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NUMBER 6037

Easter Greeting from Bishop Larry J. Kulick

Christ is risen, He has truly risen!

As we approach Holy Week and prepare to commemorate Our Lord's suffering and death and celebrate His glorious resurrection, I would like to extend a heartfelt wish for a Blessed and Happy Easter to all of our Jednota Family and friends. I also would like to assure you of my prayers during this most sacred time of the Church's year.

Holy Week and Easter is my favorite time of the year. I attribute this to the blessings of my Slovak ancestry. Growing up in a Slovak parish, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter carried with them magnificent devotions, sacred liturgies and of course many glorious Slovak traditions and customs.

These traditions and customs handed down by our ancestors enriched not only our spiritual lives but added to the solemnity and devotion of this most special time of the year for the entire faith community. They formed in us a deep belief in God and His Church. Through prayer, song, food, and celebrations our culture, the heart of our faith, was made real in time and space.

The magnificent Palm Sunday procession at Church in which we carried not only palms but pussy willow branches was a reminder of Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. This annual tradition mystically transported us back to the time of Christ. We felt as if we were literally walking with him up to Jerusalem.

On Holy Thursday evening, our altar of repose shadowed a backdrop of Christ in prison with the image of bars in front of the statue of the Sacred Heart that was veiled. We spent the evening in prayer and contemplation. We felt united to our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. In my hometown, we also journeyed throughout the night to the different local parishes, praying together at the Altar of Repose at each church. Here, true ecumenism for

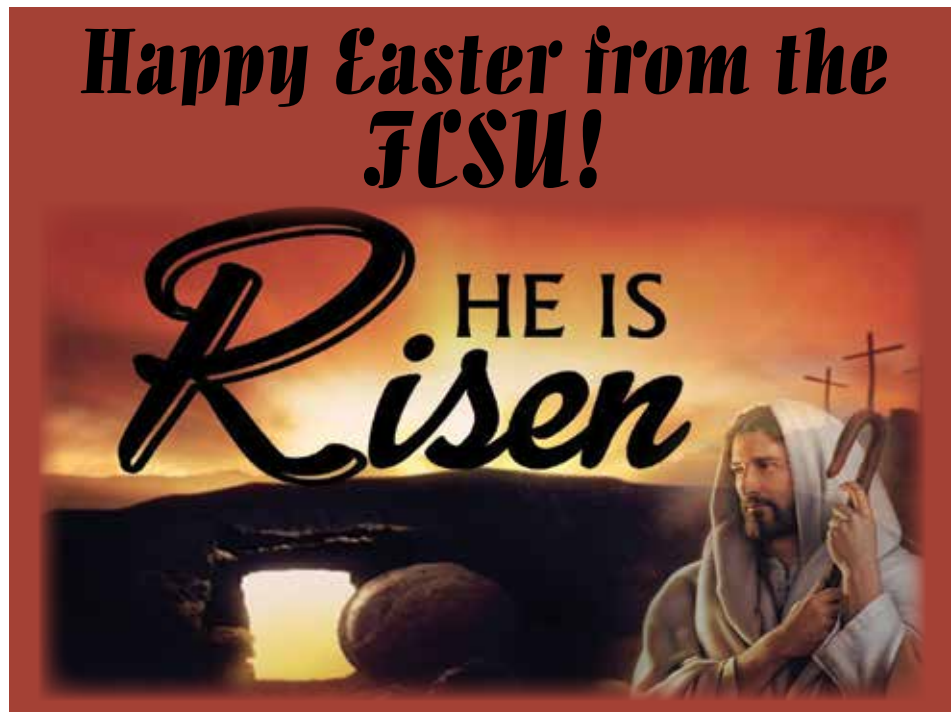


Bishop Larry J. Kulick
National Protector



Happy Easter from the FCSU!

HE IS
Risen



that time occurred...leaving the bastion of our Slovak Parish, we made a once a year visit to the Italian, Hungarian, and other local parishes. Spending time in prayer and "keeping watch" with the Lord.

And who could forget Good Friday? The morning started with the preparation of the food to be placed in our Easter baskets and blessed on Holy Saturday. We were, of course, tormented by the sights, smells, and looks of such delicious treats while keeping the Good Friday disciplines of fast and abstinence! I remember being told as a young child this torment was nothing in comparison to the torment Christ endured in his suffering. Very true, but still it was difficult, especially when the house was filled with the smell of veal, ham and Kolbassi being prepared!

I will ever forget the beautiful "Boží hrob" – the shrine of the dead Jesus lying in repose which would be erected every Good Friday in our parish. The image of the body of Christ taken down from the cross with flowers encircling it. I can still see the older Slovak women with their heads covered going on their knees to visit "Christ's grave" and pray. I still put together this same shrine in my chapel every good Friday. The evening would conclude after the Good Friday Liturgy with Stations of the Cross in Slovak and English.

On Holy Saturday, we would wait with anticipation inside my home parish of Saint Martha in Leechburg gazing intently at the communion rail which was lined with an array of the most beautifully crafted baskets overflowing with a smorgasbord of Easter delights – slightly revealed under the beautiful hand stitched Easter basket covers and accompanied with a lit candle. We would wait for the noon whistle to ring out over the town from the local steel mill and anticipate the taste of all the wonderful treats we would soon be able to eat – after the blessing of course!

The Great Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday would be filled with the Liturgies and an elaborately decorated church – a prefigurement of heaven with all its sights, sounds and the smell of lilies mixed with hyacinth (and the left over aroma of smoked meats and horseradish)!

After Mass, we would fill up our mason jars that were marked with a hand-written label covered in scotch tape saying: "Holy Water" retrieved from the "putka" and bring it home to be used for household blessings throughout the year.

These customs and traditions not only accompanied our observance of Holy Week but they deepened our faith and made our conviction in the Gospel message more deep and profound in our daily lives. They helped make our faith "real and alive."

More so than ever in our culture today, we need to preserve our Holy Week customs or start them anew. They are a great means of not only preserving our Slovak Traditions, but they also help us grow in a deeper relationship with Christ. They really make Easter what it is... The greatest feast of the year!

Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, skutočne vstal!

Každému z vás by som rád zaželel požehnaný Veľký týždeň a veselú Veľkú Noc.

Nech vás a vašich blízkych žehná náš Vzkriesený Pán.

Nech Boh naďalej žehná diela našej milovanej Jednoty.

See What's Inside!

Save the Dates on Page 9:



National
Picnics

Golf
Tournament



Plus, there's still time left to
sign up for the FCSU Bowling
Tournament on Page 12



Bishop Larry J. Kulick

March Reflection

On our journey through Lent we are never alone. As the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for forty days, so, too, we can be assisted along our Lenten journey with Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. As we hear in the liturgical Lenten readings, we can begin to see how each misunderstanding, rejection, pain and discomfort, is accepted by Jesus as part of the salvific reparation He offers to His Heavenly Father. Jesus is freely reaching for the cross which He will embrace in Jerusalem. His love is the driving force with which Jesus sacrifices Himself for souls to be saved, for God's Kingdom and His Eucharistic Presence to come on earth—and for life with Him eternally in Heaven.

As we go through our uphill daily difficulties let us make them a prayer and see the gracious Presence of Jesus inviting us into a closer walk with Him. Jesus calls us to depend on Him, to be His disciples and follow Him. "If anyone wishes to come after me, he (she) must deny himself (herself) and take up his (her) cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23).

Our Lenten goal and reward is the Easter joy of Christ's Resurrection.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

ACH, KRÍŽ SVATÝ

1. Ach, kríž svatý, ty strom vzácný,
Sladký nesieš plod krásny:
Jezu Krista milého,
Pre mňa umučeného.
2. Tridsaťtri liet si pracoval,
Kým si život Svoj dokonal:
Mne nevinosť navrátil, navrátil,
Otcovi dlh zaplatil.
3. Ő Ježišu bičovaný,
Pre mňa celý oplúvaný;
Ukrutne si zviazaný, --zviazaný
A do krvi šľahaný.
4. Ježiš Kristus, Kráľ nad kráľmi,
Pán najvyššej večnej slávy,
Má korunu trňovu,
Plnú hlavu rán bôľu.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNOzTRBhaN4>
(Kosice cathedral—organ, 3 stanzas, Slovak words on screen)

O HOLY CROSS*

(Ach kríž svatý)

1. Cross most holy, precious branches,
Blest, life-giving, choice fruit you give us:
Jesus Christ, Beloved One—Holy One,
Gracious mercy now is won.
2. Three and thirty years were counted,
Total life-gift—the price demanded;
Healed, restored our innocence—innocence,
Paid the ransom for our debt.
3. Jesus, taunted, scourged, and bleeding
Scorned, rejected with hateful scheming;
Bound with ropes of cruelty—cruelty,
Painful, gaping wounds I see.
4. Jesus Christ, O King most Sovereign,
Lord descended from glorious heaven,
Wears a woven crown of thorns—crown of thorns,
Patiently and humbly borne.

*Poetic translation to Slovak melody of Ach kríž svatý.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNOzTRBhaN4>
(Kosice cathedral—organ, 3 stanzas, Slovak words on screen)

(In February 14, 2024 issue, p. 2, of English translation of Slovak hymn, BELOVED JESUS (Môj milý Ježišu) Verse 3, line 1: For me your blood was sweat (not sweet), Your patient love was spent;)

Check out the FCSU website at
www.fcsu.com

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, April 1	Wednesday, April 10
Monday, April 29	Wednesday, May 8
Monday, June 3	Wednesday, June 12

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 or district@fcsu.com.**

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

Message from the National Chaplain

Just about all packaged food and drugs we purchase today come with a date stamp. Sell by this date, best if used by that date. Discard after this date. These are products that all have what we call a 'shelf life.' Computers, roads, bridges, cars, HVAC units, appliances, and so forth, have what is called a 'useful life.' They work for a while, but eventually they become outdated or worn out, and need to be replaced.

What's interesting about items that have a shelf life and a useful life is that they never had a life to begin with! The never communicated, moved, showed initiative or emotions; they have no instincts.

Those things never had, never will have a life. We do. We have life; we are created in the image and likeness of God. We are given the promise of eternal life through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. By living daily a life faithful to his Gospel and by trust and hope in Him who is the Resurrection and the Life, we pray we may one day see Him in his glory.

You and your loved ones will be remembered in my Masses on Easter. Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych! Radujme sa!



Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

SS. Cyril and Methodius March Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 46th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of March 1, 93 donors have given \$10,080.54 for the 2024 Appeal. Among the 21 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 3, Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 484, Branch 743, Branch 746, and Branch 853 of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$515. Donations have also been received from 1 church, 19 clergy and religious and 52 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

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

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as

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Home Office Holiday Hours



Closed: Friday, March 29, 2024, in observance of Good Friday.

SS. Cyril and Methodius March Appeal

Continued from page 2

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

46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Email _____

Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
 Slovak Catholic Federation
 Our Lady of Grace Church
 225 Bellevue Avenue
 Penndel, PA 19047-4052



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2024

- 3** Slovak J Club & Br. 553 – Spaghetti Dinner, Akron, OH
 - 4** Br. 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA
 - 5** Br. 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
 - 6** Dist. 3 – Meeting in United, PA (RSVP 3/30)
 - 7** Br. 320 – Meeting in Rostraver Twp. (RSVP 4/1)
 Br. 553 – Meeting in Akron, OH (RSVP)
 Dist. 6 – Meeting in West Mifflin, PA (RSVP 3/24)
 Dist. 10 – Meeting in Akron, OH (RSVP 4/1)
 Dist. 16 – Meeting in New York City, NY
 - 13** Br. 450 – Meeting in Parma, OH
 - 14** Br. 1 – Meeting in Rocky River, OH (RSVP 4/1)
 Br. 23 – Meeting in Johnstown, PA
 Br. 60 – Meeting in Erwin, PA
 Br. 166 – Meeting in Binghamton, NY (RSPV 4/7)
 Br. 670 – Meeting in Canonsburg, PA (zoom available)
 Dist. 8 – Meeting in Coplay, PA
 Dist. 12 – Meeting in Canonsburg, PA (zoom available)
 - 15** **Last Day to Make your IRA Contributions for 2023**
 Br. 228 – Meeting in Lorain, OH
 - 20** Dist. 17 – Dinner in Dickson City, PA (RSVP 4/10)
 - 21** Dist. 2 – Meeting in Oak Forest, IL
 - 27** Br. 181 – Meeting in Latrobe, PA (RSVP 4/18)
 Dist. 17 – Meeting in Pittston, PA
 - 28** Dist. 7 – Meeting in Indiana, PA
- For more info go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

Deadline Approaching Soon! Apply by 3/31/2024



FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

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

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

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

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

All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: Scholarship Program, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131.

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

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

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

Applications available at WWW.FCSU.COM
www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships

Applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2024**
 For more info call us at 800-533-6682 ext.114

Celebrated annually every March 17th, St. Patrick's Day is a national, non-federal holiday in honor of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland. Initially recognized as a religious observation day, March 17th has evolved into a day to celebrate Irish culture with food and drinks, performances, parades and, of course, the color green.

President's Easter Greeting

On behalf of myself, the Home Office staff and the Board of Directors, we would like to wish all FCSU Members a very blessed Easter! During this time, I hope everyone celebrates and rejoices in the news that Christ has risen!

Easter, like most holidays, is a special time to get together with our families and celebrate. This may look like gathering around the table for a meal or attending church together. We all have our own traditions we like to partake in with our loved ones. Many like to attend an Easter egg hunt, attend a local Fish Fry or dye hardboiled eggs. Us Slovaks may even bake traditional Easter breads and coffee cakes such as the ones listed in this issue of the Jednota.

When it comes to the holidays, it is always easy to get lost in the commercialized festivities. As we are in the middle of Lent, and approaching Easter Sunday, I have done a lot of reflecting on how important this time truly is. Behind all the chocolate bunnies, baskets and colored eggs, the Easter season is one of the most holy and sacred times for those who participate in the Catholic faith. We dedicate our time within Lent and Holy week to prepare for Easter Sunday and celebrate the resurrection of Christ. More importantly, we recognize Jesus' sacrifice being crucified on the cross to wash away our sins.

Currently, we are in the middle of the Lenten season, a special time to reflect on the true meaning of Easter. For 40 days we choose to give up something, symbolizing Christ's 40 days in the desert. Lent is one of the cornerstones of the Catholic faith. It means so much more than abstaining from something such as junk food or electronics. It is a time to reflect on God's gift; giving His one and only son. It is also a time to practice discipline, faith and resilience. Lent truly gives a perspective on how great God's love for us is, something that we may overlook through the hustle and bustle the rest of the year.

