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Christmas SPECIAL



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Update From The President

As we prepare to celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season, I extend my heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones. Christmas is a time to embrace the traditions that connect us to our faith, our families, and our heritage. Whether it's gathering around the table for a special meal, singing beloved carols, or attending Midnight Mass, these moments remind us of the blessings of community and the joy of togetherness. In the midst of the season's busyness, I urge you to slow down and cherish time with family and friends. Let us remember the importance of living in the present, sharing kindness, and offering gratitude for the blessings we receive each day.

As we approach the end of another year, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future of our organization. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers of our branches. Your willingness to step forward and lead shows your dedication to our mission, values, and society. I encourage you to set ambitious goals and work to grow your branches in membership, participation, and impact. Seek out opportunities to engage with your communities, strengthen the bonds among your members, and carry forward the traditions that make our fraternal family so unique.

As the Christmas season approaches, many of us are searching for meaningful gifts that will make a lasting impact on our loved ones. I want to remind you about a wonderful opportunity to give a gift that grows over time—a \$100 Annuity through our Christmas Special. In a world filled with toys and gadgets that often lose their appeal after a few months, an annuity offers a different kind of value. It's a practical, forward-thinking gift that grows with your family and helps build a strong financial



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD



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

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



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

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

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Message from the National Chaplain

Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke gives a small detail about the birth of Jesus that is overlooked by many people. He tells us that after his birth, the newborn Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes. It was common practice in the day to wrap newborns with long strips of cloth to keep them warm, to protect them, and to help them sleep.

A question then comes to mind. If it was a regular practice in the day to swaddle newborns, why is Luke silent about it when in the previous chapter he describes the birth of John the Baptist?

Luke is the only gospel writer that mentions the shepherds hearing and seeing angels announce the good news of the Lord's birth and then going to see the newborn Jesus for themselves.

Shepherds would provide the lambs that were used by the priests in the Temple to offer the daily sacrifice to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses, only pure and unblemished lambs were deemed worthy to be sacrificed. To ensure their lambs would be chosen for the Temple sacrifice, shepherds would swaddle their lambs to protect them from any injury or imperfection.

The newborn Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes, is the Lamb of God who one day years later was sacrificed on the Cross for the Salvation of the World. As we celebrate his birth, we remember at the same time the reason why he was born - to bring salvation to the entire world.

God bless you and your families now and throughout the New Year. You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses. Merry Christmas!



Rev. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

SS. Cyril and Methodius December Appeal

Thank you everyone who supported the 2024 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. It is with great pleasure to announce that 195 donors gave a combined total of \$28,233 to the 2024 Appeal. Here is a breakdown of donors and the amount given:

Table with 2 columns: Donor Category and Amount. Includes Parish Collections (\$5,481.94), Slovak Fraternal Organizations (\$8,960.00), Clergy and Religious of Slovak Heritage (\$4,920.06), and Individual Donations (\$8,971.00).

A direct mailing for the 2025 Appeal will be sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Your support is needed each year because money collected in the Appeal goes to help pay for the operating costs of the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2025 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it, along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation, to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2025 will be credited toward the 2026 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

47th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Form with fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Amount \$, and Email.

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

NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES

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

ISSUE DEADLINES

JANUARY 2025 ISSUE
COPY DATE - Monday, January 6
ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, January 15
FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE
COPY DATE - Monday, February 3
ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, February 12

Executive Secretary's Christmas Greeting

Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone, we're diving headfirst into the Christmas preparations. Over the years, Christmas has evolved in so many ways. Sure, we still find ourselves scurrying from store to store in search of that perfect gift, decorating our homes, and hunting for the ideal Christmas tree. But as we've grown older and a bit wiser, the meaning of Christmas has transformed for us.

What once was filled with childhood dreams of Santa, reindeer, and endless presents has shifted. Our values have changed, and the true essence of Christmas has become clearer. We've come to understand the importance of family, friends, and, most importantly, Jesus in our hearts. That realization truly gives us the greatest gift of all.

Let's keep our hearts open to the love that this season brings. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Veselé vianoce a šťastný nový rok.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

FCSU Gift Shop Helps Raise Funds for Scholarships

Looking for a perfect gift for your family? FCSU Gift Shop is here for you to purchase hats, apparel, backpacks, water bottles and more. In the future we will be adding other specialty items. The gift shop is managed by Ten10design.

They will be handling all orders and shipment of products. Please see their contact information on the order pages if you have specific questions. All profits will benefit our Scholarship Fund! When you think of gifts, think FCSU! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the home office.



Go to www.FCSU.com - Look for the gift shop link at the top

Update From The President Continued from Page 1

foundation. Truly, it's a gift that keeps on giving. Out with toys, and in with savings—this Christmas, let's give our families the gift of a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for your continued participation in our programs and for trusting us to support your family's financial well-being.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Gift Shop! It features apparel and accessories with the FCSU Financial® logo. When you attend events, wear your new shirts with pride to promote our fraternal. All profits will be added to the FCSU Scholarship Fund.

One of my greatest joys is the opportunity to support the educational dreams of our young members. I am proud to announce that applications for the FCSU Scholarship Program are now available to students from grade school through graduate school. Last year, we awarded over \$142,000 to deserving students! Education is a cornerstone of personal and professional growth, and we are thrilled to play a role in helping our members achieve their goals. Whether you are just beginning your academic journey or pursuing an advanced degree, we encourage you to apply for this wonderful opportunity. Applying is simple, and details can be found at www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/.

I encourage parents and guardians to help younger students apply and to remind high school and college students of this valuable opportunity. Don't miss the chance to benefit from your membership.

I'd like to remind everyone to participate in our Coloring Contest. This is a fun and engaging way for members of all ages to showcase their creativity. Coloring pages can be found in our newspaper or downloaded directly from our website. We can't wait to see your submissions. We are happy to announce the winners of our Pumpkin Carving Contest! Your creativity and talent were remarkable, and it was wonderful to see the artistic spirit alive in our community. To all who participated, thank you for sharing your imagination and making this contest a success.

On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, home office staff and the board of directors, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your homes and hearts. May you find moments of reflection and gratitude for the many blessings bestowed upon us by our loving Father. And may the New Year bring renewed hope and opportunities to serve one another with love.

UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER 2024

- 12/12** Branch 410 - Meeting (Election), Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 12/9)
- 12/14** Branch 2 - Christmas Party, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 12/14** Branch 844 - Mass, San Bernardino, CA
- 12/15** Branch 35 - Zoom Meeting (Election)
- 12/15** Branch 112 - Meeting (Election), Minersville, PA (RSVP by 12/7)
- 12/15** Branch 157 - Meeting, Catasauqua, PA
- 12/15** Branch 173 - Meeting (Election), Mountain Top, PA
- 12/15** Branch 199 - Meeting (Election), Latrobe, PA
- 12/15** Branch 393 - Meeting, Greensburg, PA
- 12/15** Branch 857 - Meeting (Election), Penndel, PA
- 12/15** Slovak J Club - Vilija, Akron, OH
- 12/21** Branch 628 - Meeting (Election), Penn Hills, PA
- 12/22** Branch 157 - Meeting (Election), Catasauqua, PA
- 12/22** Branch 746 - Meeting (Election), Clark, NJ
- 12/22** Branch 756 - Meeting (Election), Owosso, MI
- 12/24** Home Office Closed for Christmas
- 12/25** Home Office Closed for Christmas
- 12/29** Branches 3P and 266 - Meeting (Election), Hazelton, PA

JANUARY 2025

- 1/1** Home Office Closed for New Years Day
- 1/5** Branch 40 - Meeting (Election), Streator, IL (RSVP)
- 1/5** Branch 55 - In-Person and Zoom Meeting (Election)
- 1/12** Branch 1 - Christmas Party, Rocky River, OH
- 1/12** Branch 785 - Meeting (Election), Mississauga, ON
- 1/12** District 19 - Meeting (Election), Mississauga, ON
- 1/19** Branch 45 - Meeting, New York, NY

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

JEDNOTA MAILING LIST UPDATES

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

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

Email any changes to editor@fcsu.com or call 800-533-6682 ext. 123.



The Home Office Will be Closed to Celebrate Christmas and New Years Day!



*Closed for Christmas
Tuesday, December 24th and
Wednesday, December 25th*



*Closed for
New Years Day
Wednesday, January 1*

December Reflection

Our Scripture-based Christmas carol, Narodil sa Kristus Pán—Christ the Lord is Born, is one of our most beloved Slovak carols. I fondly recall my mother telling me how her mother or family member would intone this hymn after Christmas Mass or the Christmas eve meal. This festive supper is significant because of its being “the generous evening” (Štedrý večer) when it is served. This meal celebration involves our preparation and reception of God’s generous Love-Gift—His Son Jesus. For me, Christmas began with this traditional meal. Following supper, carols would continue around the Christmas tree before we left for midnight Mass. How true it is that “Where there is a Slovak, there is singing,”—Kde Slovak, tam spev.

This carol reviews our salvation history with the prophetic birth of Christ. Such fulfillment brings great joy. This Gift of God’s great love—His Son Jesus, inflames our own hearts with love and generosity. God continues to be our daily source of strength and support with His Eucharistic Presence and nourishment.

Let us welcome Him daily with grateful love and trust—and receive the joy and peace which Jesus is eager to give us.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

CHRIST THE LORD IS BORN

(Poetic translation to Slovak hymn melody)

- Christ the Lord is born, rejoice,
Sing a glad song!
Rose so lovely flower’d for us.
Joyful our song!
Chorus
Born of mother’s purity,
With a King’s nobility.
Christ is born for us this day.
- Prophecies have long foretold.
Sing a glad song!
Christ will come to earth for us,
Joyful our song!
- Now we all are reassured,
Sing a glad song!
Our salvation is secured.
Joyful our song!
- Blest by God’s great gift of love,
Ours forever.
Shield us from attacks which come
From the tempter.
- Bless us Lord with your great gift,
Life eternal;
Face to face to be with You,
Joy celestial
Refrain
Guide us, Lord, along the way.
Keep us, that we may not stray,
Filled with faith, joy in Your birth.

NARODIL SA KRISTUS PÁN

- Narodil sa Kristus Pán, veselíme sa!
Z ruže kvietok skvitol nám.
Radujme sa!
Sbor
Z života čistého,
z rodu kráľovského,
Kristus Pán narodil sa.
- Prorokmi nám hlásený, veselíme sa!
Na svet nám, je poslaný.
Radujme sa!
- Človek je učinенý, veselíme sa!
By človek bol spasený. Radujme sa!
- Božia milosť nebeská buď vždy s
nami.
Daj, nech závišť diabolská nás
nemámi!
- Daj šťastlivé skončenie, Jezu Kriste!
Tys’ duše potešenie nám zaiste.
Daj nám spomôženia, zbav nás
zatratenia
Pre Tvoje narodenie.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

The Trials and Joys of the Holy Family

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

The story of the Nativity reminds us that God can bring good out of trials. For the Holy Family, the events surrounding the birth of Jesus proved to be enormously difficult. Nevertheless, these challenges ultimately brought about great joy—and this combination of trials and joy came to define their existence. They also define the existence of all who choose to follow in Christ’s footsteps.

