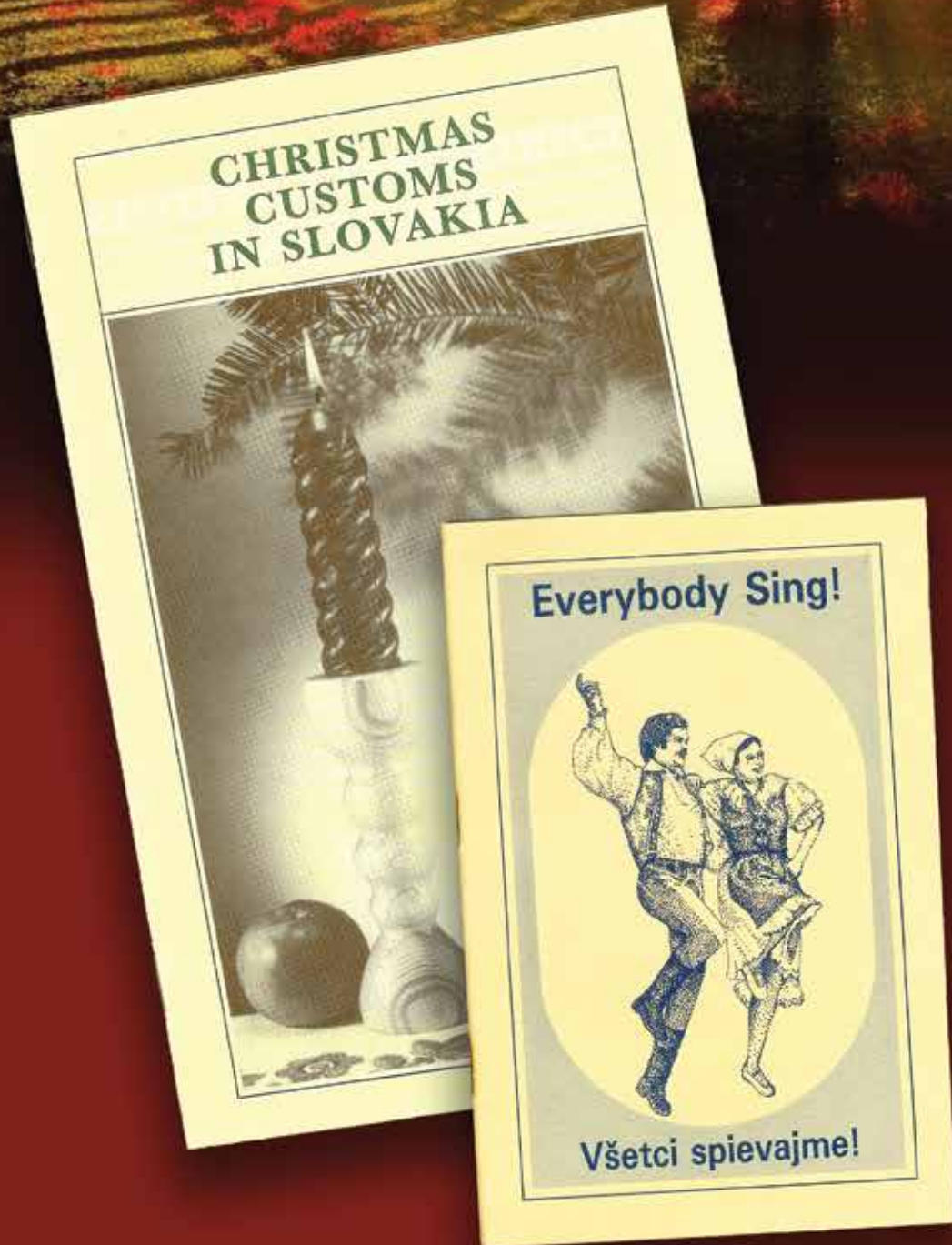
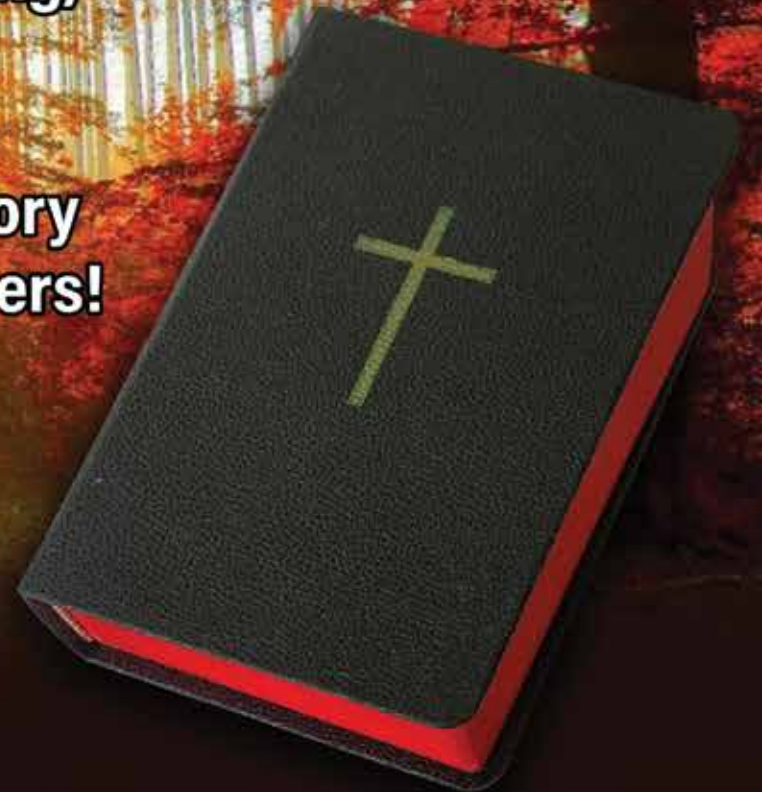
For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Kenneth A. Arendt  
National President

Kevin J. Collins  
Executive Secretary

# Get Ready for the Holiday Season

**With the holidays quickly approaching, the FCSU wants to offer you early Christmas presents! Read about the joyful Slovak customs, songs and story of Christmas with your fellow Members!**



**The following gifts are available to you:**

**'Christmas Customs in Slovakia' booklet written by Father Ander V. Pier**

**A mini-Bible in Slovak**

**'Everybody Sing!' booklet with songs in Slovak and English**

**Quantities are limited and once they're gone, they're gone! Act quickly and get your hands on these timeless Christmas treasures!**

**If you would like to request any of the items listed above, please call the home office at 1-800-533-6682.**