We also celebrate Holy Week, a week comprising of days such as Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. This is a sacred time to remember Christ before his crucifixion and resurrection. Many of us spend the week in prayer, recognizing each event leading up to Jesus' resurrection and expressing our gratitude for His sacrifice.

I would like to say a special thank you to the FCSU National Protector Bishop Larry J. Kullick of Greensburg for writing such a beautiful Easter message for this issue. Also, thank you to FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta for writing an article regarding the importance of Holy Week. It gives a lot more perspective on how special this time is for our faith. Additionally, Fr. Nasta will be blessing Easter baskets on Holy Saturday. Members can watch the blessing online via livestream. Please see the Easter Baskets Blessing announcement for more information. I encourage everyone to take part in this Holy event.

No matter what your Easter traditions and practices consists of, Easter is another holiday to spend time with the ones you love. Gathering to celebrate with your friends and family create some of the fondest memories. I hope everyone enjoys this special season with their loved ones and shares God's love with one another. Let us come together and reflect on Jesus giving His life on the cross so that we may have eternal life.

**Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt**



**Kenneth A. Arendt
President**

Vice President's Easter Greeting

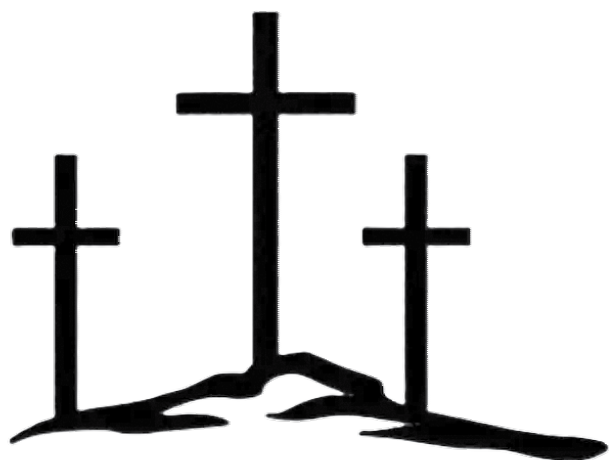
The Easter season brings with it the return of Springtime, images of warmer weather, and the return of green lawns and leaves on the trees. It's a season of renewal. While not as busy as Christmas, for our households, Easter can also be a busy time. We are doing extra shopping, preparing Easter baskets of chocolates, marshmallow peeps and jellybeans for the children and/or the food baskets containing breads, rolls, meats, colored eggs, and butter lambs to be blessed on Holy Saturday morning for our Easter weekend celebrations. We have Easter egg hunts and family gatherings. Truly, enjoyable times for all.

While we celebrate the return of Spring and the Easter holiday, let us take time to thank God for the wonderful gifts and blessing he has given us.

On behalf of my family, I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter Season.



**Damian D. Nasta
National Vice President**



Executive Secretary's Easter Greeting

Christ Has Died
Christ Has Risen
Christ will come again



**Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary**

As we are in the middle of Lent, and preparing for Holy Week, these words become more powerful and humbling as we approach Good Friday.

As a child I remember going to the Slovak masses during Holy Week with my Grandparents. The past few years I remember taking my mom to Easter Sunrise Service. After mass, we would rush home and enjoy the Blessed Slovak food. The homemade cheese, kielbasa, grated red beets mixed with horseradish, ham, bread, and the butter shaped into a lamb. To me, the most important food was the dyed hardboiled egg. This meant the most to me since in my upbringing you would split the egg with another family member. By sharing the egg it symbolized that if you were ever lost in life, the family member who you split it with would find you. Even though as a Catholic, we truly are never lost. Jesus is always there to guide us. We just need to open our hearts and ears. But what a true blessing it is to have someone to split your egg with!



By National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta

The seven days that commemorate the events surrounding the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is known as Holy Week. One of the first people who used this term was Saint Athanasius (died 373). Saint Athanasius was a very strong supporter, teacher, and defender of the true divinity of Jesus at a time in the church's history when that truth was not held by a good number of Christians.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. Palms in biblical times were a symbol of goodness and victory, a sign of respect to one who was held in high esteem. The palm branches we receive in church on Palm Sunday symbolize the victory over sin and death that Jesus won by his own death on the cross.

Ancient church tradition holds that no Mass is celebrated on Holy Thursday without a congregation. The only Mass texts in the Roman Missal for during the day on Holy Thursday is the Chrism Mass. The Mass of Chrism is celebrated by a bishop, normally the bishop of the diocese, with priests from the diocese as concelebrants. The presiding bishop blesses the Sacred Oils used for the celebration of the Sacraments: the Oil of the Sick, for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick; the Oil of Catechumens, for the Sacrament of Baptism; and the Sacred Chrism, for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. The Oils are distributed to the priests after this Mass for them to take to their parishes. The bishop also leads all priests present in renewing their priestly promised made at their ordination.

Although several (arch)dioceses for pastoral reasons celebrate the Mass of Chrism on another day in Holy Week, the traditional day and time remains the morning of Holy Thursday.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper takes place on Holy Thursday evening. This Mass begins what is known as the Easter Triduum. The word triduum comes from the Latin for "three days." It is suggested to have as few consecrated hosts as possible in the tabernacle before this Mass begins. Sufficient hosts for the Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Good Friday liturgy ought to be prepared and consecrated on Holy Thursday.

The Sacred Oils blessed at the Mass of Chrism are presented either at the beginning of this Mass or during the Presentation of the Gifts, also known as the Offertory Procession. Bells are rung during the singing of the Gloria, after which they are silenced until the Easter Vigil. Also after the Gloria and up to the Easter Vigil, instruments may be played only to accompany singing. The playing of meditative instrumental musical selections pieces during the triduum is strongly discouraged.

An option observed in many locations during the Mass of the Lord's Supper is the Washing of Feet in commemoration of what Our Lord did the night before he died (John 13: 3-15). Those selected for the Mandatum (the term used for those to have their feet washed, from the Latin "command" or "mandate") ought to be a cross-section of the faithful. The recommended number of people for the Mandatum is 12, although it is not required to have 12.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper, along with the Funeral Mass, are the only Masses that do

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Holy Week

Continued from page 4

not conclude with a Final Blessing and Dismissal. Instead, following the Prayer after Communion, the priest carries a ciborium with the remaining hosts consecrated at this Mass in procession to a repository, usually in a place outside the sanctuary. Some churches remain open throughout the night for prayer and adoration, other churches close before midnight.

It is customary for the church to be open during the day on Good Friday for private prayer. Many parishes offer Morning Prayer and Daytime Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours for their parishioners.

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord begins usually at 3 PM. The service consists of a Liturgy of the Word and Solemn Intercessions, Adoration of the Holy Cross, and the Distribution of Holy Communion. With the exception of Communion to the Dying (Viaticum), this is the only time a person can receive Holy Communion on Good Friday.

A collection is taken up during the service on Good Friday at all churches throughout the world to help defray the operating costs of the various shrines and churches in the Holy Land that were built centuries ago at the approximate locations where special events took place, e.g. Our Lord's Annunciation, Birth, Transfiguration, Death and Resurrection; the Wedding Feast of Cana; Multiplication of Loaves and Fish; Peter's denial of Jesus. Franciscan friars are tasked with the responsibility of caring for these sacred places.

It is also a custom for parishes to offer devotional prayers on the evening of Good Friday, such as the Stations of the Cross or Devotions to the Divine Mercy.

According to ancient church tradition, sacraments are not celebrated on Holy Saturday. Holy Communion may be given only to the dying as Viaticum.

Slovaks and other people of Slavic heritage bring their baskets of traditional Easter foods to church on Holy Saturday for a blessing. (For those unable to bring their baskets to their local parish church, the service I will be conducting at my parish will be live-streamed beginning at 12 PM Eastern Time on March 30. Please go to olgparishpenndel.org.)

The Easter Triduum concludes with the beginning of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night. This Mass is to begin after nightfall to fully symbolize the Light of Christ, Risen from the dead, shining in the darkness. This is the reason this Mass begins with all lights in the church turned off.

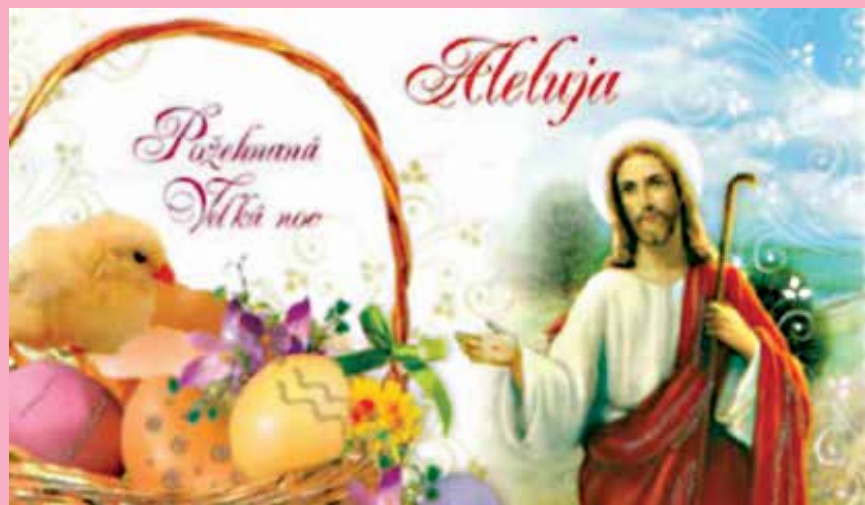
The Mass begins with the lighting and blessing of the fire and Easter Candle. The Exsultet, or Easter Hymn of Praise, is sung from the ambo (pulpit) by the deacon or priest. If neither is able, a cantor may sing it. An extended Liturgy of the Word follows. Seven readings from the Old Testament, each with its own proper Responsorial Psalm, can be proclaimed. The minimum number of readings is three; the reading from Exodus 14 always to be read.

During the singing of the Gloria the altar candles are lit and bells are rung. After the reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, the Alleluia is sung for the first time since before Ash Wednesday. The reading of the Gospel and the Homily follow.

Next the Easter Water is blessed. If there are any catechumens, they are Baptized and Confirmed at this time. People baptized in other Christian denominations preparing to become Catholic are to make their Profession of Faith and be received into the Church at a time apart from the Easter Vigil. All the baptized, holding a candle lit from the flame from the Easter Candle, are led by the priest in renewing their Baptism Promises. The priest then sprinkles the people with the newly blessed water.

The newly Baptized and Confirmed present the hosts and wine in the Offertory Procession. Mass proceeds as usual. Upon reception of their First Holy Communion at this Mass, the newly Baptized and Confirmed become fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

The Easter Vigil of the Holy Night concludes with the deacon or priest singing the dismissal with the double alleluias.



Live Streaming of the Blessing of Easter Baskets

FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta will be blessing Easter baskets via livestream on Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 12:00 PM (noon) Eastern Standard Time. The blessing will be livestreamed from Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA. You can watch the blessing online at www.olgparishpenndel.org.

OUR FAVORITE EASTER RECIPES

Easter Breads

Basic Sweet Dough
2 1/3-3 cups flour divided
1/3 cup sugar
1 package active dry yeast
3/4teaspoon salt
1/3 cup each milk and water
1/4cup butter, cut in chunks
1 egg at room temperature

In a large mixer bowl mix well 1 cup flour, sugar, yeast and salt; set aside. Heat milk water and butter until liquids are very warm (120-130); butter need not melt. Gradually beat into flour mixture. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Add egg and 2 cups flour. (add special spices, fruits and nuts at this point). Beat at high speed, scraping bowl occasionally, 2 minutes or until dough is thick and smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Turn out on lightly floured surface. Knead 5 to 8 minutes or until dough is smooth and elastic. Shape in smooth ball; place in greased bowl; turn to grease top.

Cover; let rise in warm, draft-free place 1 to 1 1/4 hours or until doubled. Punch down, knead lightly; cover; let rest 5 to 10 minutes. Shape as desired on baking sheet. Cover; let rise until doubled. Bake in preheated 350 oven about 15 minutes for small breads (12 per piece dough) or about 35 minutes per single loaf. Makes 12 servings.

Apricot Bread

3 cups sifted all-purpose flour
4 tablespoons baking flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/3cup white sugar
1/4cup butter
1 cup (8 oz.) very finely chopped dried apricots
2 eggs
1 cup milk
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is fine. Stir in apricots. Beat together eggs, milk and lemon rind until just blended. Add to dry ingredients. Stir until well mixed. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan. Makes 1 large or 2 small. Bake in 350 oven for 1 hour or until tests done. Turn out on rack. Best when sliced and served on day after baking.

Slovak Fanky (Cheregi)

4 egg yolks
1whole egg
4 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
Pinch of salt
Flour

Beat egg yolks until creamy. Add whole egg and beat again adding sugar and salt. Add enough flour to make a sticky dough. (A tablespoon of rich cream may be added). Roll out very thin; cut in diamond shape. Make a slit in the center of each.

Fry in hot oil until brown, turning immediately after being placed in oil. Do not over fry. Drain on paper toweling. Dust with powdered sugar. Note: Adding too much flour will take away the crispness.

Paska (Easter Bread)

1/2 cup butter
1 cup scalded milk
1 tablespoon salt
3/4 cup sugar
1 cake yeast (large)
4 eggs, well beaten
5 cups flour (approx.)
1/2 cup seedless raisins (color optional)

Add shortening to hot milk, then salt and sugar. Dissolve and cool to lukewarm. Add crumbled yeast; stir in eggs; add flour and raisins, and knead well (about 20 minutes) until smooth and elastic. Dough should be lighter than for bread. Let rise until double in bulk. Punch down and let rise again. After it has risen for the second time, put dough on board and let rest for 10 minutes. Form into round loaf to fit a 2 quart greased casserole or pan. Let rise for about 45 minutes, or until double in size. Top can be decorated with a

cross made of strips of dough, braided and each end of braid pressed firmly into dough. Bake about 45 minutes at 350.

Babka (Easter Coffee Cake)

1 tablespoon dry yeast
1/4 cup warm water (105-115)
1 stick unsalted butter, melted
1/2 cup sugar
4 egg yolks
3 1/2 to 4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon rum
3/4 cup warm milk (105-115)
Fine dry bread crumbs
Confectioner's sugar

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside for 5 minutes. Cream butter and sugar in mixing bowl. Add egg yolks, 1 1/2 cups flour, and mix thoroughly. Add yeast mixture, salt, vanilla, and rum. Add milk and enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth- about 10 minutes. Place dough in greased bowl, turning to coat top. Cover, let rise in warm place until double, about 1 hour.