One can only imagine the mix of emotions that must have beset Mary and Joseph when they sheltered in a stable waiting for Mary to give birth and then fled Herod’s Massacre of the Innocents – anticipation, worry, joy, fear, panic, relief. These emotions and the trials they endured made Mary and Joseph resourceful, a character trait they certainly imparted to Jesus, contributing to the fortitude He demonstrated in the most challenging moments of His life.

For the Holy Family, the joy of the Nativity and their relief in finding safety in Egypt infused their struggle with a sense of purpose by highlighting the peaceful way of life they sought together. We see this hunger for peace in all Christ taught to His disciples. In their joys and trials, the Holy Family learned to rely most fervently on one another, beginning with Jesus in the manger relying upon Mary and Joseph for protection at His most vulnerable.

Saint Josemaria Escriva said, “Every time Christmas comes around, I love to look at representations of the child Jesus. Statues and pictures which show a God who lowered Himself remind me that God is calling us. The Almighty wants us to know that He is defenseless, that He needs men’s help. From the cradle at Bethlehem, Christ tells you and me that He needs us. He urges us to live a Christian life to the full – a life of self-sacrifice, work and joy.”

The vulnerability God the Father allowed His Divine Son to experience as an infant foreshadowed the vulnerability Jesus ultimately felt called to submit to in laying His life down for us all. It was that vulnerability amid the tumult of His birth that taught the Holy Family their most important lesson, which was the necessity of relying on God and one another to survive the trials of life.

This is an important reason why the Nativity brings such peace to our hearts, because it shows us this way of mercy, where we rely on one another in a loving relationship with God to lead us to safety and happiness. This is the profound message of Christmas: that God has sent us a Savior willing to be vulnerable enough to join us in everything from trial to joy.

It is this astounding gift that gives rise to Christmas joy. G.K. Chesterton once gave an insightful explanation of the miracle at the heart of Christmas joy when he wrote, “Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.”

The trials surrounding the Nativity bring this beautiful paradox into focus, and the contemplation of this paradox can open our hearts—even the hardest of hearts—because it reminds each one of us that Christ came for us personally. At our weakest and most vulnerable moments, Christ is closest to us, wanting to join us and lift our hearts to God. So, let us take joy in the Nativity even amid our trials because God has sent us a Savior who meets us where we are and leads us to salvation.

Insights and Viewpoints

Vigil Reading, Matthew 1: 1-25

The celebration of Christmas is our celebration of God’s love for us. He humbled himself out of love for us to be born into the world as one like us in all things but sin. His birth ushered the Kingdom of God in this world, Jesus’ death and resurrection completed our redemption, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit confirmed God’s continued guidance. The genealogy with which the Gospel of Matthew begins makes clear the human lineage of Jesus. The genealogy goes from Abraham to Jesse, David to Josiah, and Jechonia to Jesus. Each name listed is identified as the son of his predecessor and then father of his successor. This ends with the last three names; “Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Jesus is the father of no one, for he is the brother of us all. The genealogy ends with all of us being united with our brother Jesus. This unites us to someone who is brother, not with an ancestor a multitude of generations from the past. This makes the love of Christ and the presence of Christ real and personal for us as we celebrate Christmas.

We celebrate Christmas with our nativity sets at home, nativity plays in our churches and parochial schools, and Christmas cards that depict the real meaning of this day. It is a holiday, or more correctly put, a Holy Day, of joy. In the midst of the busyness that has become more and more a part of Christmas it is important for us not to lose sight of what we are doing.

We might wish people, “Merry Christmas,” and put Christmas lights on our houses, but be careful not to get this holy day out of focus. Let us not trivialize the beautiful Gospels we hear on Christmas that speak to us of the birth in the little town of Bethlehem, in a manger in a stable, and the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. The accounts of shepherds, angels and magi all paint a colorful picture of this humble birth. It is not just the joy of recalling the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago, it is also the joy of celebrating Jesus’s presence with us today, it is the joy of God the Father adopting us as sons and daughters, making us brothers and sisters of his only begotten Son, and filling us with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is called Immanuel, a name that means, “God is with us.” This is in the present tense, and not God was with us, Jesus God has come into the world and into our lives. He is with us. On Christmas we celebrate this

great mystery and act of God’s love for us.

Christmas is more than a day, it begins a season for us to remember and celebrate how loved we are by God. Begin celebrating Christmas by removing anything in our lives that stands in the way of our being able to accept this love. Put aside feelings of animosity, jealousy, inadequacy, unworthiness of God’s love, and let the reality of God’s love take their place. This will hopefully lead us to rediscover that the unconditional love for us is being poured out upon everyone. We can welcome the presence of Jesus by sharing the unconditional love given to us with all those around us. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. May his light shine brightly within us, and may it shine forth from us.

Killian Loch, O.S.B.

National Vice President's Christmas Greeting

The last half of December each year always has a different feel to it. Not only is it the anticipation of Christmas, but for some, it's a time to be able to relax more due to extended time off from work or school. You still find yourself keeping busy with your list of things to do such as shopping or preparing meals or attending or hosting a holiday party.

All holidays, especially Christmas, are special times for holiday parties. They are times to show our love and appreciation for each other. Perhaps your family gathers for the annual Christmas Eve Supper or at some other time during the Christmas week. While we celebrate with our families and friends, let us also remember and pray for those who are no longer with us and for those suffering from their loss.

On behalf of my family, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Damian D. Nasta
National Vice President

National Treasurer's Christmas Greeting

I, like a lot of people, grew up watching cartoons about Christmas. Frosty The Snowman, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, and The Year Without a Santa Claus ruled the airwaves. But I'll admit my favorite Christmas cartoon was A Charlie Brown Christmas. In it, during rehearsals for their school's Christmas play, Charlie Brown wonders about the true meaning of Christmas. Linus asks for lights and then recites:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

(from Book 42, Luke (002:08-14) The Bible, King James Version)

Linus says, "That is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown". He then picks up his blanket and shuffles off-stage. I always tried to remember this. My family and I wish everyone the best for the holiday season and a prosperous New Year. Veselé vianoce a šťastný nový rok.



John V. Tokarsky
National Treasurer



Fall Festivities with the Msgr. Rura District 4 Meeting in New Jersey

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

The Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey, District 4, gathered for its bi-annual meeting and luncheon on Sunday, October 27, 2024, hosted by Branch 290 at the charming Carpaccio Ristorante in Middlesex, NJ. Attendees were treated to a delightful meal, complete with a delectable dessert, thanks to the thoughtful arrangements made by our hosts.

The meeting celebrated our successes of 2024, including highlights such as a lively NJ Devils hockey outing, District participation in the Marian Shrine pilgrimage, and an exceptionally successful summer baseball game that united over 50 members and friends. We were thrilled to welcome many young members (the youngest being less than 6 months old) alongside longstanding members whose engagement was rekindled, adding to the vibrant community spirit. Plans for 2025 were also discussed, as well as the election of officers to steer us forward.

In line with our commitment to supporting those in need, District members from Branches 290 and 746 contributed 55 pounds of non-perishable goods, collected for donation to the Somerset Food Bank, continuing our longstanding tradition of supporting local food pantries. We're also delighted to see the home office's "Fraternalism in Action" program take off and encourage all Districts and Branches to join in!

We closed the gathering with plenty of reasons to celebrate—not least, a warm congratulations to new first-time grandparents, Gary and Mary Kapitan, our District Secretary! The festivities included a 50/50 raffle, with the lucky winner, Mrs. Liliana Minarovich, generously sharing her prize with our helper, Kenneth.

Our heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected District 4 Officers. Here's to an exciting year ahead filled with community, compassion, and camaraderie!





FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

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

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

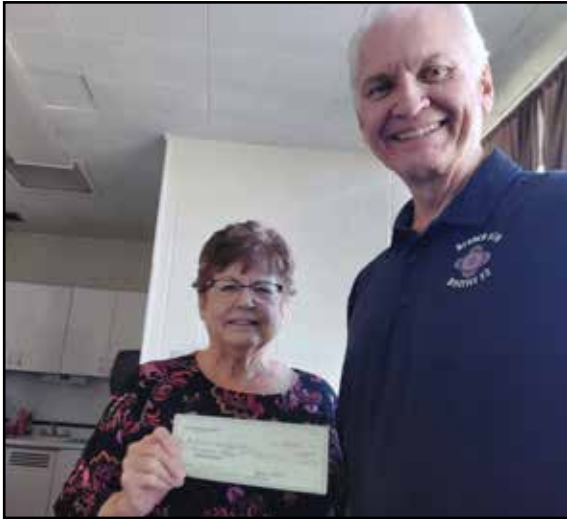
Applications available at WWW.FCSU.COM
(www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)

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

Answering THE CALL

Branch 670 Donates to Two Local Charities

On October 27th, Branch 670 held their annual meeting. Members approved making donations to two local charities, Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish Food Bank and the Mon Valley Youth and Teen Association.



President Joseph Matinko dropping off a donation to St. Andrew the Apostle Food Bank.



President Joseph Matinko dropping off a donation to Mon Valley Youth and Teen Inc.

Branch 746 Bakes for Good



Members of Branch 746 generously donated their time and talents to support the annual church fundraiser held at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. With dedication and care, they prepared traditional Slovak nut, cheese, and poppyseed rolls, a cherished part of Slovak culinary heritage and a must on a traditional Slovak Christmas table. 100% of the proceeds goes to support the Slovak church.



FRATERNALISM IN ACTION — GIVING BACK —

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

BRANCH 853 Washington Area Humane Society



Members collected a dozen blankets of all sizes, numerous towels, a dozen rolls of paper towels, toys for dogs and cats and bags and cans of dog and cat food for all ages. Everything was donated to the Washington Area Humane Society, in Eighty Four, PA. Members also supplied cleaning products. All of God’s creatures should have the opportunity to live in a clean environment. Through the Fraternalism In Action program, the home office also gave \$250. Thank you to all who helped and gave to this generous donation.

BRANCH 855 West Side Catholic Center



Members of Branch 855 held a meeting on November 30th where they participated in the FCSU Fraternalism in Action program by collecting around 300 travel size items for the West Side Catholic Center. The West Side Catholic Center provides support, clothing and food for the less fortunate in the Cleveland, OH area.

DISTRICT 4 St. John the Apostle Church Pantry



St. John the Apostle Church Pantry in Clark, NJ was a recipient of an FCSU donation as part of the Fraternalism in Action initiative launched this Fall. Pictured here Supreme Court member, Emilia Filak (Branch 746) presented the check on behalf of FCSU. The donation to the church was received with great appreciation by Rev. Gabriel Camacho. The donation was a result of Msgr. John E. Rura District 4 collection of pantry items for the October meeting.

BRANCH 24 West Side Catholic Center



Members of Branch 24 participated in an FCSU Fraternalism in Action program of travel size toiletries collection. They collaborated with Branch 855 and both branches donated everything to the West Side Catholic Center in Cleveland, OH. Cora, Henry and Eli Strekal helped organize the generous donations.

We would love to see YOUR branch and district featured here! It’s easy to do.

By sharing your Fraternalism in Action event on this page you help give other branches and districts ideas of how they, too, can contribute to the idea of helping others through fraternalism. Contact the Home Office at branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com for eligibility forms and guidelines.

Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District 12, Southwestern, PA Fall Social

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, District 12, Vice President

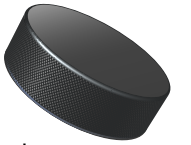
Friends and family of District 12, enjoyed a fraternal ice cream social at Bill's Golfland in Rostraver Twp, PA. "Bill's", established in 1947, is still a traditional "50s style" drive-in. Throughout the years, indoor dining, lottery machine, miniature golf, driving range, and deck hockey were added. Bill's was always a favorite for birthday parties, winning teams, and anyone sneaking a cone on the way home. Special thanks to the Bill's staff for an awesome experience (billsgolfland.com).

District 12 enjoyed delicious pears from Joseph "Sonny" Matinko's (Branch 670 President) private orchard. After brief FCSU news by Cheryl Hyatt (District 12 President) and Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 Vice President) the kids and "kids at heart" were released. They could be found across the property. The most noticeable was in a spirited game of miniature golf.

Our District event ended with a prayer for FCSU members' health and safety by Frances Tarquinio (District 12 Secretary Emeritus). We'd like to offer a special thanks to Cheryl Hyatt and Maureen Massafra (District 12 Treasurer) for organizing this successful fraternal event.



Branch 45 Attends NHL Game



Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Sports Coordinator

On Thursday, November 7, members of St. Matthew's Branch 45 attended an NHL game between the New Jersey Devils and Montreal Canadiens at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. The NJ Devils pulled off a dramatic win 5-3! The die-hard Devils fans were ecstatic! As an added bonus, we were able to watch two Slovak professional hockey players, Tomas Tatar from the New Jersey Devils and Juraj Slavkovsky from the Montreal Canadiens. Our members had a fantastic time at the game.



Pictured from left: Maria, Joseph, and Jozef Jurasi sitting and watching the game in the stands.

Branch 153 Honors FCSU Scholarship Winner



Grace Foley attended the Annual Meeting of Branch 153. Grace was recognized as the first member of the Branch to receive a Graduate School Scholarship. She received grants from Branch 153, as well as District 2. Congratulations Grace! Pictured are Grace (in the middle), her mother, Barbara and Branch President John Jurcenko.

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

FCSU HOME OFFICE
6611 ROCKSIDE RD
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, 44131
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

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

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 9:00am
Virtual Meeting

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

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Monday, December 9, 2024.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 9, 2024.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 216-642-9406 or 800-533-6682.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO



Branch 746 Fall Meet-Up

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

On Sunday, October 20th, Jednota Branch 746 held its Fall meeting in the basement of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The meeting focused on upcoming events, including plans for the branch's Christmas party, year-end donations, and activities for 2025. Gary and Mary Kapitan (Secretary) attended virtually. After a fruitful discussion members enjoyed a delicious catered meal. We were delighted to have the opportunity to personally congratulate Dr. Jason Kolesar who recently graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Charles University in Prague. Jason was a recipient of the Branch 746 Scholarship which he used for these studies.



After the meeting, members attended the wake services for our beloved Mrs. Mary Tkach (97) who passed away on October 10th. Mary continued to be active at branch activities to her last breath having recently attended the annual picnic in August. May she rest in eternal peace.



Branch members also took part in a community service effort as part of the Fraternism in Action program bringing donations of non-perishable food items for the St. John the Apostle Church food pantry.

Branch 320 Attends Wild Things Baseball Game

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320, Vice President

Friends and family of Branch 320, enjoyed a day at the ballpark cheering on the Washington Wild Things! We'd like to offer a special thanks to all involved in making this a successful fraternal event. The nights event closed with prayer from Frances Tarquinio.



Mandy Davies, Bill Bury, Anna Marie Bury, Judy Letavec, The Wild Thing, Edward Letavec, Sara Davies, Joseph Tarquinio (Vice President), Bruce Higginbotham, and Frances Tarquinio (Financial Secretary)



Brynn Beatty and The Wild Thing. Watch out GiGi Beatty, Brynn has spotted your pre-game goodies.



Bill Bury starts lunch with a blessing from Frances Tarquinio



Under Mandy Davies watchful eye, Sarah Davies says good night to the Wild Thing



Bruce Higginbotham, The Wild Thing, Sara Davies and Mandy Davies

Save the Date

Plans are underway for our 2025 National Events. Mark the dates now so you don't double book your social calendar. We'll provide more details as the dates get closer. We can't wait to see you.



April 2025

Date and Location To Be Determined



Saturday, June 21



Saturday, June 28



July 2025

Date and Location To Be Determined

Christmas Coloring Contest 2024

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

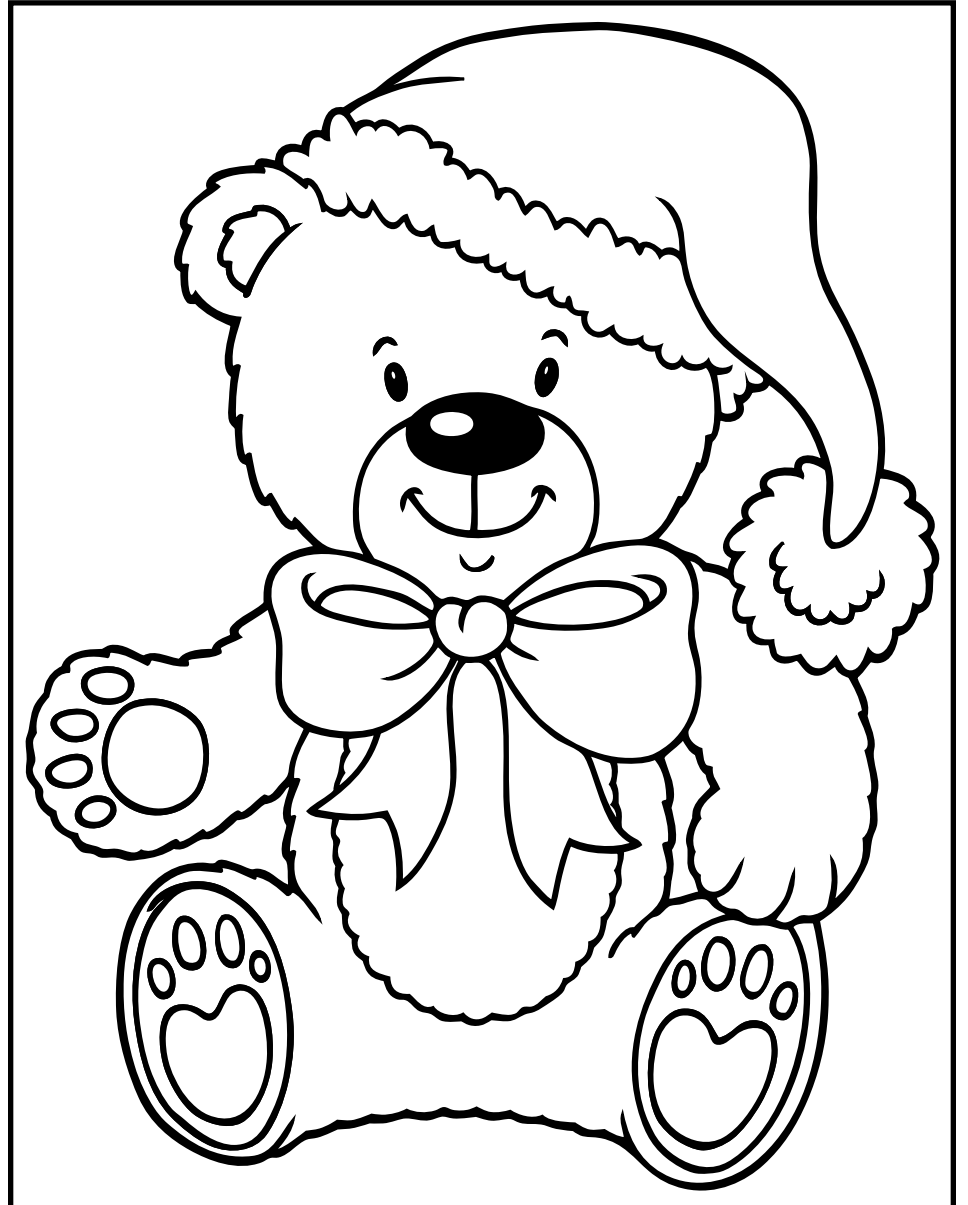
CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

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

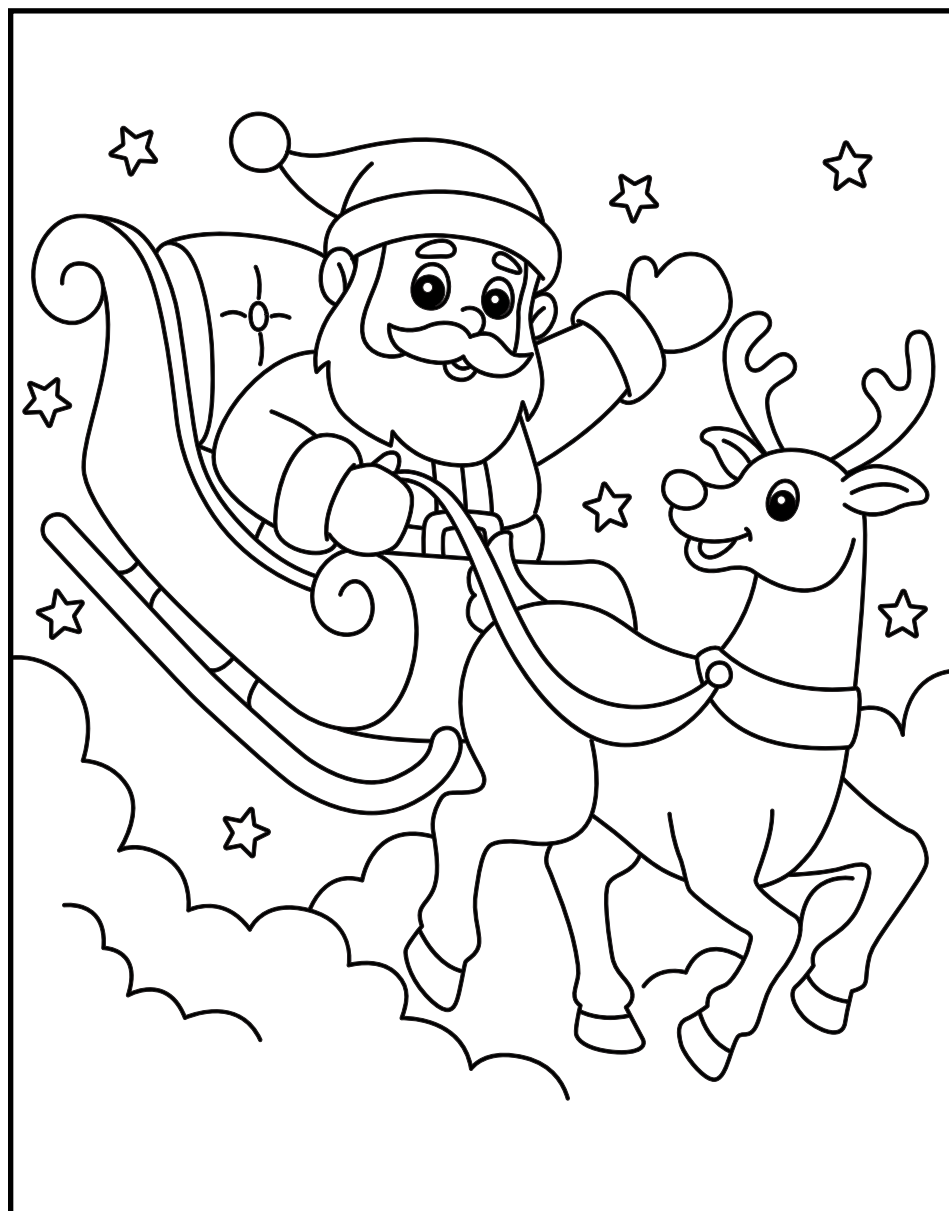
OFFICIAL RULES

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

See page 15 for the 65+ coloring image.