Punch down dough. Generously grease 10 inch bundt pan. Lightly coat pan with bread crumbs. Put dough into prepared pan. Cover, let rise in a warm place until double, about 45 minutes. Bake in a preheated 350 oven 45 minutes or until done. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Then remove from pan. Cool on rack. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

Nut or Poppy Seed Roll

6 cups flour
1 cup shortening
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup sugar
1 large can evaporated milk
3 egg yolks
1 tablespoon vanilla
1 cake yeast
1/4 cup lukewarm water

Nut Filling:

1 pound walnuts, ground
1/4 cup milk
2 tablespoons butter, melted
1 cup sugar

Poppy Seed Filling:

1 pound poppy seed, ground
1 cup sugar
Juice of 1/4 lemon or 1 tablespoon lemon extract
3 tablespoons shortening
1 cup milk

Mix flour, shortening, salt and sugar as for pie crust. Combine milk, egg yolks and vanilla and add to first mixture. Add also the yeast which has been dissolved in warm water. Work together a few minutes until dough forms into a ball. Set aside for 2 1/2 hours to rise. Divide dough into four pieces and roll out on slightly floured board. The dough should be about 1/4 inch thick. Spread with desired filling and roll. Bake immediately at 350 for 50 minutes.

Filling: Combine all ingredients for nut filling. For poppy seed filling, combine ingredients and cook for 5 minutes.

Roshky

6 cups flour 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 pound shortening
1/2 pound butter
1/2 pint sour cream
1 yeast cake
6 eggs beaten

Filling

1 pound nuts, ground
3 small apples, grated
1 cup sugar
3 egg whites, stiffly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift flour, salt and sugar. Cut in shortening. Add sour cream and eggs. Soften yeast in a little cream and add to first mixture. Put in refrigerator over-night. Divide dough into 4 parts. Roll out 1/4 inch thick, cut in 2-inch squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square, roll and shape into crescents. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 400.

Start Your Branch Facebook Page and Connect with Your Members



This past year, we have been focusing on changing our current media outlets and creating new ones. As more interest has grown within the Branches for communication and sharing through social media, we encourage Branches to create their Facebook page to connect with their Members.

Below are some tips and guidelines for a Facebook page Branch Officers can utilize. We encourage Branches who would like to maintain a social media presence to follow the guidelines below in order to be consistent within our Society and to make it easier for Members or potential Members to locate their Branch.

Here are brief instructions on how to name your Facebook page to ensure consistency within our brand:

1. Start with FCSU Financial (do not put dots between FCSU, example: F.C.S.U)
 2. Include Br next to financial (for Branch)
 3. Next include the Branch number
 4. Lastly, add the city the Branch is located in
- EXAMPLE:** FCSU Financial Br 000, Cleveland

Below are some instructions on how to set up a Facebook public page if you are unfamiliar with how to do so:

1. You must have your own personal Facebook account to create a page
2. Login to your personal Facebook account
3. Go to tinyurl.com/createbranchpage
4. Enter a page name and category (Example: FCSU Financial Br 000, Cleveland, Category- Financial)
5. Edit your page by adding the FCSU logo as the profile picture, adding a bio, cover photo and www.fcsu.com as the website
6. Click done and let the word out you are now on Facebook
7. Allow access to 1 more Officer to be an admin for the page (go to page access, click add new under "People with Facebook access", then search for the name of the person you want to give access to and click their account) (NOTE: The Admin MUST have a personal account to add them)
8. Share your posts on your personal Facebook

If you are a Branch Officer interested in creating a Facebook page or have already created a page, please reach out to me kcollins@fcsu.com to receive our logo for your page and to let us know you are active so we can share the news! If you have any questions or need further help creating a page, please visit www.facebook.com/help.

Kevin J. Collins, Executive Secretary

Don't forget to
**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK**

 **FCSU Financial**
www.facebook.com/FCSUFinancial

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Finding Hope in Christ's Resurrection

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Death and grief are inevitable parts of all our lives. But Christian hope is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate this Easter Sunday. The belief that we will be reunited with our loved ones in the joy of heaven some day can serve as a light in the darkness of grief. Until then, we can find guidance on how best to deal with life's most difficult moments through the words of Scripture and the example of Christ's followers in this world.

Author and theologian Henri Nouwen, for instance, offers these thoughts: "The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith in the resurrection of our bodies...Our bodies, as Paul says, are temples of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 6:19) and, therefore, sacred. The resurrection of the body means that what we have lived in the body will not go to waste, but will be lifted in our eternal life with God. As Christ bears the marks of His suffering in His risen body, our bodies in the resurrection will bear the marks of our suffering. Our wounds will become signs of glory in the resurrection."

People with mental illness are among those who endure suffering in this world. I recently shared the story of Deacon Ed Shoener, who lost his 29-year-old daughter Katie to suicide due to her bipolar disorder. Deacon Ed co-founded the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers to help other families dealing with this type of loss, as well as to bring acceptance and healing to those with mental illness.

Though Katie is no longer physically present in Deacon Ed's life, his faith affirms his belief that she is still with him in some way. During a "Christopher Closeup interview, he told me, "The communion with the saints is not just the saints who are painted on a wall...We all hope to be a saint one day, to live eternally with God. So, our loved ones, we're still in communion with them. And yes, absolutely, I pray to Katie. I pray for Katie all the time, as I do other saints too, and other loved ones...Also, if anyone asks me if they can do anything for me, I always say, 'Have a Mass said for Katie.'...I wasn't brought up Catholic. I was raised Protestant, and have come to the faith later in my life...But I think this idea of purgatory is a beautiful teaching of the Church, this idea of purification. And that's what we do when we pray for someone or have a Mass said for someone. We help them during their period of purification."

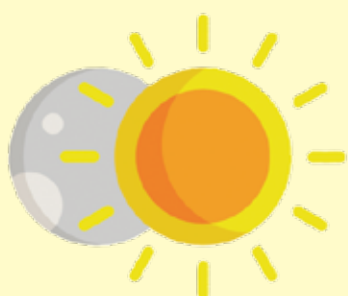
Deacon Ed has taken the most horrible experience of his life and turned it into a vehicle to help others, all while maintaining a connection to his daughter. It is the light that Jesus's resurrection brought into his life—that Jesus's resurrection brings into all our lives—that allows him to do this.

Pope Francis summed up this state of belief beautifully when he explained, "If Christ is risen, we can look with renewed eyes and hearts on each event in our lives, even the most negative. The moments of darkness, failure and even sin can be transformed and herald a new path forward. When we have reached the bottom of our misery and weakness, the risen Christ gives us the strength to rise again. If we entrust ourselves to Him, His grace saves us. The crucified and risen Lord is the full revelation of mercy, present and at work in history."

You're Invited to Celebrate the Year of the Eucharist!

Join the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and the Slovak Catholic Federation in celebrating the Year of the Eucharist at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA. The Sisters will host this prayerful celebration which will include Eucharistic Adoration and a mini pilgrimage on Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 2:00 pm in Maria Hall. The Pilgrimage will take place on the grounds of Villa Sacred Heart, processing from Maria Hall to the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius with several stops for prayer along the way. Evening prayer, a reflection, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the Basilica. All are welcome to this Eucharistic Service. The Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius is located at 1002 Railroad Street, Danville, PA 17821.

2024 Solar Eclipse



On Monday, April 8th, 2024, a total solar eclipse will occur starting in Mexico and stretching across the USA from Texas to Maine and through Canada. A partial eclipse will be visible in 48 states. For more information to see if your state is in the pathway and what time it will begin, please visit the NASA website at tinyurl.com/NASAEclipse2024. If your Branch is watching the eclipse, be sure to submit your photos to the Jednota!

Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!

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

Fill them out, print, sign and mail them to the Home Office.

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



Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17
First Catholic Slovak Union

Cordially invites **you** to join them for its

**2nd Annual Celebration of Spring
Dinner and Social**

on

**Saturday, April 20, 2024
5:00 P.M.**

at

Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza

280 Main Avenue
Dickson City, Pennsylvania

Cost: **\$30** per person

Four-course Dinner with Choice of entrée:

Chicken Piccata, Baked Haddock, or Eggplant Rollatini

Reservations and pre-payment are required!
Your check guarantees your reservation.

To make reservations or for additional information, contact District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer Elizabeth M. Slovenkai at 570.344.3854. Deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, April 10, 2024.**

Make checks payable to **FCSU District 17** and mail to

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai
505 Emmett Street
Scranton, PA 18505-1016

Checks **must be received by Monday, April 15, 2024.**

**Msgn Andrew Hlinka District
4th Annual Picnic**



Date: May 19, 2024
Time: 1pm-4pm
Location: Cedar Creek Park – contact for specifics
Cost: District 12 members – Free

Fraternalism in Action:

Bring at least 2 shelf stable food items OR
Donate at least \$3
For the St Andrew the Apostle Food Bank

Questions contact: Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com or 412-341-1577

As we are enjoying the food, friends and fun at this 4th Annual Picnic, let us remember and help others who are experiencing food insecurities at this time. Please be generous in your donations.

If you are new in attending events of the Hlinka District, please leave your reservation message at Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com with your name, branch number, phone number and how many people would attend. We will return the call with specifics of the picnic.

The Hlinka District invites all Branch 320, 670 and 853 members to enjoy an afternoon with their fraternal brothers and sisters. We look forward to hearing from you.

**SLOVAK J CLUB
FISH FRY**

Served every Friday thru Good Friday
4:30 – 7:00 pm

- All you can eat buffet of fried fish, mac & cheese, fries, haluski, coleslaw, bread & butter: \$15.00
- Chicken tenders (adult portion) plus buffet: \$12.00
- Chicken tenders (child portion) plus buffet: \$8.00
- Baked cod plus buffet: \$20.00 available by reservation only
Reservation must be made by Wednesday
Call 330-786-9972

**485 Morgan Ave.
Akron, OH 44311**

**AMERICAN
SLOVAK CLUB
FISH FRY**

**2915 BROADWAY AVE.
LORAIN, OH 44055**

SERVED EVERY FRIDAY
ALL YEAR LONG
(NOT JUST DURING LENT)

**PERCH, WALLEYE,
SHRIMP, COD &
CHICKEN DINNERS
AVAILABLE**

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR
RESERVATIONS FOR PARTIES
OF SIX OR MORE AT
(440)-245-5146**

FOR COMPLETE MENU & PRICING, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.AMERICANSLOVAKCLUB.COM/FISH-FRY/



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6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA

Other Annuity Products:

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Flex Annuity or IRA **4.50%**

Park 2 Annuity **4.50%**
(not available in the state of NY)

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Settlement Options are
based on an interest rate of 4.00%
(5 yrs +)

- **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 | www.fcsu.com



CALL US AT 800-533-6682

National FCSU Events

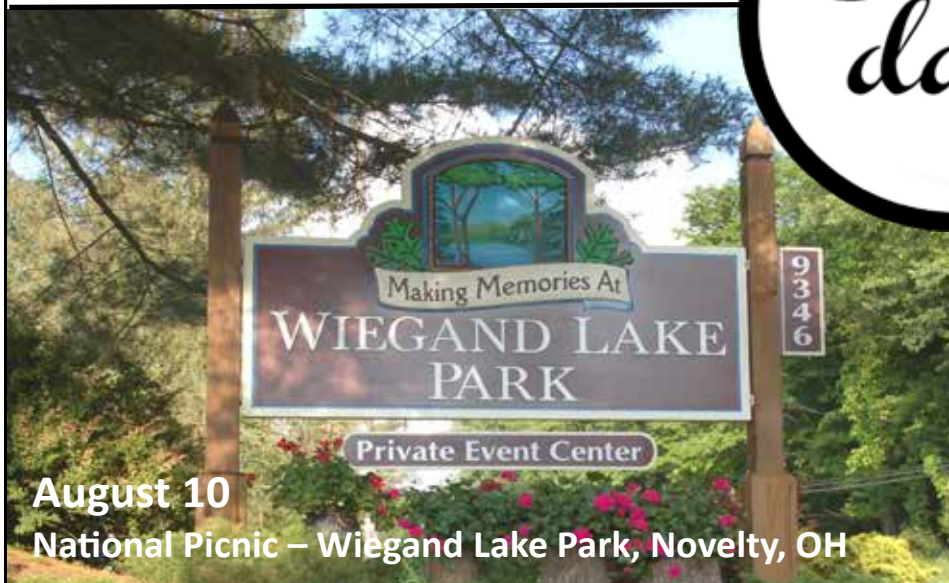
International Bowling Tournament, Pittsburgh, PA
April 26 & 27



National Picnic, Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, PA
June 22



Save ^{the} date



August 10
National Picnic – Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH



July 12-14
International Golf Tournament, Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, WV

2024 FCSU Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATES

Oglebay Resort - Wheeling, WV

- Arnold Palmer and Robert Trent Jones Courses
- Friday & Saturday Social Events
- Shotgun Starts
- Contests and Prizes
- Wilson Lodge or Cottage Accommodations



Exclusively for FCSU members and their guests!

July 12-14, 2024



FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

March Word List

- Vzkriesenie (*Resurrection*) Easter Basket
- Veľká noc (*Easter*) Cross
- Kostol (*Church*) Faith
- Zázrak (*Miracle*) Egg hunt
- Obetovanie (*Sacrifice*) Prayer
- Modlitba (*Prayer*) He is risen

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** or mail it :

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **April 25, 2024**.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

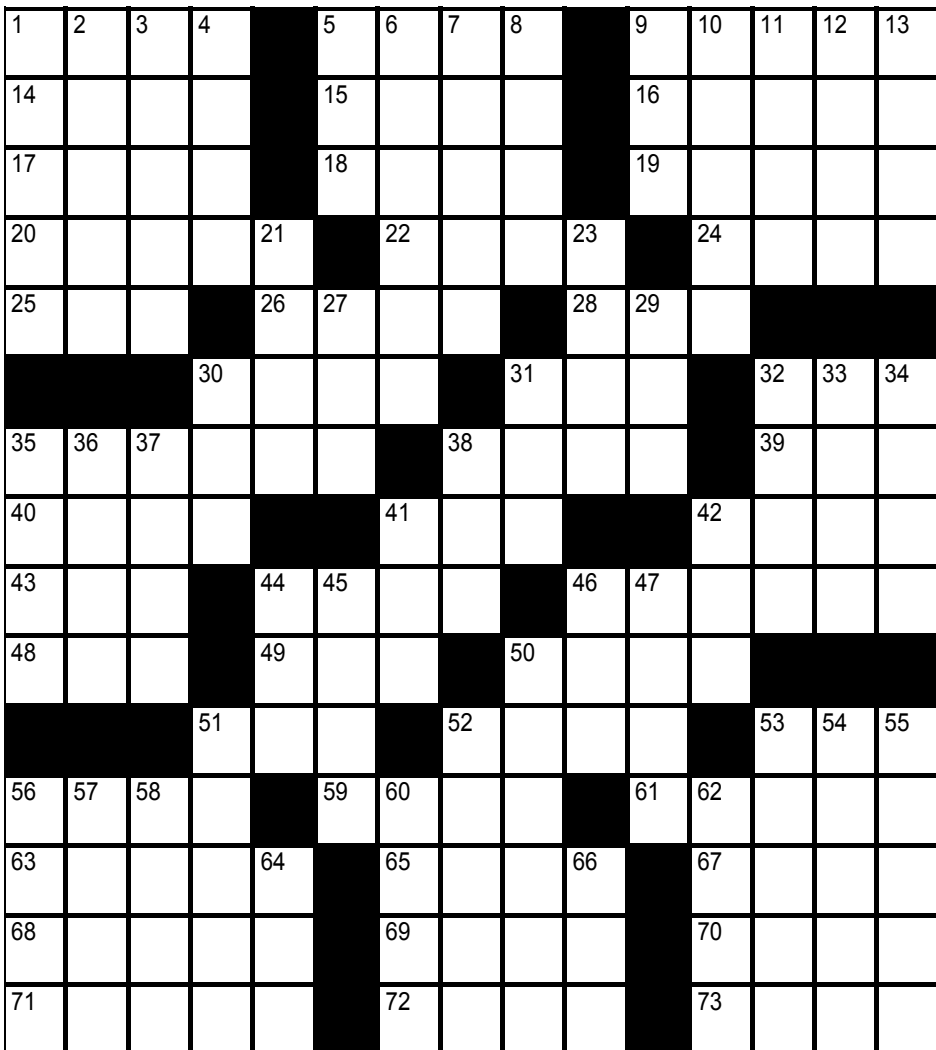
JANUARY PUZZLE WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JANUARY CONTEST WINNERS:

- Peter Borsay 706K Charlotte Morgan 857K
- Irene Dezelan 372K Dick Mizikar 181K
- Thomas Sopko 553K

CONGRATULATIONS & KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Olympics city after St. Moritz
- 5 Golf hazard
- 9 Rocket section
- 14 Needy
- 15 Woman of distinction
- 16 ___ green
- 17 Hamburg's river
- 18 Commendation
- 19 Permeate
- 20 Mechanical man
- 22 Schools of thought
- 24 Taps
- 25 Unspecified number
- 26 ___ Christian Andersen
- 28 Harvest goddess
- 30 Like some vases
- 31 Tire filler
- 32 Apply gently
- 35 Beach shelter
- 38 Comrade in arms
- 39 Hotel freebie
- 40 Concluded
- 41 Have dinner
- 42 It's half the faun
- 43 Meadow
- 44 Out of control
- 46 Spain and Portugal
- 48 Biblical boat
- 49 Salon goo
- 50 Fat unit
- 51 Nine-sound signal
- 52 Civil rights

Down

- 53 Starter's need
- 56 Lacking slack
- 59 "___ I care!"
- 61 Nonsensical
- 63 Boo-boo
- 65 Rental units (Abbr.)
- 67 Lady of Lisbon
- 68 "Saturday Night Fever" music
- 69 Soup vegetable
- 70 Kind of testimony
- 71 Quench
- 72 Small whirlpool
- 73 Vega's constellation
- 27 Bibliographical suffix
- 29 Meddle
- 30 Calendar abbr.
- 31 Swiss peak
- 32 Last name in fashion
- 33 Super berry
- 34 ___ carotene
- 35 Bubbly drink
- 36 Allege as fact
- 37 Snozz
- 38 Razor-billed bird
- 41 Our sun
- 42 Rare find
- 44 Opposite of hence
- 45 City in Arizona
- 46 Author Levin
- 47 Low in pitch
- 50 Talented
- 51 Farm animals
- 52 Animal with two feet
- 53 "Old ___"
- 54 Of an arm bone
- 55 African antelope
- 56 Spreads grass for drying
- 57 Seed cover
- 58 Constellation bear
- 60 Shopaholic's delight
- 62 Matinee hero
- 64 Seafood delicacy
- 66 Wild blue yonder

FCSU Untold Stories

Paul Brunovsky – Strong, Slovak and Proud

Paul Brunovsky, Branch 450, born in Piešťany, Slovakia, has lived a life like no other. From escaping a communist Slovakia and fleeing into Germany by foot as a teen, to organizing the biggest Slovak Festival in the USA, Paul has done it all. He tells a heroic and heart-warming success story of his life and Slovak pride.

The year is 1949, Paul, 19 at the time, is living with his family in Piešťany where he was very active in the local Catholic youth and drama clubs. When the communists took total power in Czechoslovakia, they pressured the youth to join their ranks. Paul instead decided to escape to freedom.

In October of 1949, Paul told his mother and father he would be away for some time to perform with his club. Paul's friend, Joe Strechay, agreed to accompany him. So, the duo headed west in search of freedom in Germany.

Finding their own way by following the train maps west, the boys embarked on their journey. After a couple close encounters and two days of wandering in the Sumava Forest, they finally ended up in west Germany where, for the next 18 months, Paul spent his time in several different refugee camps.

Seeing no future in Europe, Paul decided to emigrate to Canada in the "muscle" emigration. He took on several manual labor jobs including lumberjacking and glass making before moving to Toronto. Due to health reasons, Paul learned a new trade in the printing business. When the Kanadsky Slovak Weekly went bankrupt, Paul was instrumental in establishing the printing of the newspaper in Toronto. Paul and other Slovaks were able to secure funds and buy the necessary printing equipment to continue the printing, still being published today.

More importantly, he found a great Slovak community. He became the parishioner of Slovak St. Cyril and Methodius and joined the Canadian Slovak League. Additionally, he assisted in building a Slovak Hall and organizing for the Slovak youth.

"I joined the Slovak community here. I participated with this creative folklore group and I organized it," Paul said. "This place was beautiful and had the greatest Slovak communities."

In 1959, Paul moved to Cleveland, Ohio to continue his work in the printing industry. He joined the International Typographical Union and worked as a substitute for several printing shops. Finally, he landed a job working for the Cleveland Press, where he worked until its closing 22 years later.

At the time, Paul said Cleveland housed nearly 100,000 Slovaks. Already a Member of the Slovak League of America, Paul joined the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club,



Paul Brunovsky, Branch 450

"I grew up to have pride for being Slovak and for my Slovak name, and many other Slovaks too. They say unity has strength in numbers, so we try to come together and be active."

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, Lakewood Slovak Civic Club, and the First Catholic Slovak Union, being elected trustee within a year.

Paul's passion for his Slovak heritage landed him many positions throughout the years. He served as program chairperson for Slovak Independence Day celebrations and Slovak Day. In 1971 at an annual meeting for the Dramatic Club, Paul suggested starting a Slovak Festival in the Greater Cleveland area. With the corporation of several Slovak clubs, Paul served as chairman and organizer, creating the biggest Slovak festival at the time.

"They were very skeptical at first, but it was very successful the first year," Paul said. "We ran out of food and everything. I was able to convince three bands to work with us and all the clubs joined together. It was a very united endeavor in Cleveland."

Paul served as organizer for eight years and inquired people from across the USA and Canada to attend the festival including musicians, Slovak Veterans, volunteer Slovak cooks and vendors. Hundreds of Slovaks also enjoyed Slovak folklore including Cleveland's own Travnica and Lucina dance groups. Politicians such as Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk, Senator John Voinovich and Senator/Astronaut John Glenn even gathered on stage at the festival to speak to the attendees. Paul was awarded a plaque by Mayor Perk over the success of the event.

Paul's ideas for future Slovak societies didn't end there. When the Lakewood Slovak Civic Club was sold, Paul suggested the remaining treasury be combined with existing clubs to build a national home. Although the first steps were in motion, the plan fell through when many backed out. When new officers were elected, Paul wasted no time

proposing to combine both the Lakewood Club and Dramatic Club to create a Slovak Heritage Society. Following an overwhelming approval, Paul served as president for two terms before passing on the position to the younger generation.

Currently, Paul is still active in several clubs and in the Slovak community, motivated to stay involved thanks to his Slovak pride. He enjoys offering his ideas and sharing Slovak heritage with each generation of people.

"I grew up to have pride for being Slovak and for my Slovak name, and many other Slovaks too," Paul said. "They say unity has strength in numbers, so we try to come together and be active. Sometimes there is disappointment, but I try to be positive."

At 93 years old, Paul also enjoys staying active in sports as well, playing ping-pong three times a week. At 91 years-old, Paul won a gold medal for ping pong in the Ohio Senior Olympics, followed by another victory in 2023, beating opponents 5-10 years younger than him.

Paul, more importantly, is a proud father of his four children and his late wife, Kathleen Marusa, raised. Reverend. Michael Brunovsky, OSB of Slovak Benedictine Order of Cleveland, Reverend Steven Brunovsky, pastor of St. Hillary Church in Fairlawn, OH, Susan Brunovsky, former Sister of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, IL, now a nurse, and former Capt. Of US Army John Brunovsky.

One of Paul's favorite memories occurred after the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia when Paul was able to return to his home town of Piešťany in 1995 with his four children. His older brother, knowing that Paul's sons Michael and Steven were priests, made arrangements with the local pastor at St. Stephen Church so they could concelebrate Sunday Mass in the church where Paul was baptized. Needless to say, it was one of the biggest events in the town. The church was packed, local newspapers posted articles about Paul's life, his escape from communism and his return with his children. His youngest son John, who was at that time stationed with his US army in Babenhausen, Germany, took a few days leave from his base, which coincidentally was one of the refugee camps that Paul lived in almost 50 years prior.

Thank you, Paul, for your work in the Slovak community, keeping generations connected through their heritage. Your accomplishments continue to be recognized and cherished for many more years to come.

FCSU International Bowling Tournament

April 26-27, 2024

Exclusively for FCSU Members and their Guests*



*** One Guest per Member ***

Bowling Venue

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes

1601 Washington Rd. (Route 19) - Pittsburgh (Mount Lebanon) PA 15228 - 412-854-0600

Team Bowling Event ★ Friday, April 26th @ 6:30 pm

Doubles & Singles Bowling Events ★ Saturday, April 27th @ 10:00 am

Casual Food Buffet ★ Friday, April 26th @ 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Plus Special Contests and Prizes

Headquarters Hotel

The Crowne Plaza Hotel - Pittsburgh South

164 Fort Couch Rd. - Pittsburgh, (Upper St. Clair) PA 15241 - 412-833-5300

(Minutes to AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes. Located across from South Hills Village Mall)

Group Code: FCSU Bowling **Group Rate:** \$179+ taxes, two breakfast buffets **Rate Expires:** March 20, 2024

For reservations call the hotel directly at 412-833-5300 Room Type: Double Queens, Kings (limited)

Saturday Events at The Crowne Plaza

Vigil Mass - 4:00 pm Cocktails - 5:00 pm Dinner - 6:30 pm

PLUS -- Opportunities to win fabulous raffle and door prizes including gift cards, basket of cheer, a Stay and Play Package for the 2024 FCSU Golf Tournament -- and MORE!

Additional Lodging at The Hampton Inn

150 Old Pond Rd. - Bridgeville, PA 15107 - 412-319-7706

(Approximately 15-20 minute drive (local roads) to AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes)

Group Code: FCSU Bowling **Group Rate:** \$129 + taxes, express breakfast **Rate Expires:** March 20, 2024

For reservations call the hotel directly at: 412-319-7706 Room Type: Double Queens

Enter your Team Today!

2024 FCSU International Bowling Tournament

Official Entry Form - Deadline March 28, 2024

Important Entrant Information

- Non-USBC Bowlers: Men are to enter **175** and women are to enter **150** as their highest average, if no previous FCSU average is available
- Non-Members must be invited by an FCSU member in good standing. Guest information must be submitted on member's entry.
- Each individual bowler and team captain on this entry agrees to relinquish their rights to prize money, should any information provided herein be found to be false. The tournament will be conducted under USBC Rules and Regulations.
- All tournament information, rules and regulations, etc. will be disseminated by email and available at fcsu.com. Please advise if you do not have email. **A fillable version of this entry form is available at fcsu.com/events which can be completed, printed and mailed.**

Please list team captain first and print legibly. Thank you.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____
 Email: _____
 Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____

Please check your events

Open Team Doubles
 Men Singles All Events
 Women Singles All Events
FCSU Member Yes No FCSU Branch # _____

Your Local USBC: _____ Association Secretary: _____
 USBC Address/Best Contact Info: _____

TEAM EVENT

Friday, April 26, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
 (List bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

DOUBLES and SINGLES EVENTS

Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 10:00 am

1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____

TOURNAMENT FEES - FCSU MEMBERS

Event	# of Bowlers	Cost per person	Total
Teams		\$25.00	\$
Doubles		\$25.00	\$
Singles		\$25.00	\$
All Events		\$5.00	\$
Bowler Friday Buffet		\$0	\$0
Bowler Saturday Dinner		\$0	\$0
Non-bowler Friday Buffet		\$15.00	\$
Non-bowler Saturday Dinner		\$35.00	\$
FCSU Member Total			\$

TOURNAMENT FEES - NON-MEMBERS

Event	# of Bowlers	Cost per person	Total
Teams		\$30.00	\$
Doubles		\$30.00	\$
Singles		\$30.00	\$
All Events		\$5.00	\$
Bowler Friday Buffet		\$15.00	\$
Bowler Saturday Dinner		\$35.00	\$
Non Member Total			\$

Grand Total Enclosed: \$ _____
Checks payable to: First Catholic Slovak Union

Mail entry and payment to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Payment must accompany entry form. Entry must be received before March 28, 2024.

Important Information for All Tournament Entrants
RULES and REGULATIONS
FCSU International Bowling Tournament

1. The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

2. This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union for the exclusive enjoyment of its members and their guests. The goal of the tournament is to promote fraternalism and good sportsmanship and generate interest in our Slovak fraternal organization. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend a cordial invitation to all members and their guests.

3. **ELIGIBILITY:** This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union Members (age 18+) in good standing at the time of entry. Those with lapsed memberships/policies may not participate in the tournament or its related social functions.

4. a. The total cost per **FCSU MEMBER** for each event shall be:

Prize Fee.	\$10.00
Bowling Fee.	\$13.00
Hospitality Fee.	\$ 2.00
TOTAL COST (per event)	\$25.00
Saturday Dinner	No Cost
*All Events Fee	\$ 5.00 (Optional)

*Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 All-Events fee are eligible for the cash awards.