SANTA BEAR - AGES 4-6



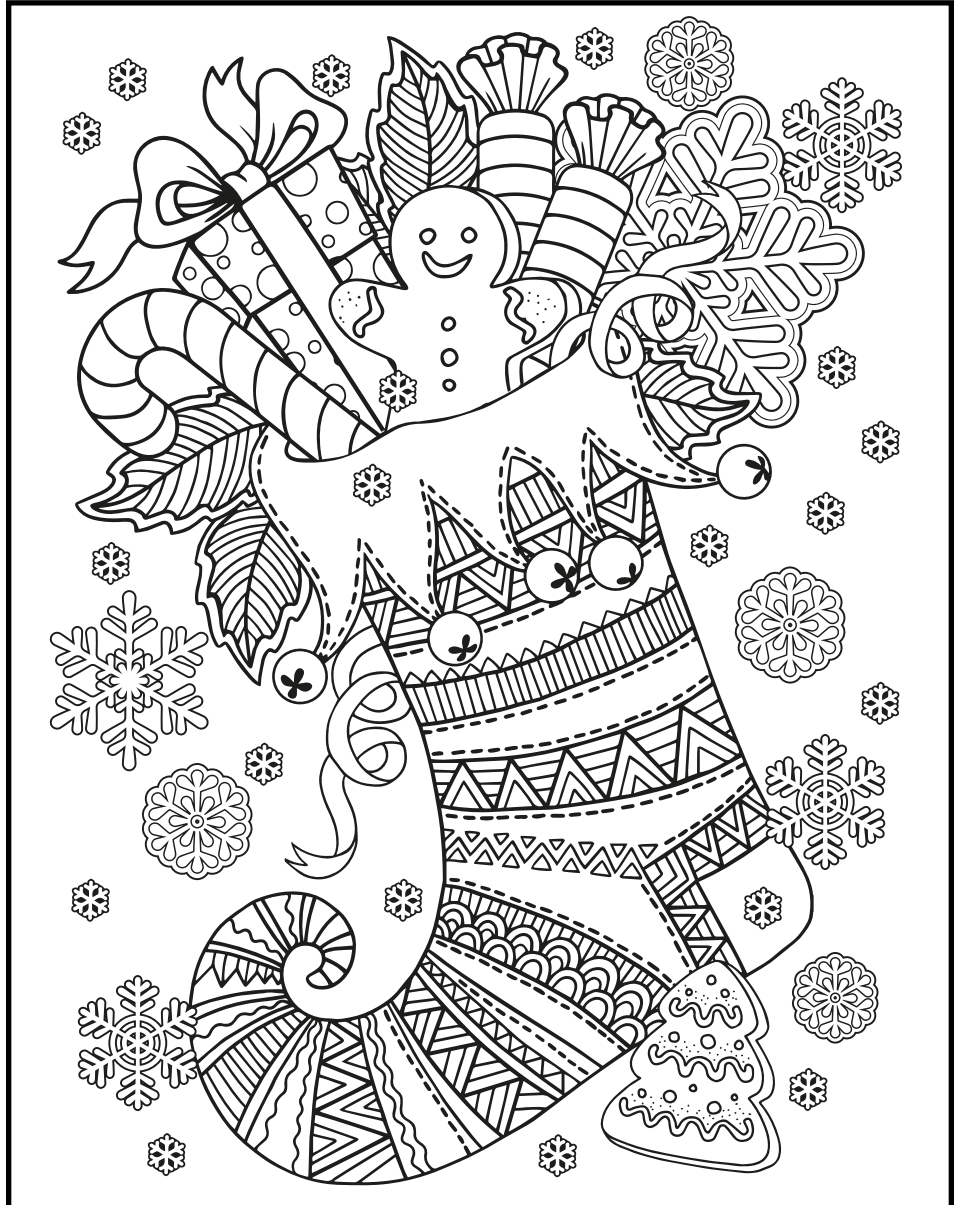
SANTA AND RUDOLPH - AGES 7-9



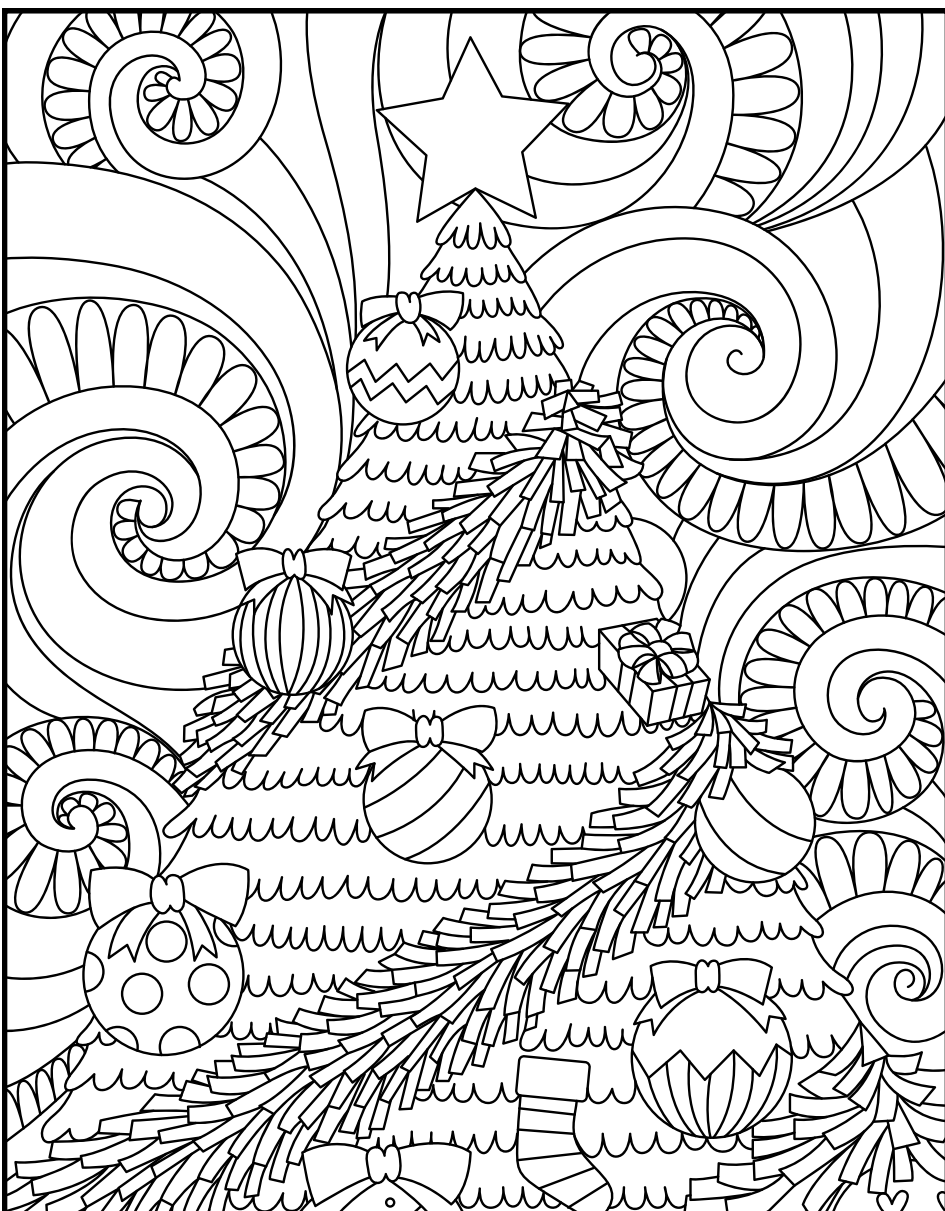
GNOME WITH GIFTS - AGES 10-12



SANTA AT WINDOW - AGES 13-17



CHRISTMAS STOCKING - AGES 18-39



CHRISTMAS TREE - AGES 40-64

2024 Coloring Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Branch #: _____ Age: _____

Please print clearly using ink. Thank you!

How to Print Extra Copies from the Website

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



ELECTION RESULTS

District 8 Election

Submitted by Helena Gaydos, Secretary

The Officers and Members of Branch 55, Philadelphia, PA proudly congratulate our Branch Vice President, Catherine (Gajdos) Litwinowicz, on her election as Vice President of FCSU Stefan Furdek District 8, at the ZOOM District Annual Meeting held on Sunday, October 20th, 2024.

Our Branch attended the ZOOM Meeting in cluster groups from widespread locations: We had our President, Erik Payne, Secretary-Treasurer, Helena Gaydos, Auditor, Laurie Payne, with members Jill Payne and Spencer Payne, together in Croydon, PA, and in Delaware, OH, was Branch Fraternal Director, Annarose Payne, with members George, Annamarie, and Justin Hardiman. Our Branch Vice President, Cathie Litwinowicz, and Delegate Anna May (Lucasko) Hilpl, attended the ZOOM Meeting from the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA, where they attended Mass. Also at the Shrine Convention Center, Cathie has a Slavic Village where she displays selections from many of her own homemade Slovak creations and Kroj Designs.



Newly Elected District 8 Vice President, Catherine Litwinowicz, and Branch 55 Delegate, Anna May Hilpl, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.

Branch 2 Officers



The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2 held their Annual meeting for Election of Officers on November 18. The officers elected are as follows:

- President..... Rudy Ondrejco
- Vice President..... Larry Kozlowski
- Financial SecretaryGeorge Lako
- Recording Secretary Linda Collins
- Treasurer Anna Mann
- Activities Director..... Greg Collins
- Auditor..... Ceil Kruly
- Auditor..... Astrid Lako

Branch 581 Officers



Branch 581 had their elections in December and voted Ann Buczek, President/Financial Secretary and Kathy Demeter, Secretary/Treasurer for the upcoming year.

District 16 Officers



Pictured from left: Jozef Korcak (Trustee), Julie Gurega (President), Maria Bozekova (Trustee), Renata Jurasiova-Vasil (Secretary /Financial Secretary) and Peter Gaspar (Vice President)

ATTENTION BRANCH OFFICERS:

The Annual Report forms will be mailed to the Recording Secretary on December 18, 2024. As per the By-laws, the Annual Report must be submitted to the Executive Secretary by **February 15, 2025**. The Report must include the completed Financial Report, Meeting Attendance Sheets from two meetings held in 2024, Meeting Minutes from 2 meetings held in 2024, and the completed Branch Officer Directory Form with the officers elected for the 2025 term. The Report can be mailed to the Home Office or emailed to kcollins@fcsu.com.

ATTENTION DISTRICT OFFICERS:

The District Allowance forms for 2024 should be mailed to the Home Office by **December 31, 2024**. The required forms include the completed Request for District Allowance, the District Financial Statement, and the 2025 FCSU District Directory with the officers elected for the 2025 term. These forms must be accompanied by the Meeting Attendance Sheets, the Meeting Minutes from the two meetings held in 2024 and the report of branches that paid their district dues for the year 2024. The forms can be mailed to the Home Office or emailed to kcollins@fcsu.com.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND COMMITMENT

District 12 Officers



On October 27, 2024, the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District held its annual meeting and elected the officers for 2025. Congratulations to all and God bless them for another successful year.

From left: John Curcio (Auditor), Michael Bertovich (Auditor), Dorothy Rudinec, (Auditor), Monica Boone (Secretary) Cheryl Hyatt (President), Maureen Massafra (Treasurer), Joseph Tarquinio (Vice President), and Nicole Hyatt (Activities Coordinator)

Branch 24 Officers



From left: John Moynihan (President), Fran Strekal (Fraternal Activities), Jenna Allen (Vice President), Anna Gibson (Secretary) and Joe Oros (Treasurer)

Not pictured: Fr. Michael Brunovsky (Chaplain), Susan Moynihan (Auditor) and Milan Vrzic (Auditor)

District 10 Meeting and Election

District 10 held a meeting on October 27th where we elected our 2025 officers. We had a fantastic turnout of officers and members of branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855. With an attendance of almost 50 people we collected over 250 pairs of socks and cold weather items for the West Side Catholic Center. It was a beautiful fall day to enjoy a delicious home cooked meal of stuffed cabbage (Barb and Ann Sutila, Branch 855), stuffed peppers (Greg Petrasek, Branch 553), homemade perogi (Justin and Fran Strekal, Branch 24) and the rest of the meal provided by our host, Branch 855. We had a great afternoon of fraternalism. Please come join us for our next meeting on April 6, 2025 at the Akron Slovak J Club. We would love to see new faces.



From left: Greg Petrasek (President), Barbara Sutila (Recording Secretary), John Moynihan (Vice President), Ann Sutila (Treasurer), Fr. Jared Orndorff (Chaplain) and Joe Oros (Auditor)

Branch 450 Officers



From left: Lori Valencik (Auditor), Margie Valencik (Vice President), George Carny (Recording Secretary), Frank Woyma (President), Janet Woyma (Treasurer) and Milan Kobulsky (Auditor)

Not pictured: George Carny (President Emeritus)

Branch 855 Officers



The officers of Branch 855 extend Christmas greetings to all the members of FCSU. May the new year bring you joy and prosperity!

From left: Ann Sutila (Treasurer), Barbara Sutila (President), Karin Scally (Vice President), Karen Habian (Recording Secretary), Stephanie Sutila (Fraternal Activities), Rev. Lukas Mitro (Chaplain), Henry Horvath (Auditor)

Branch 670 Officers



From Left Back: Larry Healey (Auditor), Kathy Jakela (Vice President), Johnny Curcio (Auditor), Joseph Matinko (President), Cheryl Hyatt (Financial Secretary)
From Left Front: Dorothy Rudenic (Auditor), Maureen Massafra (Secretary), Nicole Hyatt (Activities Director)

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

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

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PA

Branches 3P and 266 will have a combined annual meeting and Branch 266 will hold their election of officers on December 29, 2024 after the 8:00am mass in the basement of Saint Cyril & Methodius Parish at 604 N. Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA.

Submitted by **Richard Lazar**,
President

BRANCH 35 – PITTSBURGH, PA

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

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

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

Submitted by **Janet Sullivan**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, IL

St. Clement Society, Branch 40 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 5, 2025 at Chipper's Grill at 1733 N. Bloomington St. in Streator, IL at 2:00pm. All members are urged to attend the meeting. On the agenda – Election of Officers for 2025. We will

have lunch following the meeting. Please RSVP by calling 815-257-6142 (leave a message) by January 2, 2025.

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

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 1:00pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York, NY. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by **Maria Jurasi**,
Financial Secretary

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

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

Mária Jurášiová - pokladníčka

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

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

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

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

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

To join the 1:00pm ZOOM meeting:

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

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

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

Please call to make your reservation by January 27, 2025. You MUST CONFIRM by calling Branch 89 President, Mike Novak, at 414-445-5382.

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

Submitted by **Mike Novak**,
President

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PA

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

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

if you plan on attending the meeting.

Submitted by **Matthew Sterling**,
Secretary

BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1:00pm. The meeting will take place at St. Andrews Jednota at 1223 5th St. in Catasauqua, PA (corner of 5th and Grove). All members are welcome. On the agenda will be planning upcoming branch events and events happening at the home office. We will also remember the passing of our beloved father, cousin, nephew and friend, Stephen Roman. Steve was a lifetime lodge member and vice president of the branch for many years. He was the heart and soul of the lodge – if you needed to know things about the lodge or members, he was the main man to go to. We will miss him dearly. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by **Gregory Harakal**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PA

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

Submitted by **Gregory Harakal**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 173 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PA

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

Sunday, December 15, 2024: Adelina's Restaurant, 166 S Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA, starting at 1:00pm. General business and activities will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU. The Election of Officers will also take place at this meeting.

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

Submitted by **Matthew Ungvarsky**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

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

Submitted by **Barb Patula**,
Secretary

SAVE THE DATE



The Slovak Ball

15 Feb 2025 ❤️

SLOVAKAMERICANCC.ORG

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 12, 2025 at 2:00pm at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, OH. We will conduct an audit and discuss the activities for 2025. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

We extend best wishes to everyone for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Submitted by Vivian Sedlako, Secretary

BRANCH 266 – HAZLETON, PA

Branches 266 and 3P will have a combined annual meeting and Branch 266 will hold their Election of Officers on December 29, 2024 after the 8:00am mass in the basement of Saints Cyril & Methodius Parish at 604 N. Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA.

Submitted by Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

The officers of Branch 320 want to wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union be blessed with happiness and health in 2025!

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

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

Submitted by Eileen Myers, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 – W HOMESTEAD, PA

The December meeting of Branch 628 will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 3:00pm at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA. The agenda will include a summary of the year's activities and the Election of Officers for 2025.

Submitted by Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

At its November meeting, Branch 731 held its Election of Officers. The following members were elected: Irene Makovec, President; Jackie Bobby, Financial Secretary; Bridget McCarthy, Vice President; Monsignor Robert Siffrin, Chaplain; Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary; Tom Krispinsky, John Leskovyansky, and Drew Schwanitz, Auditors.

The branch also approved its

2025 Schedule of events. Mark your calendars!

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

Submitted by Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

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

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

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

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MI

The Saint Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 756, located in Owosso, MI, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at Tim Hortons at 323 W. Main St. in Owosso, MI starting at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers.

Submitted by Gary Gregoricka, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Branch 785 will hold a general meeting including Election of Officers for 2025 on Sunday, January 12, 2025. The meeting will be held at 1:30pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall located at 5255 Thornwood Dr. in

2024 Coloring Contest

Continued from page 11



3 WISE MEN & HOLY FAMILY – AGES 65+



American Slovak Club

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Every Friday All Year Long (Not Just During Lent)

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

2915 Broadway Ave, Lorain, OH

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

AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry

Mississauga, Ontario. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416- 543-4111. Wishing our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

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

Submitted by Monica Fabian, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

Please join us at the Slovak Mass and pre-Christmas gathering of Slovaks and friends of Slovakia, on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at St Anthony's Catholic Church, 1640 Western Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92411. Mass begins at 1:00pm and will be celebrated by Fr. Pavol Sochulak S.V.D., who is the parish pastor. We have the opportunity to meet again after a long time in a new environment. Please join us for a friendly meeting after the liturgy. Christmas pastries and cabbage soup will be available. All are welcome.

Submitted by Paul Skuben, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

Pridajte sa k nám na Slovenskej omši a predvianočnom stretnutí Slovákov a priateľov Slovenska v sobotu 14. decembra 2024 v Katolíckom kostole sv. Antona, 1640 Western Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92411. Omša začína o 13:00 hod. Bude celebrowať o. Pavol Sochulak S.V.D., ktorý je farárom farnosti. Máme možnosť sa po dlhom čase opäť stretnúť v novom prostredí. Pridajte sa k nám na priateľské stretnutie po liturgii. K dispozícii bude vianočné pečivo a kapustnica. Všetci sú vítaní.

Predložil Paul Skuben, predseda

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

The officers of Branch 855 would like to wish our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2025! This holiday season let's make a pledge to pay it forward. The other day I went to the drive-up ATM and a \$5.00 McDonalds card was there. What a great surprise! Do something unexpected, do something kind, and you will be part of the movement to brighten someone's day.

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 held their meeting to discuss how we could get more people to attend meetings and church services. Mr. Luca addressed going to a baseball game in Washington DC. He will check about getting tickets.

Arrangements are in the process for the 60th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Save the date September 13, 2025.

At a meeting held October 27, 2024, an election of officers took place. The same officers were re-elected except for the secretary; Marion Mistrk had to resign due to health problems. At this meeting Mr. Luca agreed to take notes. The next meeting will be held in the spring of 2025.

We thank the people who attended the celebration on September 14th for the 59th year of the chapel. After mass we were invited to the Slovak Embassy for lunch. All enjoyed the lunch and seeing the embassy for first time.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Vesele Vianoce a Statlivy Novy Rok.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

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

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

Submitted by Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary

CASINO Night

\$15 PER PERSON

January 11, 2025

6pm: Food • 7pm: Gambling

Blackjack / Roulette / Let it Ride / Craps

SLOVAK J CLUB

485 MORGAN • AKRON, OH • 330-786-9972



DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T HOLLY JR DISTRICT – PA

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

Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Monday, March 3, 2025, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

The officers of District 10 want to wish all the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. May the wonder of Christ's birth fill your home with blessings this holiday season.

Submitted by Greg Petrasek, President

DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

All members of District 10 in Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 are invited to our first meeting of the year on April 6, 2025. The meeting will take place at 2:00pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron, OH. Branch 553 has graciously decided to host this meeting. We will discuss news from the home office along with upcoming events happening in the district. Please be kind to our cooks. Text/call 440-864-4744 or email ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com with your RSVP by March 25, 2025. Look for news in the next issue to see what our Fraternalism in Action project will be!