4.. b. The total cost per **NON-MEMBER** for each event shall be:

Prize Fee.	\$15.00
Bowling Fee.	\$13.00
Hospitality Fee.....	\$ 2.00
TOTAL COST (per event)	\$30.00
Saturday Dinner	\$35.00 (Optional)
*All Events Fee	\$ 5.00 (Optional)

*Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 All-Events fee will be eligible for the cash awards.

The Prize Fees will be awarded 100% in each specific event. At least 1 in 10 participants in each event will win prizes.

Note: Contestant may win only one cash prize per event (scratch or handicap), whichever cash prize is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Contestants who roll the highest scratch and handicap scores in each event.

5. **SUBSTITUTES.** Bowlers may compete only once in each event. However, the Tournament Director may allow a bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a four bowler team when one of its original entrants is absent. The score of such bowler in the team event rolled with his entering team must count for all events. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee, provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The Tournament Director shall have power to approve the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitute's score and handicap from the said event will be used.

6. As of March 15, 2024, if any contestant's current average, of *at least 21 games*, is ten pins or more above their highest average from the previous season, they must use their current average.

7. **HANDICAP - Men's Division** Handicap will be calculated at 90% of the difference between 240 and their last season's 2022-2023 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2024.

Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as having a **175** average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament, the average of most recent 2 year history from Tournaments will be used.

Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch throughout the tournament.

8. **HANDICAP: Women's Division** handicap will be calculated at 90% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2022-2023 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2024.

Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as having a **150** average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in

the Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament, the most recent 2 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled.

9 **FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY** - The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling. All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.

10. **RE-RATING OF BOWLERS** - According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers maybe re-rated by the Tournament Committee.

11. **All entry applications and bowling fees are to be mailed to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241; and must be received before March 28, 2024. Rule 310-A2 is in effect.**

12. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.

13. Both USBC and eligible non-USBC members may participate in moral support tournaments with high score protection automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible non-USBC members can qualify for high score protection at their option by paying a \$21.00 fee for which the Congress will issue an unattached membership card.

14. **FEE WILL NOT BE REFUNDED.** All prize fees will be paid in prizes.

15. Bowlers may choose to bowl in their respective gender team and doubles event or on a mixed team or mixed doubles team, but cannot participate in both divisions. Singles and All Events are gender specific. Mixed team and mixed doubles scores will be used to calculate All Events specific to the gender of the bowler. Must have 6 teams and 10 doubles teams to hold the mixed events.

16. In the Doubles Event, the names of both bowlers must be listed on the entry. Incomplete forms will be returned for information. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as entered and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry has been filed.

17. **LANE ASSIGNMENTS** - The Tournament Committee will assign lanes. For all events. Bowlers in the Doubles and Singles Events must report 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl. Captains of teams must report their line-up at least 30 minutes before scheduled start time.

18. In the Doubles & Singles Events bowling entrants will bowl all six of their games on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers entered in only the Singles Event will be assigned to alleys by the Committee.

19. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.

20 Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

21. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score, if the submitted average results in a lower classification or greater handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.

22. **DISPUTES:** Any dispute is to be brought promptly to the attention of the Tournament Committee, with final determination made by the Tournament Director.

23. **GUESTS: We welcome guest bowlers. Each FCSU member in good standing, may register one non-member bowler.**

Bowling with the FCSU is Right Up Your Alley!

Dear FCSU members,

As you may already be aware, the 2024 FCSU International Bowling Tournament is quickly approaching. We would like nothing more than for you to join us in this time-honored fraternal event, set for April 26-27th in Mt. Lebanon (suburban Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania.

This year the tournament will be sponsored exclusively by the FCSU -- for our members and their guests. We are especially excited for the 2024 tournament, as it has been many years since we hosted the event on our own. So, we are pulling out all the stops to make it a great experience for all. We look forward to seeing the dedicated FCSU bowlers returning from previous tournaments, as well as welcoming new participants.

Fast Facts You Should Know—

Not a regular league bowler? No problem. Casual bowlers are welcome and encouraged to enter. (USBC certification is not a requirement.)

Can't make it Friday night, due to scheduling conflicts? No Problem. Simply enter the Saturday events for singles and doubles.

Are weekends your family time? No problem. While competitive tournament play is for members ages 18 and up, families may bowl for fun and entertainment, in their own section of lanes. Cost per event for non-tournament play is \$15 per bowler. Please enter FAMILY FUN on your entry form, in place of the requested USBC information.

Feel like you can never win? No problem. There will be a 50/50 raffle both days, and special side contests that almost any bowler, regardless of skill level, could win.

Don't have a regular team or partner? No problem. We can pair you with other bowlers; it's a great way to meet others. And remember, you may invite a non-member guest to bowl with you. We look forward to meeting your friends and relatives.

On Saturday evening we will wrap up the festivities with a fabulous Celebration Dinner Buffet, which is free to all bowlers. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an evening of fine dining and fellowship. The bountiful buffet menu includes beef, chicken and crab cake entrees, salad, sides and desserts.

During dinner, member bowlers have more chances to walk away a winner with great prizes in our fabulous Fraternal Raffle. Prizes include:

Experience - \$400+ Value - Stay and Play Package for FCSU Golf Tournament July 12-14, 2024 at Oglebay

Gift Cards - \$250 Value - Apple Store and Best Buy

Gift Cards - \$200 Value - Home Depot, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ruth's Chris Gift Cards

Merchandise - \$100-\$200 Value: Storm Bowling Ball (undrilled), Top Shelf Basket of Cheer, Designer Handbag, Slovak Spirits Basket, Designer Sunglasses, Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh South Overnight Stay, Imported Beer Basket, Welcome to Pittsburgh Basket. **Plus, many door prizes**

Entry deadline is extended to March 28th, 2024.

On behalf of the FCSU Executive Board and Board of Directors, we cordially invite you to join in the friendly competition and fraternal fun awaiting you at the 2024 FCSU International Bowling Tournament. Best of luck to all bowlers as you get ready to roll.

Fraternally yours,
Joanne Fibbi



2024 FCSU BOWLING TOURNAMENT Sponsorship Opportunities for Members

As a lane sponsor, your sign will be on display at the bowling alley during the tournament.

Promote your branch or business. Support our bowlers.

- Individual Lane Sponsorships .. \$ 50.**
- Branch Lane Sponsorships \$100.**
- Business Lane Sponsorships.... \$150.**

Sign dimensions: 24" x 18" (or vertical 18" x 24")

Email your pdf to jfibbi@fcsu.com Or Print Your Sign Copy Below:

Or Become a Bowling Tournament Patron

- Bronze Donor..... \$ 50.**
- Silver Donor\$100.**
- Gold Donor\$250.**
- Platinum Donor...\$500.**

As a patron of the Tournament, your donation will be used to purchase contest, raffle and door prizes. Your name will be on display at the headquarters hotel, and announced during the Celebration Dinner.

Lane Sponsorship and Patron Deadline: April 5, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to: FCSU with Lane Sponsor or Bowling Patron on the memo line.

**Mail to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
1741 Hempstead Ln., Pittsburgh, PA 15241.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Fulfill your Dreams of Exploring Slovakia with the FCSU

Jim and Kay Bench will be hosting their 21st tour of Slovakia in July of 2024. They previously hosted the Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tours. If you would like to experience the hospitality of the Slovak people, the beauty of the Slovak countryside or perhaps learn more about your own family history start making plans to join Jim & Kay on this unforgettable adventure of a lifetime. Start now by talking with the oldest members of your family who perhaps have letters from relatives in Slovakia or have the names of the villages where your ancestors lived.

Visit the birthplace of Father Furdek, the founder of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Juraj Janosik, The Slovak Robin Hood. Tour Bratislava the capitol of Slovakia and visit the enchanted old town. There are numerous historic churches, and castles to explore across the countryside. Be treated to delightful folk performances, float down the Dunajec river taking in the beauty of Slovakia's smallest National Park Pieniny. Walk across the bridge over the Dunajec river which is the natural boundary between Slovakia and Poland to do a little shopping. Enjoy lunch in Hungary at one of their many open-air restaurants, and also experience the charm of Vienna via a walking tour as well as a bus tour. That's a total of 4 countries you will have visited! There are many other places too numerous to mention included in the tour.



You will stay in first class hotels and travel on a large roomy air- conditioned bus with a rest room on board. The tour price includes air fares, hotels, breakfasts, dinners and admissions. You are responsible for your own lunches and drinks unless advised otherwise.

Paul Hudak of Adventure International Travel will be making flight and hotel reservations. Space is limited so act quickly!

For further information call Jim at 724-858-5843---Kay at 724-771-7900 ---Paul Hudak at Adventure International---800-542-2487 or 216-214-1052

Put on your dancing shoes, get ready to go to Slovakia with Jim & Kay, you are going to have the time of your life!

Submitted by Jim and Kay Bench, Branch 181

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new **BRANCH** Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OH

The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on April 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Panera Bread, 19705 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by April 1, 2024. All members are welcome to attend.

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

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PA

The St. Joseph Society, will hold our first annual Branch meeting on Sunday April 14, 2024. The meeting place will be at The Fifth Local Eatery, 1424 Scalp Ave., Johnstown, PA (by the Market Basket).

We will begin the meeting at 1:30 PM. All Branch members are welcome to attend. We will be giving each member in attendance a \$15.00 credit toward your meal. It would be nice to meet members of our Branch 23 who haven't attended any of the meetings. So please come join us. If you have any questions please call Theresa Cassat at 814- 254-2532.

Submitted by **Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 is offering discounted tickets to its members for the all-new Tamburitzan Performance on April 20, 2024. The show will begin at 3:00PM at the Eastlake North High School - 34041 Stevens Blvd - Eastlake, OH. The Tamburitzans are the longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, the performers are full-time students who receive scholarships for their activities. In fact, our own Branch 24 member, Lexi Glova, is a member of the Tamburitzan troupe! This year, along with song and dance numbers from different countries, the Tamburitzans will be featuring one from Slovakia!

The Group Non-Member Ticket Prices are as follows:

Adults (age 64 and under) \$35.70
Seniors (age 65+) \$31.45
Students (w/valid ID) \$22.95

All tickets must be ordered through the branch. For details on the MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNT and to purchase tickets for both members and non-members, contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728 by April 2, 2024. SEATING IS LIMITED - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

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

BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PA

McKeesport will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at Rodney's Restaurant (557Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642) at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officers' reports and upcoming events. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Julie Perla, Secretary**

BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, NY

The St. Joseph The Guardian Society is having our first semi-annual meeting of the year on Sunday, April 14, 2024, At the Park Diner - 119 Conklin Avenue - Binghamton, NY 13903 at 2:00 PM. Members in attendance receive their meal at no cost. For questions about the upcoming meeting or any other concern contact Morgan Dendler at (607) 206-7243. PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 7, 2024.

We hope you are staying well! According to Punxsutawney Phil, an early spring was

his forecast. I'm keeping my fingers crossed! Hope to see you at April's meeting!

Submitted by **Judie Dendler, Secretary**

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PA

Branch 181 members are invited to a dinner meeting at Aroma Italiano at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday,

April 27, 2024. It is located at 220 Ligonier St., Latrobe PA 15650. BYOB if desired.

Reservations are required, so please RSVP by Thursday, April 18, 2024. Walk-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner.

RSVP to Vicki at 724-547-0803 or Darlene at 724-493-8712.

The meeting agenda will include planning for the Annual Family Picnic.

Submitted by **Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PA

The Officers and Board of Directors want to wish all of our members and their families a very healthy, wealthy blessed 2024.

We welcome all members to attend our meetings the 1st Thursday of each month except June & July. The meetings are held at 7:00pm at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave in Ford City. Call me @ 724-763-9229 or email me @ vschaub123@gmail.com for any details or suggestions of what you would like to see happen in 2024.

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

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OH

MEETING CHANGE! The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 must CANCEL the meeting scheduled for Monday March 18, 2024. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our members.

NEW MEETING DATE: The St. John The Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge Branch 228 will hold a meeting on Monday April 15, 2024 IN-PERSON at 7:00pm at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio.

We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to pray to our Lord God to calm the environment and unite the world leaders to strive for peace among all the nations.

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

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OH

Branch 228 is offering discounted tickets to its members for the all-new Tamburitzan Performance on April 20, 2024. The show will begin at 3:00PM at the Eastlake North High School - 34041 Stevens Blvd - Eastlake, OH. The Tamburitzans are the longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, the performers are full-time students who receive scholarships for their activities. This year, along with song and dance numbers from different countries, the Tamburitzans will be featuring one from Slovakia!

The Group Non-Member Ticket Prices are as follows:

Adults (age 64 and under) \$35.70
Seniors (age 65+) \$31.45
Students (w/valid ID) \$22.95

All tickets must be ordered through the branch. For details and to reserve tickets for both members and non-members, contact Lisa Trifiletti-Palos at 440-960-2111 by April 2, 2024.

SEATING IS LIMITED - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

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

BRANCH 260 - COITSVILLE, OH

The officers of Branch 260 invite all of our members to join us this year at any or all of our meetings. Our meetings for 2024 will be as follows: Thursday March 14th, Thursday September 12th, and Thursday December 5th (this will be our election of officers meeting and holiday celebration). All of our meetings begin at 5:00pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant in Struthers, Ohio. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

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

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PA

The meeting scheduled for March has been postponed. The next meeting will be held Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM at Tillie's Restaurant at 308 36th Street, McKeesport PA. We will hear officers' reports and discuss district events. The Fall meeting is planned for November 17, 2024.

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

BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, IL

Happy Spring 313! Our branch will be hosting our first semi-annual meeting of 2024 on May 14th, 2024, 11:30am at Fox's on Wolf restaurant 11247 W 187th St. Mokena, IL 60448. A complimentary fraternal lunch will follow.

If you wish to join us, please RSVP by May 7th and call Marge Dickinson at 1-708-226-8157.

Submitted by **Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 320 - ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

All Branch 320 members - všetko najlepšie k narodeninám Spring Meeting: Branch 320 will hold its Spring Meeting at 1:00pm on April 7, 2024 at Frances Tarquinio's home in Rostraver Township. Please RSVP (724.929.9788) by April 1. Branch 320 would like to offer special prayers for all members, past and present.

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

BRANCH 393 - GREENSBURG, PA

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting and picnic lunch on Saturday, June 22 at 11:00 AM. It will be held in Pavilion #10 at Mammoth Park in Mt. Pleasant, PA.

It is necessary to RSVP to ensure we have enough food for everyone. Please call Eileen at 724-539-2764 with the number of people planning to attend by June 10, 2024. All members and their families are invited to attend.

For updates, follow the branch on Facebook or Instagram at FCSU Branch 393 (@fcsu.branch393).