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

District 19 will hold a general meeting including Election of Officers for 2025 on Sunday, January 12, 2025. The meeting will be held at 1:30pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall located at 5255 Thornwood Dr. in Mississauga, Ontario. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111. Wishing our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

Is Your Contact Information 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 today at 1.800.533.6682 or go to fcsu.com/update-profile

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Jednota Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Lariat
- 5 Tax pro, for short
- 8 Make invalid
- 14 Mining finds
- 15 Pierced body part
- 16 Aviator Earhart
- 17 Famous quotes name
- 19 Season
- 20 Pliable leather
- 21 Poetic adverb
- 22 As well
- 23 Granola morsel
- 24 Warmed the bench
- 27 Got mellow
- 30 Position
- 33 Man with a mission
- 35 Greek H
- 36 Confined, with "up"
- 37 To no
- 38 Commandment pronoun
- 39 Without delay
- 43 Density symbol

- 44 Pint-sized
- 45 Gambling game
- 46 Religious sch.
- 47 Loses color
- 48 Femme fatale
- 49 God offended by
- 51 Conducted
- 52 Flipper
- 53 Captain's journal
- 55 Unagi, at a sushi bar
- 56 Kitchen meas.
- 59 Shared
- 62 Apportion
- 64 Heart disease
- 65 Indochinese language
- 66 Australian export
- 67 Dutch cheese
- 68 Night spot
- 69 Card balance

Down

- 1 Justice's garb
- 2 Kind of thermometer
- 3 Fringe benefit
- 4 Superlative suffix
- 5 Chin indentation
- 6 Big East team
- 7 Appropriate
- 8 Slangy turndown
- 9 Radiate
- 10 Salami choice
- 11 Wholly
- 12 Windsor, for one
- 13 Musical aptitude
- 18 Mutual fund fee
- 23 Four-letter word
- 24 Enjoyed
- 25 Conforms
- 26 Chamber group, maybe
- 28 Odorless gas
- 29 Buckeye State city

- 30 Meager
- 31 Tie up
- 32 Study of insects
- 33 Jailbird's hope
- 34 North Pole toymaker
- 40 Clairvoyant's gift
- 41 Pigeon pea
- 42 Similar
- 48 Launch site
- 50 Dependable
- 52 Crook
- 54 Kind of therapy
- 55 Panache
- 56 Package wrapper
- 57 Pierce
- 58 Trapper's prize
- 59 Sidekick
- 60 Indivisible
- 61 One of Alcott's "Little Men"
- 62 Actress MacGraw
- 63 Trawler's catch

Answers can be found on Page 23

Jednota members attend gala evening at Slovak church in New York City

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

The holiday season in New York and New Jersey is always a bustling and joyful time, marked by events that celebrate Slovak culture and community. Members of Branches 45, 716, and 746 recently gathered for a special fundraiser held at St. John Nepomucene in New York City, which featured remarkable guest performers from Slovakia.

The evening included a breathtaking performance by Ondrej Kandráč, a celebrated Slovak musician, joined by his mother and daughter. Their heartfelt duets captured the emotional depth of Slovak musical traditions, enchanting the audience. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the Vagónar Folk Ensemble delivered vibrant and dynamic folk dance performances. With roots tracing back decades, Vagónar has a rich history of preserving and promoting Slovak folklore through their spirited choreography and traditional costumes, earning them admiration both at home and abroad.

Together, these incredible performances created an unforgettable evening that beautifully combined cultural celebration with community generosity, all in support of a meaningful cause.



In attendance were James Stevko, Ondrej Kandráč (special guest performer), Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados (Branch 746), Daniel Pulver, Milada Kurucova (Branch 746), Tanya Pulver (Branch 716), and from Branch 45 - District 16 President Julie Ann Gurega Koval, Federik Koval, and Marcus Gurega. Though not pictured Eva Lysakova (Branch 716 President), Simona Lysakova, and Emily Lysakova (Branch 716 Secretary) were working behind the scenes.

District 16 Gobbles Turkey

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

Msgr Stephen Krasual District held a turkey lunch after the Slovak mass on Sunday, November 24th. The meal was voluntarily prepared by Peter Gaspar and his team for the members and guests from Branch 45 and Branch 716. All the attendees were grateful for the delicious meal and had a wonderful time.



Chef Peter Gaspar and Maria Bozekova



Magda Vancova, Helena Nigrovic and Peter Gaspar



Eva Lysakova, Magda Vancova, Vladimir Nigrovic, Peter Gaspar, Maria Bozekova, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic and Anton Kucharovic.

SPOOKTACULAR WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest!



SCARY
Ages 8-12
Anthony Matinko
Branch 670



ARTISTIC
Ages 8-12
Gertrude Surovy
Branch 1



ARTISTIC
Ages 13-19
Maya Pluto
Branch 173



SCARY
Ages 35-54
Claudine Huie
Branch 746



REALISTIC
Ages 35-54
Elaine Koller
Branch 410



ARTISTIC
Ages 55+
Gloria Nace
Branch 5

In order to be judged, there had to be more than 2 entries per category. Several categories did not qualify. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Rest in Peace Our Departed Members



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

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

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
002K	John P. Miller	166K	Michael J. Harendza	294K	Joseph A. Lorince	636K	John Gercak
003P	Dorothy Smith	166K	William Wallick	313K	Virginia H. Pastorelli	670K	Valerie J. Harding
005P	Charlotte M. Paluck	173K	Elizabeth Ungvarsky	315K	Elizabeth A. Jozefov	716K	Charles Putos Jr.
005P	Nicole Lee Travers	181K	Alice A. Kapura	315K	John Jozefov	716K	Helen M. Grena-Krenicki
006K	Gary J. Kelly	181K	Joseph J. Lawrence	320K	Charles Stofan	716K	Mary T. Grena
006K	Sally A. Scarbeary Roach	181K	Mary Jane Yarabinez	333K	Anna M. Petkac	743K	George A Bires
038K	Raymond Kondas	199K	Edmund Feret	417K	Tina Marie Joyce	746K	Mary Tkach
040K	Marcelline T. Pshak	199K	Joann E. Santavy	419K	Helen M. Miller	780K	Catherine Anne Karlsen
040K	Margaret Kmetz	199K	Susan Butina	450K	John Hudak	855K	David Habian
055K	Francis Gorski	200K	Dorothy Ann Vojna	484K	Dolores Buydos Sarisky	890K	Lillian R. Chistolini
083K	Anthony G. Matejcek	228K	Lawrence R. Sidlovsky	553K	Sandra A. Williams	926K	Larry E. Kirchman
089K	Jonathan James Drought	254K	Mary Ann Lennex	581K	James Vargo	927K	Nancy Bachleda Verrillo
102K	Marie Eileen Knapp	259K	Erik C. Durbin	587K	Lisa Ann Cox		
157K	Elizabeth Curvey	266K	George A. Lazar	595K	Sandra Lee McCarthy		
166K	Darlene M. Burns	293K	Rosalie A. German	633K	Paul Papes		

* Processed in the month of November 2024

OBITUARIES – NEKROLOGY

Catherine Karlsen Branch 780 Saginaw, MI



Catherine Anne Karlsen, 68, of Saginaw, MI, our sweet, caring, kind, quiet, and selfless sister, aunt, and friend was born into eternal life on Monday, September 16, 2024, at the Toni & Trish House. Cathy was born in Saginaw on November 4, 1955, to her late parents George and Josephine (Sapak) Karlsen. Raised in Saginaw, she attended St. Stephen Catholic High School, graduating in 1974. She furthered her education at Delta College, achieving an Associates Degree in Computer Programming.

During her distinguished career, Cathy worked at the United States Postal Service as a letter sorter, where she spent many years before her well-deserved retirement. Post-retirement, she continued her caring nature by working as a caretaker for numerous individuals. She found solace and purpose in her faith as an active parishioner at Christ the Good Shepherd, contributing her time as an usher, Eucharistic minister, and other duties. Catherine was a devoted member of Branch 780 where she held leadership roles as President and Financial Secretary.

Cathy married the love of her life, Leroy Howard Miller on May 12, 2012, until his passing on October 11, 2017. She found joy in the simple pleasures of life, enjoying activities such as crocheting, baking, cooking, bird watching, and spending cherished moments with her family. Cathy's love extended to her beloved cats, providing them with a warm and loving home.

Cathy is survived by her brothers and sisters, Joseph Karlsen, Stephen (Holly C.) Karlsen, Anita (Floyd) Seibert, and Marie (Daniel) Andrews; nieces, Amanda (Don Roy IV) Schell and Ashley (Eric Friday) Karlsen; several great-nieces, nephews and friends.

Stephen Roman Branch 157 Catasauqua, PA



Stephen A. (Sonny) Roman, Jr., 86 of Egypt-Whitehall, PA, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, October 5, 2024, with his family by his side.

Born January 25, 1938, in Egypt, PA, he was the son of the late Stephen A. Roman, Sr. and the late Mary (Harakal) Roman. He was married to his sweetheart, the late Phyllis S. (Piervallo) for 60 years.

Stephen was a 1955 graduate of Central Catholic High School, Allentown, PA and studied engineering at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. Stephen began a career in the clothing manufacturing trade at Samette Mfg. From 1963-1983 he was the general manager for seven clothing factories including Liberty Knitwear, Keystone Dress and R&F Dress. His next accomplishment was Owner/Operator of Rost Industries, Northampton, PA. After retiring from the garment industry, he continued to work as a consultant for L&P Machine Shop and D&R Precision, both of Allentown, PA.

Stephen was a long-time member of St. John Fisher R. C. Church (formerly St. Andrew's R. C. Church) Catasauqua, PA. He was the first Lector ever in this church and was involved in many activities including the Holy Name Society, Men's Choir, and was instrumental in organizing

improvements for the church. He was also active with Boy Scout Troop #118 (Catasauqua) and Troop #18 (Egypt) and served on the Minsi Trails Eagle Scout Board of Review.

He cherished his Slovak heritage. To preserve and share it, Stephen was actively involved for many years in the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol fraternal organizations as an officer holding many positions in both. Over the years, he vigorously promoted their athletic Slet competitions.

He was a founding member and officer of the Sewing Machinist Association and belonged to the Atlantic Apparel Contractor's Association.

He loved boating on the Chesapeake Bay and Lake Wallenpaupack with family and friends, motorcycling, driving nice cars, and listening to all kinds of music, especially polkas and organ music. He selflessly shared his extensive mechanical and trades knowledge with anyone, especially his children and grandchildren.

Surviving are sons: Stephen A. III (Christine), Christopher (Tracey), Theodore (Kathleen), Nicholas (Janette) and Dominic (Lori). Daughters: Anna Marie (Jim), Phyllis Ann (Barry) and Celeste (Todd S). Brothers: Michael (Lucretia), Richard (Patricia), Emery, Vincent (Joyce). Sisters: Monica (Anthony) and Mary Ann (Robert), 12 grandchildren, 6 step grandchildren, 3 great grandsons. He was predeceased by his brother, John.

Dolores "Dee" Sarisky Branch 484 Coral, PA



On July 27, 2024 Dolores Sarisky, loving mother,

grandmother and great grandmother passed away peacefully at the age of 94. She was preceded in death by husband Emanuel (Emil) Sarisky who died in 1988. She was the last of 8 siblings.

She was devoted to her family and is survived by son Gerry Sarisky (Robin), daughter Amy Berezein (Michael), grandchildren Kenny and Amanda, and great-grandchildren Kylie, Derek, Orion and Halley. Her family enjoyed many fun times together, Dee's home cooking and her famous Christmas cookies.

Dee was born in a small coal mining town in Pennsylvania and after moving to New Jersey, met her husband Emil. She resided in Fair Lawn, NJ for over 50 years. She worked as a Bell Phone Operator and retired from AT&T after 31 years.

Dee enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii and the Vatican. As a 70th birthday gift, Dee and her daughter traveled to Prague, Vienna, Salzburg and Budapest.

Dee moved to Atlantic City permanently in 2011 and loved living at the Ocean Club, spending mornings on her balcony, people watching on the boardwalk and playing the slots. She also loved watching sports: baseball, football, golf and tennis.

Dee could always be seen having fun with friends at Ocean Club parties, playing cards, canasta, bingo and shell painting. She was crocheted many afghans over the years for family, friends and for charity. She also enjoyed many crafts including plastic needlepoint and counted cross stitch.

A devout Catholic, Dee was a parishioner at Our Lady of the Seas Church. She prayed her rosary daily and had a special relationship with St. Anthony when she needed help finding something.

OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

Her smile and fun spirit will surely be missed by her family, friends and the Ocean Club Community.

Mary Tkach Branch 746 Linden, NJ

Mary Tkach, 97, formerly of Linden, NJ, entered eternal rest on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Mary was laid to rest at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia, NJ.

Mary was born to Jan and Suzanna (Kokos) Kocis in Lastomir, Slovakia, and came to the U.S. in 1946, settling in Linden, NJ, where she lived for 75 years before moving to East Brunswick three years ago.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mary's family and Slovak community were central to her life. She was unwaveringly patient and dedicated, always placing her loved ones' needs above her own. Known for her kind and selfless nature, Mary was a beloved member of the Slovak community. Her dedication to Jednota First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 746 was exemplary, as she volunteered at and attended countless fundraisers, events, and dances (Jednota zabavas). She was also a staple at the FCSU conventions. Just this past August, she joined her fellow Jednota members for



the Region 1 annual picnic.

Mary's love for baking was a cherished part of her life. She volunteered her talents at her church's annual fundraiser, baking traditional Slovak treats, including poppyseed, nut, and cheese rolls. Her gentle patience shone through as she taught the younger generation how to roll and fill the dough just right, sharing her skills with warmth and encouragement. Her dedication to this event raised vital funds for her church and brought together generations, eager to learn her cherished recipes and techniques.

A devout member of the Holy Family Rosary Altar Society and Senior Citizen's Club in Linden, Mary's faith was a guiding light throughout her life. She loved making crafts, sewing, baking, gardening, cooking, and solving word search puzzles, but most of all, she treasured time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whose lives she filled with endless love, guidance, and affection.

Mary was predeceased by her beloved husband, John Tkach, on February 14, 1992, and her two siblings. She is survived by her three loving children, John E. Tkach (Ajsa), Leonard M. Tkach (Claire), and Mary Ann Ranahan (Timothy); her seven cherished grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; her niece, Anna Kucakova; and her nephew, Emil Makovsky.

Slovak Community Mourns the Loss of Daniel Tanzone

A native of Yonkers, NY, Daniel F. Tanzone was born there April 1, 1947 son of the late Daniel J. Tanzone and the former Mary R. Yancus. His paternal grandparents were natives of the village of San Feli in the Calabria region of southern Italy, while his maternal grandparents John and Elizabeth Yurco Yancus were born in the village of Fricovce in eastern Slovakia. His Slovak grandparents immigrated to the United States in June 1895 and settled in Yonkers, where they were among the founders of the former Most Holy Trinity Slovak Parish and were the 10th marriage solemnized in the new parish on July 6, 1895.



Dan graduated from the former Most Holy Trinity School where his teachers were the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. He was a 1965 graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English at Holy Apostles Seminary College in Cromwell, CT. In 1971, he pursued graduate studies at Fairfield University, and St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL.

He has been active in the Slovak Catholic Sokol since 1964. He was elected as a member of the Physical Fitness Board of Group 1 in 1968. He began serving as an officer of assembly 219 in Yonkers while in his early 20's. He currently served as president of this assembly. He was elected a Supreme Auditor of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in 1975. He began serving as the assistant to editor John C. Sciranka, his longtime mentor and inspiration, in March 1979. Following the death of Brother Sciranka in October 1980 he assumed the position of editor of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. He served in this capacity for 37 years retiring in 2017. As a representative of the Sokol, he has served as president of both the New York and the New England Fraternal Alliance. The 32nd quadrennial convention elected him as an Honorary Supreme Officer.

He has been active in the work of the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural organization of Americans of Slovak ancestry. In 1976, he served on the editorial board of the Slovak League which published the book, "Slovaks in America, A Bicentennial study." That same year he penned the book "Slovaks of Yonkers, New York." He was first elected as national president in 1985 and served until 1993. He was again elected president in 2006. He also served as a member of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, an organization which promotes and coordinates activities among Slovak Catholic fraternal societies and parishes in the United States. He is a past president of the organization's Eastern region.

He was active at the former Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers until its closing in 2015. There, he was a former parish trustee and president of the parish council. A committed fraternalist, he also enjoyed membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

Over the years, he has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. In 1980, he was honored for his work by the New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. In 1995, he received the Presidential Gold Medal of Slovakia's first president, Michael Kovach during his U.S. visit. In 1996, Pope St. John Paul II at the recommendation of the Slovak Catholic Federation awarded Dan the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal" – For the Church and the Pontiff, for his activities in various church related causes. In 1999, the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius of Danville, PA presented him with the Saints Cyril and Methodius award for Evangelization and Inculturation of Peoples. That same year, he was awarded the Man of the Year of the Polaski Police Association of Westchester County. In 2005, he was solemnly invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York by the Archbishop of New York, Edward Cardinal Egan.

Civically, Dan served on a number of city and county boards. In 1974, he was named a member of the Yonkers Youth Advisory Council. In 1975 he was named to the Westchester County board. On two occasions, he served on the Mayor's Blue-Ribbon Panel in Yonkers, a screening panel for candidates being considered for membership on the city's Board of Education. For eight years, 1986 – 1994, he served on the Yonkers Civil Service Commission.

As a journalist, Dan contributed numerous articles over the years to a variety of publications. He served on the editorial board of "Slovakia" a scholarly journal published by the Slovak League. He has been an officer of the Slovaks Newspapermen's Association of America for many years. Over the years, he has enjoyed extensive travel to Europe and in particular to Slovakia and Italy. Throughout his life he has been an avid student of history. He also enjoyed membership in the Yonkers Historical Society.



Chewy's Corner

Hi friends, it's Chewy! Can you believe it is December? The year has gone by so fast. It's almost time for a long break from school. Don't forget everything you have learned so far!

This is my favorite season because my family is getting ready for Christmas. I like listening to holiday music (hudba) and riding around looking at lights (svetlá). What are some of your favorite things to do? We have already decorated our tree (Vianočný stromček), made cookies, wrapped presents (darčeky), and visited Santa Claus (Dedo Mráz).

Did you know that in Slovakia, the one who delivers gifts to children on Christmas is Baby Jesus, not Santa Claus? Instead, on December 6th, children celebrate St. Nicholas' Day (Svatý Mikuláš), when they receive gifts from St. Nicholas, the Devil, and an Angel. St. Nicholas visits children and gives gifts to those who have behaved well. Children clean their shoes (topánky) and leave them on the windowsill in the evening, expecting to find a surprise in the morning. The Devil (Čert) visits children who have behaved badly and gives them a rotten potato instead of gifts. The Angel (Anjel) visits children who have behaved well and gives them gifts like fruit, candy, or a small toy.

This is another holiday with great food! My family enjoys a Vilija, the Christmas Eve gathering and dinner with traditional foods, and religious symbolism. Have you tried Slovakian food? I've tried oplátky, bobalky, and nut rolls! My friend, Fran Strekal gave me some pirohy. I liked them so much I asked for the recipe. She shared it with everyone on page 20. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. I'll talk to you next year!

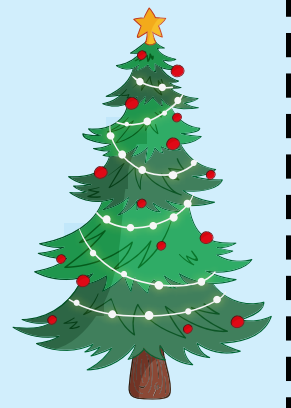
Your friend, Chewy (ČUVAČ)

FCSU Search-A-Word

DECEMBER Word List

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

- CHRISTMAS**
- VIRGIN MARY**
- STOCKINGS**
- MISTLETOE**
- REINDEER**
- NATIVITY**
- RADOŠŤ (Joy)**
- ZIMA (Winter)**
- HVIEZDA (Star)**
- JEŽIŠKO (Jesus)**
- KOLEDY (Carols)**
- ZVONČEKY (Bells)**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

Search-A-Word Rules

Five monthly winners will receive \$50!

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

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

December entries must be received by January 30, 2025.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

October Puzzle Winners

- Donna Addis (Branch 173)
- Paul Chismar (Branch 6)
- Kathleen Garwood (Branch 857)
- Sheryl Petrasko (Branch 553)
- Catherine Dubber (Branch 1)

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

FRANtastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL



PIROHY RECIPE

DOUGH

- 2.5 cups of flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 whole egg and 1 egg yolk (save the white for later)
- A pinch of salt

FILLING

- 5-6 (2.5lbs) medium/large potatoes peeled and quartered
- 2 ounces cream cheese
- 4 Tbsp melted butter
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 pinch of salt

Boil the potatoes until tender. Drain. Mash in all the ingredients for the filling and set aside to cool.

In a stand mixer, using the dough hook, add the dough ingredients and mix for approximately 5 minutes. If you don't have a stand mixer, knead all ingredients together and cover with a damp paper towel or damp tea towel for 10 minutes.

With a cookie scoop or tablespoon, spoon out your potato filling onto a plate to let cool. Roll out your dough and use a cup to cut circles. Stretch the dough slightly, fill with 1 - 1.5 tablespoon of filling. Brush with egg white and pinch closed.

Boil a dozen at a time for 3 minutes. Remove and let rest. Brush with melted butter or olive oil. Sautee with onions and enjoy!

Yields approx. 3 dozen depending on how thick/big you roll the dough.

Home Office Staff Attends Deck the Halls

Shannon Travise, Editor

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is a historic home in Akron, OH. It was the home of F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. The estate celebrates the holiday season with their Deck the Halls event where the home is beautifully decorated inside and out. Shannon Travise has volunteered her time for the past 5 years as a room designer. This year, her room's theme is "Nutcracker Suite". Some home office staff joined her on opening night.



From left: Fran Strekal (Branch 24), Ashley Saulic (Branch 553), Pam Kelly (Branch 855), Shannon Travise (Branch 855) and Sheri Reder (Branch 855)

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

The Slovak Jazz Society awarded the New Faces of Slovak Jazz 2024



Bratislava, November 27 (TASR) - In recent days, the Slovak Jazz Society organized the 38th edition of the competition called New Faces of Slovak Jazz 2024 in Bratislava's Klub pod lampou. Eugen Vizváry and Ondrej Juraši judged four groups that advanced to the finals out of a total of ten registered groups. PR manager Katarína Ovseníková informed TASR.