Submitted by **Eileen Myers, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2024 Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held on Saturday, March 23, at 5:00 pm. This meeting will be held at Anna's Cucina Rustica restaurant located at 118 Carolina St, Vandergrift, PA 15690. Please RSVP to the following email: kmfroncek@yahoo.com. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by **Kathy Froncek, Secretary**

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul Branch 410 of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 1:30 PM at the High-

land House, 92 West Main St., Uniontown, PA.

All members are encouraged to attend. Please call for reservations by Monday, March 18, 2024, at 724-425-2576.

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

BRANCH 450-CLEVELAND, OH

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will be holding its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

The meeting will be held at the Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54-th Street, Parma, OH 44129 at 11:00 am. On the agenda will be officers' reports, review of bylaws and discussion of branch activities for the summer.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Refreshment will be served after the meeting. Please call George Carny (440) 885 - 5702 if you are planning to attend.

Submitted by **George Carny, President**

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 450 is offering discounted tickets for the all-new Tamburitzan Performance on April 20, 2024. The show will begin at 3:00PM at the Eastlake North High School - 34041 Stevens Blvd - Eastlake, OH. The Tamburitzans are the longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, the performers are full-time students who receive scholarships for their activities. This year, along with song and dance numbers from different countries, the Tamburitzans will be featuring one from Slovakia!

The Ticket Prices are as follows:

Adults (age 64 and under) \$35.70
Seniors (age 65+) \$31.45
Students (w/valid ID) \$22.95

All tickets must be ordered through the branch. For details and to purchase tickets, contact Branch 450 President George Carny at 440-885-5702 by April 2, 2024.

SEATING IS LIMITED - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

Submitted by **George Carny, President**

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Branch 553 is offering discounted tickets to its members for the all-new Tamburitzan Performance on April 20, 2024. The show will begin at 3:00PM at the Eastlake North High School - 34041 Stevens Blvd - Eastlake, OH. The Tamburitzans are the longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, the performers are full-time students who receive scholarships for their activities. This year, along with song and dance numbers from different countries, the Tamburitzans will be featuring one from Slovakia!

The Group Non-Member Ticket Prices are as follows:

Adults (age 64 and under) \$35.70
Seniors (age 65+) \$31.45
Students (w/valid ID) \$22.95

All tickets must be ordered through the branch. For details on the MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNT and to purchase tickets for both members and non-members, contact Linda Hanko at 330- 690-9611 or lhanko@neo.rr.com by April 2, 2024. SEATING IS LIMITED - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

Submitted by **Linda Hanko, Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Wishing you a year filled with God's continued blessings, health and family fun. Mark

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 2 - REV JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – IL, IN, KY, WI

Reverend John Spitkovsky District District 2 will meet on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Fraternal social at 1:30 pm and meeting begins at 2:00 pm. Pizza and Salad will be served after the meeting. Raffle prizes are needed. Hope that we will have a great attendance. Looking forward to seeing you.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - PA

The George Onda District (3) of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their Semi-Annual meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2024 following the 5:00PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church – 4263 Route 981 - United, Pa. The meeting will be held in the Church Social Hall. We will discuss Branch news and our successful Stedry Vecer. We look forward to a great attendance. Food and refreshments will be served, therefore we ask you to RSVP to Vice President Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 prior to March 30, 2024.

Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT - PA

The Spring Business Meeting will be held Sunday, April 7, 1 PM at Holy Trinity Church hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin. We will discuss business matters and plan events for this year. Branch 2 will host. RSVP to Linda Collins by Palm Sunday, March 24. 412-266-2119 or lindaco243@gmail.com

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: meets 7 PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. - WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts other events. Join the organization and get the newsletter.

- Slovak language classes: March 4 to April 22 - Greentree Public Library

- Slovak Day at Kennywood - Thursday, July 18, 2024

- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 3, 2024

- Slovak Radio Program - WPIT 96.5 FM or 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. Check the website FCSU.com for information and insurance forms.

For questions or additional information regarding the district please feel free to email me at manasta@verizon.net.

Submitted by Margaret A Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – PA

District 7 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at Hoss's Steak and Seafood, 1198 Wayne Ave, Indiana, PA, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. Branch 484 will be hosting the meeting. Discussions on this year's First Catholic Slovak Unions' activities will be the main focus of the gathering. We look forward to all branches of District 7 being represented. Please come and enjoy Slovak fellowship, and hopefully, beautiful spring weather.

Submitted by Monica Rura

DISTRICT 8 - REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - PA, NC

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District will hold its spring meeting Sunday April 14, 2024 in Egypt, PA. Mass will be at 9:30am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church located at 4456 Main St., Whitehall, PA 18052. Meeting is immediately following Mass at Kornfeind's Market, 2228 Old Post Rd., Coplay, PA 18037. [Exit left out of the church parking lot onto Main Street. Main Street becomes Old Post Road. Kornfeind's Market is on the left hand side and parking is in the rear for us.] Price is \$20.00 per attendee. Please contact District Recording Secretary Jo Austin for meeting information at jeaustin89@gmail.com or call 315.391.0526.

Submitted by Joanne Engle Austin, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK - OH

District 10 will be holding our first meeting of 2024 on Sunday, April 7, at 2:00 pm. All elected FCSU National officers are invited to attend and all Branch members of District 10, which includes Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 are encouraged to attend. Please contact Barbara Sutilla by text or phone at 440-864-4744 or by email at ohidistrict10@yahoo.com with a headcount for each Branch and any FCSU officers that plan to attend to assist with refreshment preparations.

Our District will be participating in a charitable activity for St. Augustine's Community Cupboard. St. Augustine's helps the poorest of poor in the Cleveland area. They are looking for cleaning supplies such as Spic and Span, Ajax, Fabuloso, Comet, dish soap, laundry soap – things those in need cannot use their SNAP(food stamps) to purchase. Please be generous in your support of this donation drive.

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT - PA

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District will hold the first meeting of the year at the Kings Restaurant at 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA, on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 1pm. On the agenda will be the events for the 2024 year along with the district's annual picnic. If you are unable to attend in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all Hlinka District members who attended the November 2023 meeting. Any member of Branches 320, 670 and 853 wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom or other means of virtual attendance can contact District Secretary Monica R Boone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com. Hlinka District members are urged to attend the April meeting.

Submitted by Monica R Boone, Hlinka District Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA

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

1. Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
2. Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace. (Semi-annual meeting).
3. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
4. Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024); Fireplace.
5. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

An Additional meeting might be called/scheduled if needed for fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. For questions or additional information please contact John L. Leskovyansky Jr. at home (330) 549-3788 or by cell (330-559-5981).

Submitted by John L Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NY

Happy New Year! The District 16 semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District in New York City will be held on Sunday April 7th, 2024, at 1:00 pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E 66th St in New York, NY. The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for year 2024. After our meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – STS CYRIL & METHODIOUS – NY, PA

District 17 of Broome County in New York and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania has planned its Second Celebration of Spring Dinner and Social. The event is set for Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. at Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza, 280 Main Street, Dickson City, Pennsylvania 18519. The cost of the four-course dinner is \$30 per person and offers a choice of three entrées – Chicken Piccata, Broiled Haddock, or Eggplant Rollatini. A cash bar will be available. Reservations and pre-payment are required! Your check guarantees your reservation. To make reservations or for additional information, contact District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer Elizabeth M. Slovenkai at 570.344.3854. Reservations close on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Payment must be received by Monday, April 15, 2024. Checks should be made payable to FCSU District 17 and mailed to Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016. The officers of District 17 cordially invite our members and friends to join us for an evening of dining and socializing

Submitted by Michael Slovenkai, President

DISTRICT 17 – STS CYRIL & METHODIOUS – NY, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Branch delegates will gather at St. Joseph Marullo Parish, 237 William Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania.

District Auditors will meet at 11:30 A.M. to check the books. The business meeting will convene immediately after.

A catered luncheon will be provided. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting. Each branch is asked to bring a \$25 gift for a drawing to be conducted at the end of the meeting.

Submitted by Michael Slovenkai, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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your calendar for the following events happening at the Slovak J Club – 485 Morgan Ave – Akron OH 44311:

Lenten Friday Fish Fry: Served 4:30 – 7:00 pm (served every Friday thru Good Friday). All you can eat buffet of fried fish, mac & cheese, fries, haluski, coleslaw, bread & butter \$15.00. For chicken tenders plus buffet adult price is \$12.00. For children 10 and under chicken tenders plus buffet is \$8.00. Baked cod plus buffet is \$20.00 and available by reservation only. Reservation must be made by Wednesday. Call 330-786-9972.

March 15 – Friday Fish Fry (see above for details)

March 20 Wednesday - Three soups and salad bar – includes bread and dessert. Served 4:30 – 6:30 pm

March 22 – Friday Fish Fry (see above for details)

March 31 Sunday - No breakfast buffet. Happy Easter to all!!

March 29 – Good Friday Fish Fry (see above for details)

April 3 Wednesday – All you can eat spaghetti dinner. Served 4:30-7:00pm

April 7 Sunday - Branch 553 Meeting 1:00pm at the Slovak J Club. Lodge members please call Linda Hanko at 330-690-9611 or email lhanko@neo.rr.com if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly for refreshments.

April 20 Saturday - Scotch Doubles 10.00 per person. Call 330-786-9972 to reserve your spot.

Looking forward to sharing fellowship with you in 2024 - bring your family and friends to enjoy our activities.

Submitted by Linda Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 12 PM at Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Any

branch member wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact branch670secretary@gmail.com, 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 716- NEW YORK, NY

Happy New Year to all branch members! The St. Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its first semiannual meeting of the year 2024 on Sunday, March 17, 2024. The meeting will be held in person at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY following the conclusion of the Slovak Mass at 12:30 pm. The agenda will include financial report updates and discussion of branch activities and any events for the new year. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting and all members of Branch 716 are highly encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Jednota Branch 721 will have their spring meeting on Sunday, April 21st, 2024, at 2:00pm at the Remenar Home located at 8977 South Mason Road, Bannister, MI. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate its patron saint with a mass on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. The mass will take place at St. Columba Cathedral (159 W Rayen Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) at 12:10pm.

Branch 731's next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 5:00pm at Cafe 422 (8586 South Ave, Youngstown, OH 44514). All members of Branch 731 are welcomed to attend.

Submitted by Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

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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	Jerome Gibel	162K	George L Legarth Sr	313K	Arlene G Miller	731K	Geraldine A Kravec
002K	Joseph Soltis	165K	Bonita M Maurer	313K	William F Gavenda Jr	743K	Michael J Bires
002K	Lauren Michelle Welsh	166K	Robert Kirkpatrick	330K	Richard L Koval	746K	Frank Rinko
004K	Raymond D Fischer	173K	Monica Rydzewski	372K	Charles Squashic	746K	Raymond Cavanagh
005P	Margaret M Aiello	173K	Robert Goosley	382K	William J Vaverchak	756K	Agnes M Kadlec
006K	James W Woodward	181K	Mary H Scavnicky	401K	Jerome J Pacuch	796K	Gisela Husek
023K	John E Stolar	181K	Michael J Smetanka Jr	419K	Lorraine M Healey	856K	Philip S Morgan Sr
024K	Msgr Joseph K Bobal	181K	Sylvia A Hutira	456K	Frances A Zetts	890K	Edward Jeremiah Moore
038K	Jane Marie De Lange	199K	Michael Ulishney	543K	Darlene C Mikeska	914K	Frank B Cook
075K	Mary Symonoski	199K	Thomas R Zajdel Sr	580K	Ann Hovan	915K	James Ramsey
086K	Genevieve M Batchko	224K	Mary Peschel	581K	Vaclav Zuffa	924K	Preston L Peoples
157K	Agnes M Lancsak	260K	Edith M Babik	628K	Dorothy Valcho	926K	Janice L Brass
157K	Louis Jeffries	260K	Raymond Zetts	633K	Faye E Novak		
157K	Raymond R Raysely	266K	James Getz	636K	Richard Steglik		
162K	Barbara McArdle	293K	Regina A Utrata	682K	Elizabeth C Bednar		

* Processed in the month of February 2024

Nekrológy – Obituaries

ROBERT GOOSLEY, BRANCH 173 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PA



Robert Goosley of Ransom Township, and formerly of Taylor, passed quietly into eternal life, surrounded by his loved ones, December 29 2023 in the comfort of his home. His wife of 42 years, the former Dolores Fialko Goosley passed away October 13, 1998.

Along with prior generations of his family, he was a lifetime member of FCSU family.

Born in Taylor, he was the son of the late John and Mary Markovitch Goosley and was a graduate of Taylor High School, class of 1949. Bob served our country with the United States Marines during the Korean War and was awarded the National Defense and Good Conduct Medals. Robert was a dedicated toll collector for the PA Turnpike Commission, working tirelessly to ensure the smooth flow of traffic for many years. His commitment to his job and his friendly demeanor endeared him to the countless drivers who passed through the toll booths. He took great pride in his work, always greeting everyone with a warm smile and a friendly hello. Throughout his life, Bob enjoyed extensive traveling with his wife, always collecting some memorabilia to cherish, gardening around his home, golfing and fishing with his nephews, Joe and C.J., of whom he was very fond of. He leaves behind a legacy that will forever be cherished in the hearts of his loved ones. There is great comfort knowing that he is reunited with his eternal loved ones.

Left to cherish his memory is a son, Robert John, and a daughter, Lori Ann

two grandchildren, Jeff X. Goosley and Katelyn M. Colvin; a sister, Mary Ann (Carl) Pacholec; nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Cynthia Marie Goosley-Colvin; three brothers, Jake, Gene and James and two nephews, Paul "Happy" Goosley and Sal DeFrancesco.

Interment with military honors was held in

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Cemetery, Taylor.

Submitted by Lori Goosley

ELIZABETH C. BEDNAR, BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH



Elizabeth C. Bednar, 91, passed away after a brief illness Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at St. Elizabeth Hospital, surrounded by her family.

Elizabeth was born on October 11, 1932 in Struthers, a daughter of John and Mary Helen Jakabcin.

Elizabeth was a 1950 graduate of Hubbard High School and graduated from Chofin School of Practical Nursing in 1974 at the age of 41 and received the Outstanding Nurse Award of her graduating class, as awarded by her nursing instructors. She then obtained her Pharmacology certificate in 1975 and achieved the second highest score on the state board exam.

She worked for over 18 years in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, retiring after 18 years of service. As a nurse, she touched many people's lives who benefited from her care and compassion. She was also a devoted mother to her family who would not have achieved their dreams without her exceptional love, encouragement and support. She had many talents and self-taught skills, loved animals, enjoyed gardening and baking.

She leaves behind to forever cherish her memory, daughters, Dr. Marlene Bednar, MD of Boardman, who was also her caregiver and with whom she lived and Dr. Monica Berninghaus, DDS, of Silverdale, Washington; son, Albert J. Bednar (Carol) of Boardman; grandchildren, Dr. Ashley Berninghaus, PhD (Ross) of Arvada, Colorado and Matthew Berninghaus (Amanda) of Lakewood, Colorado and other nieces and nephews and her beloved cats, Benny and Rusty.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by five brothers, Stephen, Valent,

John and Michael Tarajcak and Joseph Jacobson; three sisters, Mary Carter, Ann Anderson and Frances Loncar and leaves her last remaining sister, Eleanor Rigelsky.

Elizabeth was a member of St. Matthias Church (Our Lady of Sorrows) and was a devout Christian woman.

Submitted by Marlene Bednar

ROBERT P. KIRKPATRICK, BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

Robert P. Kirkpatrick, 80, of Saratoga Springs, NY passed peacefully at home into eternal life on December 15, 2023 following a long battle with cancer.

Bob was born on June 25, 1943 in Saratoga Springs, NY to the late Mary A. Koval Bogus. Bob grew up on the family farm, Koval Bros. Dairy in Stillwater, NY where he was raised by his grandmother, Mary Koval and his Uncle Stephen Koval. He started driving a Ford Tractor at the age of 6 and helped on the family farm until he left for college. Bob attended Bryant College, Rhode Island and finished his associates degree at Adirondack Community College. After college he worked at the family feed store, Koval Farm and Garden in Saratoga Springs as manager during the 60's. Bob married his childhood sweetheart, Betty Little Kirkpatrick in

February 1966. Shortly after marrying he went into the Air Force and was stationed at Beale Air Force Base in California, following Bob's honorable discharge from the Air Force he served as Tech Sargent in the Air National Guard for many years.

Bob and family returned to New York where he began his 50-year long career working summers at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Union 592 as a stagehand and later a rigger where he made many life-long friends. He also worked as a full-time technician at the Pepsi Arena and retired after 19.5 years, he served as Vice President and Business Agent for the arena union. He was an active member of the Saratoga Elks Club and member of Union 14, Union 52 and Union 936.

Bob is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Betty Little Kirkpatrick of Saratoga Springs; daughter Mary Theresa (Scott) Sobon, Lisa Maria (Scott) Clark and grandson, Ridge M. (Nicole) Koebbeman all of Deans Corners, Stillwater, NY.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Pezzulo and his staff and also the Hospice staff for the care they provided Bob.

Submitted by Betty Kirkpatrick

Are your FCSU Beneficiaries up to date?



Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:

1-800-533-6682

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

Rediscover Your Slovak Roots on September's Slovakia Heritage Tour



Celebrate the harvest this fall in Slovakia, and explore your ancestral land and history on the 2024 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 6-15.

From the Danube plains to the Tatra Mountains and Eastern Slovakia, you'll see Slovakia up-close and personal on this small group tour, joining with Slovaks as they celebrate age-old Wine, Harvest and Mining Festivals. Relax and enjoy local music and folk arts as we travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and small cities with well-preserved medieval buildings, Soviet-era remnants, and the vibrant life of Slovakia today.

"The Slovakia Heritage Tour is small, never more than 16 people, traveling in a small bus for flexibility, and eliminating the time demands of a large group tour. This gives people more time to explore their own interests and family roots," explains Judith Northup-Bennett who provides general Slovakia travel information. "Often cousins, siblings, and two generations travel together to reconnect with their family ties to Slovakia or solo travelers join to travel with other Slovak-Americans. At the end of the tour, after everyone has shared their family stories and Slovak-American common histories, people often feel like they been traveling with their Slovak cousins."

The tour will help you arrange personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as genealogical research to trace your family history.

For more information on this tour operated by Best Slovakia Tours and to discuss your personal family travel plans, please contact Judith Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144: slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or text 978-894-6622. For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit www.slovakiaheritage.com

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 8th, and December 6th.

Branch 746 Scholarship application deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and /or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school, and are active in Branch 746, you may be eligible for a \$1,500.00 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements, go to <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Branch 853 St Pio will hold its Semi Annual meeting on Tuesday May 7, 2024 at 11am at Armandos in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. The meeting will discuss additional activities for 2024 for the branch and the district. Branch members attending will be treated to lunch. Branch members can also attend virtually. Reservations are needed for a seating count. Please leave message at 412-341-1577 or FCSUBranch853@gmail.com.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 is offering discounted tickets to its members for the all-new Tamburitzan Performance on April 20, 2024. The show will begin at 3:00PM at the Eastlake North High School - 34041 Stevens Blvd - Eastlake, OH. The Tamburitzans are the longest-running multicultural song and dance company in the United States. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, the performers are full-time students who receive scholarships for their activities. This year, along with song and dance numbers from different countries, the Tamburitzans will

be featuring one from Slovakia!

The Group Non-Member Ticket Prices are as follows:

- Adults (age 64 and under) \$35.70
- Seniors (age 65+) \$31.45
- Students (w/valid ID) \$22.95

All tickets must be ordered through the branch. For details on the MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNT and to purchase tickets for both members and non-members, contact Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director Stephanie Sutila at 440-409-9405 or fcsu855@gmail.com by April 2, 2024. SEATING IS LIMITED - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

Submitted by Barbara Sutila, President

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Mark your calendars for Monday May 13, 2024. Branch 855 will hold a dinner meeting on May 13, 2024. Details are being finalized. Check the next issue of the Jednota or the fcsu website at fcsu.com/branches/ for updates.

Submitted by Barbara Sutila, President

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856-K will hold its first meeting of 2024 on Monday April 15, 2024 at 11:00 am. The meeting will be held at the home of Secretary Marion Mistrik at 4513 Gladwyne Drive in Bethesda, Maryland 20814. The phone number for Marion Mistrik is 301-654-5638. On the agenda will include financial report, discussion from Vice President Ray Luca on status of going to a baseball game this summer. Plans for the 59th anniversary of our Slovak chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. on September 14, 2024 at 1:00pm starting with rosary and mass at 1:30. Would like to see more of our branch member come to our meetings and the mass. For more information call Katherine at 919-651-0363.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski
President & Financial Secretary



Branch 45, NYC, Cheers on the New Jersey Devils at NHL Game

St. Matthew's Branch 45 in NYC attended an NHL game on Monday, February 12, 2024 between New Jersey Devils and Seattle Kraken at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. As wished from die-heart Devils fans, the Devils pulled off a win 3:1. It was definitely a great time at the game. On top of it all, we were able to see two Slovak professional players; Simon Nemecek from New Jersey Devils and Tomas Tatar from Seattle Kraken.

Submitted by Jozef Jurasi,
Sports Coordinator



Branch 853, Charleroi, Members Attempt to Escape

Recently members of Branch 853 enjoyed an evening of fun and camaraderie at the Charleroi 5th Street Escape Room where they attempted a heist from behind an authentic 9000lb vault door. They worked through numerous puzzles but were unable to figure the final clue. In the photo L-R Monica Boone, Susan Painter, Michael Bertovich, Charles Boone and Ronald Boone hold signs of fun-loving disgust. Better luck next time Branch 853.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President



Branch 831, Tarentum, Member Celebrates 90th Birthday

John Gulick, Branch 831, celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday, January 27th, 2024, with his family. John is a lifelong resident of the Pittsburgh area. The celebration started with mass at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Lower Burrell, PA where John has been an active member of the parish for more than 50 years. Together with his wife of 64 years Veronica, his brother Ed, and friends, John was toasted by his four daughters and his grandchildren at dinner at The Tarentum Station. He was gifted a rose bush that was specially hybridized to commemorate this milestone. The rose is registered with the American Rose Society and has been named Sonny, his childhood nickname, in his honor.

Submitted by Maureen Murphy, Branch 831



Branch 670, Donora, Murder Mystery Night Out

Branch 670 members attended a murder mystery and posed with the cast after a great night!

Submitted by Maureen Massafra,
Recording Secretary





Branch 670 Announces 2024 Scholarship

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2024 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (matinko305@comcast.net)
ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 30, 2024

Submitted by Joe Matinko, President

Branch 844 Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form

Deadline For Nomination: April 1st
-Rules and Regulations-

Purpose:

Branch 844 Los Angeles, CA, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" at their December 2023 meeting in an effort to set incentives for the contributions of youth and to enhance Slovak Heritage awareness. The contest is open to all Branch 844 Members 18 years of age and under.

Rationale:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these three areas:

1. School work and sports
2. In their community or Branch
3. In their church

Nomination:

Youth Members can be nominated by an adult Branch Member. A document detailing the qualifications of the youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Branch 844 office along with a min. 500-word essay about "Why is your Slovak heritage important to you?" A youth Member may be nominated each year up to and including their eighteenth birthday. Nomination forms are available through the Branch 844 office: slovakamericancenter@gmail.com

Deadline:

Nominations must be sent to the Branch 844 office by April 1st of each year.

Judging:

An independent judge, appointed by Branch 844 President, will review all nominations and decide the winner. Branch 844 President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

Award:

The following awards will be given out to the top three nominees: \$500 First Place, \$300 Second Place, \$100 Third Place.

The following must be signed by the nominating Member:

I wish to nominate _____ to receive the Branch 844 "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service in their school work, community, church, local Branch, and min. 500-word essay about "Why is your Slovak heritage important to you?". I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in above categories.

FCSU Member or Branch Officer

Branch #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE BRANCH 844 OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winners of the "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Branch 844 office.

BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBER SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

For the Fall 2024 start of the academic year, the St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering \$500.00 scholarships to eligible high school senior members planning to attend college or career/technical school. These will be one-time scholarships selected by an independent panel that will evaluate each application. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants.

Youth members may be eligible to qualify for a scholarship if the following requirements are met:

- You are a member in good Standing of the First Catholic Slovak Union, St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181.
- You have been a member of Branch 181 for 4 years prior to applying with a minimum \$5000 insurance policy.
- You are a high school senior preparing to graduate in 2024 and have applied for the 2024 Fall term at a qualifying Educational institution.



To obtain an application and more information, please contact Vicki Hricik by phone 724-547-0803 or email

vicki15@zoominternet.net

***Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2024 to be eligible.**

These scholarships are solely funded by your local Branch 181 and are independent of the First Catholic Slovak Union National Office



ANNOUNCING

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

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

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

For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to:
<https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

Deadline to apply:

April 30, 2024

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Prezidentka obedovala s exprezidentmi

Bratislava 20. februára (Teraz.sk/TASR) - V Prezidentskom paláci sa v utorok uskutočnil tradičný obed hlavy štátu Zuzany Čaputovej s bývalými prezidentmi SR Rudolfom Schusterom, Ivanom Gašparovičom a Andrejom Kiskom. Čaputová verí, že nová hlava štátu si túto tradíciu zachová.

"Som veľmi rada, že sa nám podarilo stretnúť. Nadviazala som tým na tradíciu, ktorú založil prezident Kiska. Je to príjemná chvíľa každý rok," povedala médiám Čaputová po skončení obeda. Dodala, že na spoločnom obede je priestor porozprávať sa nielen o aktuálnej situácii na Slovensku, ale aj o spomienkach bývalých prezidentov.

Stretnutie bolo podľa prezidentky príjemné, spolu sa aj zasmiali. "Samozrejme, je úplne prirodzené, že niekedy máme rozdielne pohľady na veci, ale v každom prípade dnes sme sa v tomto formáte my štyria stretli naposledy," skonštatovala.

Čaputová priblížila, že Schuster mal milý nápad, aby si jedálničky navzájom podpísali a každý si ho z obeda odniesol.

Menu na obede bolo sezónne z lokálnych surovín. Prezidenti si pochutili na syre, mrkvovej polievke, morčacom mäse a dezerte z hrušky. "Je to možno prešpekulovanejšia slávnostný obed, ale chute tradičné," podotkol hovorca hlavy štátu Martin Strážinec.



Pictured from right, former President Ivan Gašparovič, President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová, former Presidents Rudolf Schuster and Andrej Kiska sit at a table during a joint lunch at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Photo: TASR

The President Had Lunch with Ex-Presidents

Bratislava, February 20 (Teraz.sk/TASR) - On Tuesday, the Presidential Palace hosted a traditional lunch of the head of state Zuzana Čaputová with former presidents of the Slovak Republic Rudolf Schuster, Ivan Gašparovič and Andrej Kiska. Čaputová believes that the new head of state will keep this tradition.

"I'm very glad we managed to meet. In doing so, I continued the tradition established by President Kiska. It's a pleasant moment every year," Čaputová told the media after lunch. She added that at the lunch there is a space to talk not only about the current situation in Slovakia, but also about the memories of former presidents.

According to the president, the meeting was pleasant, they laughed together. "Of course, it's only natural that sometimes we have different perspectives on things, but in any case, today was the last time the four of us met in this format," she said.

Čaputová explained that Schuster had a nice idea for them to sign each other's menus and everyone took it from lunch.

The lunch menu was seasonal from local ingredients. The presidents enjoyed cheese, carrot soup, turkey and pear dessert. "It may be a more speculative festive lunch, but the tastes are traditional," said Martin Strážinec, spokesman for the head of state.

Za humanitárnu pomoc Ukrajine získali ocenenie tri osobnosti

Bratislava 23. februára (TASR) - Tri osobnosti si vo štvrtok (22. 2.) prevzali ocenenie za humanitárnu pomoc Ukrajine. V rámci podujatia Dva roky vojny im ocenenie v Bratislave odovzdal veľvyslanec Ukrajiny v SR Myroslav Kastran. TASR o tom informovala platforma rozvojových organizácií Ambrela, ktorá podujatie organizovala.

"V dnešnej rozpoltenej dobe plnej konfliktov je dôležité, aby sme prezentovali príklady zariadených a správne nastavených ľudí, ktorí môžu byť inšpiráciou pre druhých. Toto ocenenie je tiež prejavom vďaky za ich aktivity a nasadenie v uplynulých dvoch rokoch," vysvetlil výkonný tajomník Ambrely Daniel Kaba.

V kategórii štátna správa si ocenenie prevzal riaditeľ správy Ústredia ekumenickej pastoračnej služby v Ozbrojených silách SR a ozbrojených zboroch SR Milan Gajdoš. V kategórii mimovládna organizácia získal ocenenie koordinátor pre mimoriadne udalosti v organizácii Človek v ohrození Marián Cehelník. V kategórii biznis sektor bola ocenená Lucia Marková, ktorá pôsobí ako správkyňa Nadácie Eset a zároveň ako CSR manažérka spoločnosti.

Cieľom podujatia bolo pri príležitosti výročia dvoch rokov vojny na Ukrajine pripomenúť doterajšiu humanitárnu pomoc, ktorú jej Slovensko poskytlo. Diskutovalo sa aj o pokračovaní pomoci pri obnove Ukrajiny.