The four finalists were The HiFiVe (Košice), Lawn Dogs (Lučenec), Jakub Turác Trio (Banská Bystrica) and Alen Petráš Trio (Bratislava).

The SOZA awards were won by the Alen Petráš Trio for the presentation of their own work, The HiFiVe also for the presentation of their own work and the Lawn Dogs for their original compositions.

The Music Foundation awards went to Jakub Turác (drums) for a convincing instrumental performance, the Jakub Turác Trio for a convincing collective performance and the Lawn Dogs for a convincing collective performance.

Slovenská jazzová spoločnosť ocenila Nové tváre slovenského jazzu 2024

Bratislava 27. novembra (TASR) - Slovenská jazzová spoločnosť usporiadala v bratislavskom Klube pod lampou v uplynulých dňoch už 38. ročník súťažnej prehliadky s názvom Nové tváre slovenského jazzu 2024. Odborná porota pod vedením Matúša Jakabčica v zložení Peter Lipa, Juraj Griglák, Štefan Bugala, Eugen Vizváry a Ondrej Juraši posudzovala štyri skupiny, ktoré postúpili do finále z celkovo desiatich prihlásených skupín. TASR informovala PR manažérka Katarína Ovseníková.

Štvoricu finalistov tvorili formácie The HiFiVe (Košice), Lawn Dogs (Lučenec), Jakub Turác Trio (Banská Bystrica) a Alen Petráš Trio (Bratislava).

Ceny SOZA získali Alen Petráš Trio za prezentáciu vlastnej tvorby, The HiFiVe rovnako za prezentáciu vlastnej tvorby a Lawn Dogs za originálne kompozície.

Ceny Hudobného fondu získali Jakub Turác (bicie) za presvedčivý inštrumentálny výkon, Jakub Turác Trio za presvedčivý kolektívny výkon a Lawn Dogs rovnako za presvedčivý kolektívny výkon.

The Department of Education introduces standards for the prohibition of segregation in education

Bratislava, November 27 (TASR) - The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth (MŠVV) of the Slovak Republic is introducing standards for the prohibition of segregation in education, which support equal opportunities and fair conditions for all pupils. Schools and school facilities should include them in their school regulations by the end of February 2025. TASR was informed about this by the department of communication and marketing of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

After the school regulations have been updated with the aforementioned standards issued by the department, they are then obliged to develop a plan for their application and proceed according to the individual standards by the end of September next year.

The department specified that the standards define basic ethical and human rights principles that support a fair educational environment. They are to provide schools with effective tools for detecting, preventing and dealing with cases of segregation. They determine, for example, organizational and managerial rules of behavior and action for schools and all actors of the educational process.

"Inclusive education is about the vision of the school as a place where every child has a chance to succeed, to learn respect, cooperation and tolerance. By introducing standards for the prohibition of segregation, we are moving Slovak education closer to this goal and providing schools with tools that will help them create a fair environment for all pupils," said Minister of Education Tomáš Drucker (Hlas-SD).

The Department reminds that this step is based on an amendment to the Education Act, and the topic of desegregation in education is also part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic. It is a commitment to take active steps towards the prevention and elimination of deficiencies if the risk of segregation or a segregation situation is proven.

MŠVV adds that the condition of applying the standards in all schools does not automatically imply the assumption that segregation occurs in all schools in Slovakia.

Rezort školstva zavádza štandardy zákazu segregácie vo vzdelávaní

Bratislava 27. novembra (TASR) - Ministerstvo školstva, výskumu, vývoja a mládeže (MŠVV) SR zavádza štandardy zákazu segregácie vo výchove a vzdelávaní, ktoré podporujú rovnosť šancí a spravodlivé podmienky pre všetkých žiakov. Školy a školské zariadenia ich majú do svojich školských poriadkov začleniť do konca februára 2025. TASR o tom informoval odbor komunikácie a marketingu MŠVV.

Po aktualizácii školských poriadkov o uvedené štandardy, ktoré rezort vydal, majú následne do konca septembra budúceho roka povinnosť vypracovať plán ich uplatňovania a podľa jednotlivých štandardov aj postupovať.

Rezort spresnil, že štandardy definujú základné etické a ľudskoprávne princípy, ktoré podporujú spravodlivé vzdelávacie prostredie. Školám majú poskytnúť účinné nástroje na odhaľovanie, prevenciu a riešenie prípadov segregácie. Určujú napríklad organizačné a manažérske pravidlá správania a konania pre školy a všetkých aktérov výchovno-vzdelávacieho procesu.

"Inkluzívne vzdelávanie je o vízií školy ako miesta, kde má každé dieťa šancu uspieť, naučiť sa rešpektu, spolupráci a tolerancii. Zavedením štandardov na zákaz segregácie posúvame slovenské školstvo bližšie k tomuto cieľu a poskytujeme školám nástroje, ktoré im pomôžu vytvárať spravodlivé prostredie pre všetkých žiakov," povedal minister školstva Tomáš Drucker (Hlas-SD).

Rezort pripomína, že tento krok vychádza z novely školského zákona a téma desegregácie vo vzdelávaní je aj súčasťou Plánu obnovy a odolnosti SR. Ide o záväzok podniknúť aktívne kroky smerujúce k prevencii a odstraňovaniu nedostatkov v prípade, ak je riziko segregácie alebo segregáčna situácia preukázaná.

MŠVV dodáva, že podmienka uplatňovania štandardov vo všetkých školách automaticky neznamená predpoklad, že k segregácii vo všetkých školách na Slovensku aj dochádza.

People of Slovak Descent Can Claim EU Citizenship

If you have Slovak roots, you have the opportunity to reconnect with your heritage and gain a coveted EU passport. At Global Slovakia, they can help you navigate the process to take meaningful steps toward reclaiming your Slovak citizenship by descent.

Global Slovakia is dedicated to connecting Slovak descendants across the world with their ancestral homeland. Some choose to visit Slovakia for a holiday, while others are ready to take the bold step of moving there. Whether you're curious about your heritage or gathering documents for citizenship, contacting them will set you on the right path.

Not sure where to start? Schedule a free 15-minute consultation with Dr. Zuzana Palovic, an expert in Slovak citizenship by descent. She'll answer your questions, help you understand the process, and outline how they can support your journey. Email them at info.globalslovakia@gmail.com to book your consultation and take a meaningful step towards your Slovak Living Abroad certificate today!



District 2 Decorates the Slovak Christmas Tree at the Griffin Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, IL

Submitted by Mark Fayta, District 2 Chairman, Decorating Committee and Branch 706 President

Since 1942, the Griffith Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, IL celebrates Christmas by housing more than 50 Christmas trees decorated with cultures from around the world. On November 9th, the District 2 decorating committee completed our 29th year of decorating the Slovak tree for this annual Christmas Around the World tradition. With over 250,000 visitors at Christmas time, this an event to see!

We honor the Museum's continued mission of "inspiring the inventive genius in everyone" and their theme of "the science of snowflakes". Our Slovak tree displays traditional heritage ornaments of apples, nuts, candies, cookies, pine cones, snowflakes and candles. We pay tribute to Slovak inventors and their inventions: the parachute, helicopter, GPS and early radio. We have some fun with the tradition of the Shepards Črpák mugs. Under our tree is a nativity scene handmade out of cornhusks by Basilian Nuns from Slovakia. A big thank you to Kris Kitterman for designing and handcrafting our new tree skirt! It features a snowflake design along with a decoration of the Castles of Slovakia and the flag of Slovakia. We design and update our tree each year and strive to bring out the inventive genius in everyone!

If you are near the Chicago area, we encourage you to attend this event. The exhibit is open through Monday, January 6, 2025. Griffith Museum of Science & Industry is located on 5700 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL and the website is msichicago.org. We are proud to represent Slovakia in this unique way.

Veselé Vianoce!



District 16 - Msgr Stephen Krasula District

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District held their annual meeting after the Slovak mass on Sunday, November 10th at the rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY. Present at the meeting were members of St. Matthew's Society (Branch 45), St. Stephen the Martyr Society (Branch 716), and the Director for Region 1, Sabina Sabados.



Sitting from left: Maria Zakovic, Maria Jurasi, Anna Korcak, and Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic. Standing from left: Maria Bozekova, Anna Bilik, Julie Ann Gurega-Koval, Sabina Sabados, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Peter Gaspar and Anton Kucharovic



Maria Jurasi with a birthday cake.

Branch 2 Annual Meeting



The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2 held their Annual meeting for Election of Officers on November 18. Larry Kozlowski was so kind to bring everyone in attendance a small token for Christmas - a Slovak Heritage Ornament and a Pierogi keychain. Our next meeting will be held in the Spring.

SLOVAK J CLUB



DECEMBER

- Dec. 15 Annual Vilija Dinner - \$25 per person - 4pm - *RSVP REQUIRED
Browns vs. Chiefs - 1pm
- Dec. 18 Baked Chicken Dinner - 4:30-6:30pm - *RSVP REQUIRED
- Dec. 22 Browns vs. Bengals - 1pm
- Dec. 29 **No Breakfast Due To Holiday**
Browns vs. Dolphins - 8:20pm

JANUARY

- Jan. 1 **No Spaghetti Due To Holiday**
- Jan. 4 & 5 NFL playoffs
- Jan. 11 Casino Night - 6pm Food; 7pm Gambling - \$15
- Jan. 12 NFL Playoffs
- Jan. 15 Soup & Salad - Creamy Potato & Wedding Soups - *RSVP REQUIRED
- Jan. 18 & 19 NFL Playoffs
- Jan. 26 NFL Playoffs

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 5 Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7:00pm
- Feb. 9 Super Bowl
- Feb. 19 Stuffed Pepper Dinner - 4:30-6:30pm - *RSVP REQUIRED
- Feb. 22 Chardon Polka Band - 6pm Food; 7-10pm Music - *RSVP REQUIRED

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

485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH



Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, October 18, 2024

Home Office

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)
 Thomas Ivanec Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 14, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Kevin Collins 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 Executive Meeting. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

Financial Report

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

Portfolio Review

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

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of September for the Committee's review and answered their questions. The President led a discussion regarding new mortgage investments and answered the Committee's questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 234,815.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 42,075.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

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

The Home Office is working with our outside marketing firm on a marketing program to recruit independent agents. The President stated we are waiting to hear from the 10 states regarding our new license, and this will be finished by the end of the year. We are also working on a new marketing program to recruit new agents in the new states.

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the TV ads running on Fox 8. We will be filming a new ad at the home office which will run on local news program. We are getting a good response from the original commercial.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President stated the Fall Festival on October 5 at Simmons Farm in McMurray, Pennsylvania was a huge success. We look to continue the festival in 2025. All fraternal activities will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt President, CEO
 Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary, COO



CHARDON POLKA BAND

February 22, 2025
7:00 - 10:00 pm
\$15 per person
 Slovak Food Provided
 6:30pm Cash Bar
 Reservations Required

SLOVAK J CLUB
330-786-9972

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Crossword Puzzle Solution from page 16

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house.

2025 JEDNOTA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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



Merry Christmas

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
NATIONAL OFFICERS AND HOME OFFICE STAFF.
THE BEST GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS IS GOD'S LOVE.
WISHING YOU BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR.

Veselé Vianoce