Three personalities received awards for humanitarian aid to Ukraine

Bratislava, February 23 (TASR) - Three personalities received an award for humanitarian aid to Ukraine on Thursday (22/02). As part of the Two Years of War event, the award was presented to them in Bratislava by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Slovak Republic Myroslav Kastran. TASR was informed about this by the platform of development organizations Ambrela, which organized the event.



Smoke rises after an attack by an Iranian-made Russian drone on a residential building in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro in eastern Ukraine, Friday, Feb. 23, 2024. Photo: TASR/AP

"In today's divided times full of conflicts, it is important that we present examples of passionate and well-adjusted people who can be an inspiration to others. This award is also an expression of gratitude for their activities and commitment over the past two years," explained Ambrela's Executive Secretary Daniel Kaba.

In the category of state administration, the award was received by the Director of Administration of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and the Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic, Milan Gajdoš. In the NGO category, Marián Cehelník, coordinator for emergencies in the organization People in Peril, received the award. Lucia Marková, who acts as a trustee of the ESET Foundation and also as a CSR manager of the company, was awarded in the business sector category.

On the occasion of the anniversary of two years of war in Ukraine, the aim of the event was to recall the humanitarian aid provided by Slovakia so far. The continuation of assistance for the reconstruction of Ukraine was also discussed.

ÚS SR potvrdil, že pozastavil účinnosť časti novely trestných kódexov

Košice 29. februára (TASR) - Ústavný súd (ÚS) SR potvrdil, že pozastavil účinnosť časti novely trestných kódexov. Pozastavenie sa týka všetkých schválených zmien v Trestnom zákone, zákone o trestnej zodpovednosti právnických osôb a niektorých paragrafov Trestného poriadku. Vyplýva to z rozhodnutia zo stredajšieho (28. 2.) neverejného zasadnutia pléna ÚS, o ktorom informovala hovorkyňa súdu Martina Ferencová.

ÚS zároveň prijal návrhy prezidentky SR Zuzany Čaputovej a opozičných strán na posúdenie ústavnosti novely na ďalšie konanie. Návrhom na pozastavenie účinnosti vo zvyšnej časti vrátane rušenia Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry (ÚŠP) súd nevyhovel.

Novela Trestného zákona prijatá v decembri vládou koalíciou mala nadobudnúť účinnosť 15. marca.

Pozastavenie účinnosti v prípade Trestného poriadku sa týka ustanovenia o zavedení procesného pravidla, podľa ktorého majú orgány činné v trestnom konaní a súd možnosť použiť dôkaz získaný nezákonným spôsobom v prípade, ak sa použije iba v prospech obvineného. Ďalšia pozastavená časť sa týka predĺženia lehoty na podanie dovolania v neprospech obvineného zo šiestich mesiacov na tri roky.

K uzneseniu a jeho odôvodneniu pripojili odlišné stanovisko ústavní sudcovia Peter Straka a Robert Šorl.



Pictured is the building of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in Košice on June 21, 2023. Photo: TASR

The ÚS SR confirmed that it has suspended the effectiveness of part of the amendment to the Criminal Codes

Košice, February 29 (TASR) - The Constitutional Court has confirmed that it has suspended part of the amendment to the Criminal Codes. The suspension applies to all approved changes in the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Liability of Legal Persons and certain sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This follows from the decision of Wednesday's (28.2.) closed session of the plenary of the Central Court, which was informed by court spokeswoman Martina Ferencová.

At the same time, the ÚS accepted the proposals of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová and opposition parties to assess the constitutionality of the amendment for further proceedings. Motions to suspend the remainder, including the dissolution of the Office of the Special Prosecution (SP), were not granted by the court.

An amendment to the Criminal Code adopted in December by the ruling coalition was due to enter into force on March 15.

The suspension in the case of the Code of Criminal Procedure concerns the provision establishing a procedural rule according to which the law enforcement authorities and the court have the possibility to use evidence obtained illegally if it is used only for the benefit of the accused. Another suspended part concerns the extension of the time limit for lodging an appeal against the accused from six months to three years.

The resolution and its reasoning were accompanied by a dissenting opinion by constitutional judges Peter Straka and Robert Šorl.

Insights and Viewpoints

Easter Sunday

John 20 1-9

Gospel Summary

John's gospel ends as it began, with the question: where does Jesus dwell? Immediately after his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan, Jesus noticed two of the Baptist's disciples following him. He said to them, "What are you looking for?" They replied, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus said to them, "Come, and you will see" (John 1: 38-39). Now at the end after his death and burial, Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb while it is still dark to visit this final earthly dwelling place of Jesus. Seeing that the tomb is empty, she finds Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, and says to them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb. Peter enters the tomb first and sees the burial cloths there, and the "cloth that had covered the head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place." The other disciple follows Peter into the tomb; he sees and believes. John adds that they did not yet understand the Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Life Implications

The climax of the Easter gospel and the essence of its implications for us lie in the statement "he saw and believed." Coming to believe in the Risen Lord is the purpose and the point of the entire gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (John 20: 30-31). John wants us to identify with the two disciples of John the Baptist who ask Jesus, "Where are you staying?" He also wants us to identify with the "beloved disciple" who runs to see where Jesus is so that we, like him, will see and come to believe. The end of John's gospel begins our encounter with the Risen Lord.

The "sign" that leads the beloved disciple to believe is the cloth that had covered the head of Jesus. John is the only evangelist who mentions this cloth so we know it is significant in his narrative. The disciple upon seeing it very likely connects its meaning with the head cloth that Moses put aside when he ascended to speak face to face with God (Exodus 34: 33-35). Now the beloved disciple realizes with an intuitive leap of faith that Jesus, one greater than Moses, has ascended to be face to face with God in glory. Jesus no longer dwells in a tomb; he is alive and has gone to dwell with the Father as he had promised. In the following episodes John then relates how the community of disciples comes to believe that Jesus has also kept his promise to return to be with them through the Spirit (John 14: 3-18). It is now possible through faith to dwell where Jesus dwells, in God.

Was the head cloth that the beloved disciple saw proof that Jesus rose from the dead and had ascended to the Father in glory? Of course not. However, for him it was a sign like the other signs of the gospel that could lead to belief. A sign that leads to faith or to a deeper faith in the Risen Lord is unique for each of us: the head cloth led the beloved disciple to believe, but not Peter. For one of us, it may be hearing the gospel or homily on Easter Sunday. For another it may be the experience of seeing a spring flower or listening to Mahler's "Resurrection Symphony." What is needed on our part is unconditional commitment and openness in seeking truth: "Whoever lives the truth comes to the light..." (John 3: 21).

Each of us is called to believe and to become a beloved disciple. Each of us is called to dwell where Jesus dwells and to have life in his name. For this gift of God's love, we are grateful, and in this faith, we can celebrate Easter with hope and joy.

Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B

Jednota Publication Schedule for 2024

Copy Deadline Date:	Issue Date:
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

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION Balance Sheet As Of December 31, 2023

ASSETS	
Bonds	\$482,544,392
Preferred Stock	4,250,000
Common Stock	1,936,327
Mortgage loans on real estate	43,607,119
Property Plant & Equipment	694,879
Cash	30,232,085
Certificate Loans	1,220,202
Other Invested Assets	8,383,833
Investment Income Due & Accrued	5,948,737
Uncollected premiums in course of collection	132,753
Total Assets	\$578,950,327

LIABILITIES	
Life & Annuity Reserves	486,521,400
Liability for deposit type contracts	25,085,935
Death claims payable	300,000
Provision for dividend payable	400,000
Interest maintenance reserve (IMR)	472,129
Asset valuation reserve (AVR)	4,925,917
Accrual for future convention costs	300,000
Post retirement reserve	747,306
Amounts retained as trustee	6,501,790
Other liabilities	271,121
Total Liabilities	\$525,525,599
Surplus	53,424,728
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$578,950,327

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION INCOME STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

INCOME	
Insurance & Annuity Premiums	\$86,814,655
Net Investment Income	26,274,799
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	388,242
Miscellaneous Income	3,342
Total Income	\$113,481,038
EXPENSES	
Death Benefits	2,862,089
Annuity Benefits	93,247,321
Surrender Benefits	602,139
Interest on deposit-type contracts	498,270
Increase in reserves - Life & Annuity contracts	5,707,139
Commissions paid on new contracts	1,902,638
General Insurance & fraternal expenses	4,175,113
Insurance taxes, state licenses & fees	147,750
Net Change in Pension Fund	-830,070
Total expenses	108,312,390
Net Gain from operations before dividends	5,168,648
Dividends paid to policyholders	438,772
Net Gain from operations after dividends	4,729,876
Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses)	80,267
Net Income (Loss)	4,810,143

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT	
Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, prior year	48,374,546
Net Income current year	4,810,143
Change in nonadmitted assets	-183,522
Change in unrealized capital gain (loss)	1,070,838
Change in asset valuation reserve	-653,754
Other gains & losses in surplus	6,477
Net change in capital & surplus current year	5,050,182
Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, current year	53,424,728

Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 19, 2024

VIDEOCONFERENCE

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked 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)
 Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
 (by invitation of the President) (videoconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 16, 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 Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The President and the Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee 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 third 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 December 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 December:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	287,238.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	28,909.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary stated that he is working with local TV station Fox 8 on creating commercials. He will test the commercials in the Cleveland market with a possible expansion later to other markets, including Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

The Executive Secretary stated that he is in the final stage of developing a Power-Point presentation to be used at marketing seminars at District/Branch meetings.

The President stated that our new trademark has been approved so we are in the process of creating new letterhead, business cards and advertising material.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Executive Secretary stated that beginning February 1, 2024, a new feature will become available on the member portal for members to view their Form 1099.

The President stated we have begun the process of getting licensed in 10 additional states in order to expand our marketing base. The process hopefully will be completed by mid-summer.

The President stated that the agents will now receive their commission checks 2 times a month.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi updated the Committee on the coloring contest winners that will be published in the Jednota. She stated the contest was very successful due to more age categories being available.

The Fraternal Activities Director is working on finalizing the details of the bowling tournament which will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website. She will offer door prizes during dinner. She is working on soliciting FCSU vendors for sponsorship of the tournament.

The Fraternal Activities Director stated she is looking at a possible site to hold our golf tournament. When finalized, the details will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website.

The Fraternal Activities Director stated that she has had an excellent response to the March Madness Contest.

OFFICE REMODEL:

The President stated that the Home Office renovations are going well but were delayed due to a lack of building material. The renovations are in the final stages and should be completed by mid-February.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 President

 Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 10

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

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Right at your fingertips!



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CREATE

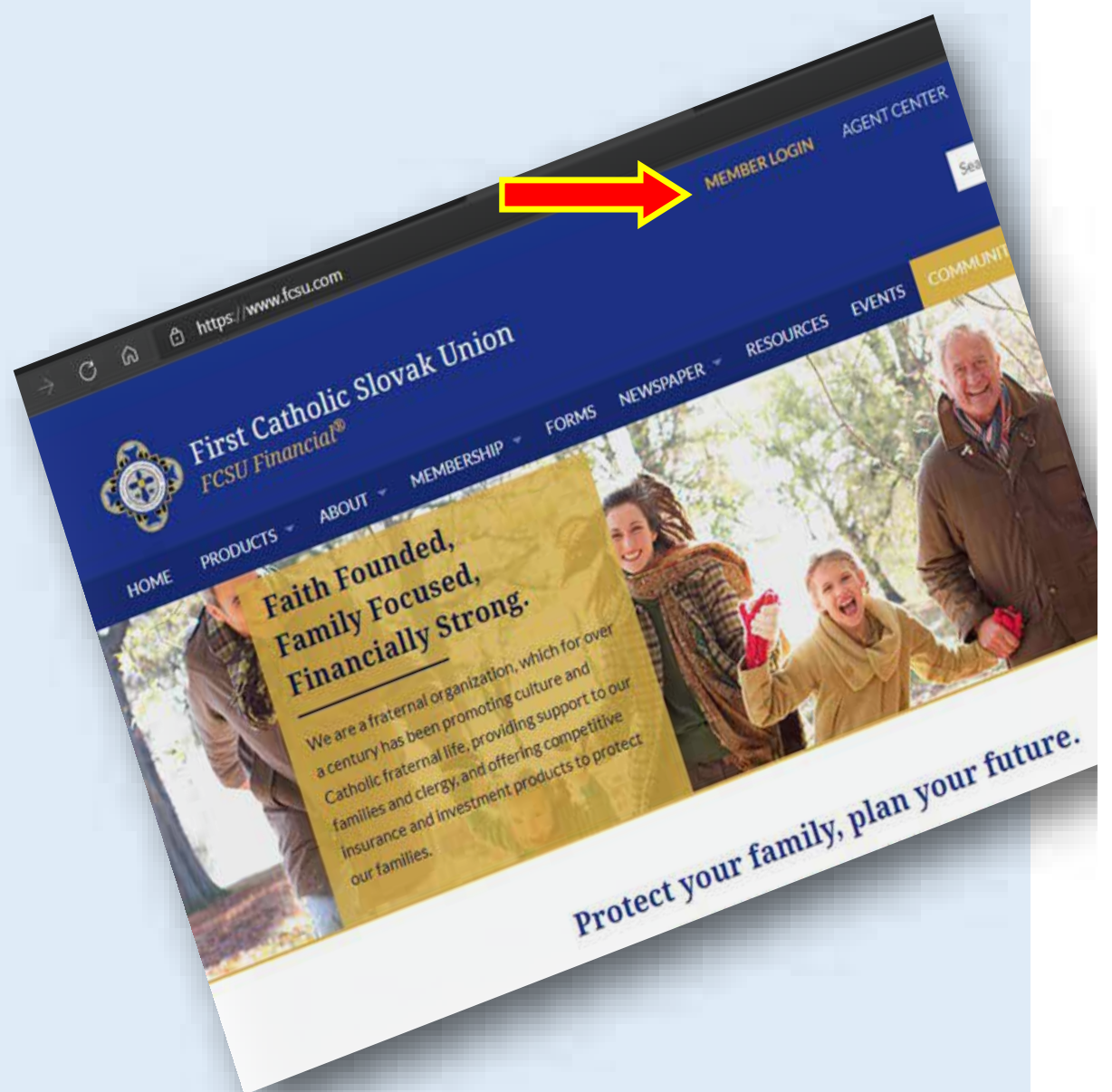
- Go to www.fcsu.com
- Click MEMBER LOGIN
- Click **Create Account**
- Enter the required information
- Create your username & password
- Click Create User

VERIFY

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

LOG IN

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- Click **MEMBER LOGIN**
- Enter your username/password
- Verify your phone number/TEXT
- View your policies



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