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FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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FOR A REASON...

Sometimes people come into your life, and you know right away that they were meant to be there, they serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson or help figure out who you are or who you want to become. You never know who these people may be; your roommate, neighbor, professor, long lost friend, lover or even a complete stranger who, when you lock eyes with them, you know that very moment that they will affect your life in some profound way. And sometimes things happen to you and at the time they may seem horrible, painful and unfair, but in reflection you realize that without overcoming those obstacles you would have never realized your potential strength, will power or heart.

Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by chance or by means of good or bad luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness and sheer stupidity all occur to test the limits of your soul. Without these small tests, if they be events, illnesses or relationships, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere. Safe and comfortable but dull and utterly pointless. The people you meet who affect your life and the successes and downfalls you experience, they are the ones who create who you are. Even the bad experiences can be learned from, those lessons are the hardest and probably the most important ones.

If someone hurts you, betrays you or breaks your heart, forgive them, for they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious to who you open your heart to.

If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but because they are teaching you to love and opening your heart and eyes to things you would have never seen or felt without them.

Make every day count. Appreciate every moment and take from it everything that you possibly can, for you may never be able to experience it again.

Talk to people you have never talked to before, and actually listen, let yourself fall in love, break free and set your sights high.

Hold your head up because you have every right to. Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, for if you don't believe in yourself, no one else will believe in you either.

Dear Friends,

This month ponder this ...Wherever you may be right now, remember that the choices you chose brought you there, but you always have the ability to make of your life anything you wish. Sometimes, life doesn't give you what you want, not because you don't deserve it, but because you deserve so much more. Don't let what you can't do ever stop you from doing what you can do. Create your own life and then just go out and live it.

*Until Next Month,
Warmly,
Carolyn*

The Second Person of the Trinity: Understanding Jesus Christ in the Creed

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, D. Min., J.C.L., National Chaplain

To refresh your memory (and mine), we are in the midst of a brief understanding of the *Nicaean-Constantinopolitan Creed*, which was approved at the first council of the Church, the Council of Nicaea, in May 20-July 25, 325, A.D. There were some additions made in several future Councils but the main part of the *Creed* was approved at Nicaea. Once again, in this and the next several issues of *Fraternally Yours*, my hope is that we may celebrate the seventeenth hundredth anniversary of the *Creed* by looking at its words and their meanings, the necessity of having the *Creed* for our profession of our Faith, and to better live these words in our everyday lives.

The First Person of the Blessed Trinity (the Father) was explained in last month's magazine. The Second Person (the Son) will be explored in this and October's editions. We have a little more understanding of Him as He became one like us in all things but sin.

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*

"Lord" in the Hebrew Scriptures is a replacement for the title of God, "*Yahweh*", the name revealed by Him to Moses. So sacred was the word "*Yahweh*" that "Lord" was employed instead of "*Yahweh*" while a Hebrew was reading or speaking aloud the title. In the Greek, *kyrios* is translated into English as "Lord". When the Mass was celebrated in the Latin language, we (especially us people who are older than seventy [yuk!]) sang the "Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison" three times each prior to singing the "Gloria in excelsis Deo". The name "Jesus" comes from the Hebrew meaning, "God saves" while "Christ" comes from the Hebrew to the Greek as "messiah" that is translated for us as "anointed one". So,

in one line we have God, God who saves us through the anointed one, the *Lord Jesus Christ*.

Jesus is emphatically the only *begotten* Son of God the Father. "In the Old Testament, '*son of God*' is a title given to the angels, the Chosen People, the children of Israel, and the kings. It signifies an adoptive sonship that establishes a relationship of particular intimacy between God and His creature."* Thus, there is a very unique relationship between the Father and the Son which had existed before time became a reality as defined by *human experience*, i.e., before all ages. The "*unique*" or "*one of a kind of*" Son Jesus is God from the Father, Jesus is the Light from the Father, and Jesus is the true God from the Father.

The Council Fathers of Chalcedon in 451, A.D., declared: "Following the holy Fathers, we unanimously teach and confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, composed of rational soul and body; consubstantial with the Father as to his divinity and consubstantial with us as to his humanity; 'like us in all things but sin'. He was begotten from the Father before all ages as to his divinity and in these last days, for us and for our salvation, was born as to his humanity of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God."***

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So, all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothe and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."***

**Catechism of the Catholic Church* Second Edition, Liberia Editrice Vaticana, 2000, # 441.

***Ibid.*, # 467.

***Luke 2:1-7

Message from our Chief Executive Officer MICHAEL J. AGAN

Recognizing Our IT Team's Excellence in a Digital World



As we adapt to the dynamic landscape of technology, it is important to acknowledge the high level of dedication and expertise demonstrated by our IT team. Their consistent commitment to maintaining the security, efficiency, and reliability of the organization's technology infrastructure is commendable.

Mark Lombardi, Information Technology Manager; Jim Deak, Lead Programmer; and Leon Zegrea, IT Help Desk and Insurance System Support; comprise our effective IT team. Their responsibilities encompass a diverse range of tasks and projects vital to the Association's continued success. Key focus areas include cyber security, systems management, software development and maintenance, and database administration. Each of these domains is essential for ensuring smooth and secure operations.

Cyber security remains a primary concern, particularly with the increasing sophistication of scams and phishing attacks facilitated by artificial intelligence (AI). The team conducts monthly training and testing for all system users to maintain preparedness against

potential threats. Initiatives such as secure document signing via DocuSign, multifactor authentication for all users, and continuous monitoring further enhance organizational protection.

The IT team leads various strategic initiatives, including new product development, telephone system upgrades, encrypted email implementation, digital fax integration, and the establishment of a comprehensive digital document filing system.

The team's approach to software development and maintenance is thorough. By and includes gathering stakeholder requirements, designing systems, writing code, conducting tests, and providing ongoing support.

Our IT professionals oversee system performance and health, proactively addressing issues to minimize disruption. They manage user accounts, apply necessary updates and patches, and plan for future resource requirements. Their work in incident management, configuration management, and software deployment ensures adherence to standards and operational consistency.

The continued efforts and professionalism of our IT team play an instrumental role in supporting the Association's stability and progress. Their technical expertise and commitment position us to meet the demands of the future.

Michael J. Agan

Michael J. Agan
CEO



Baptism



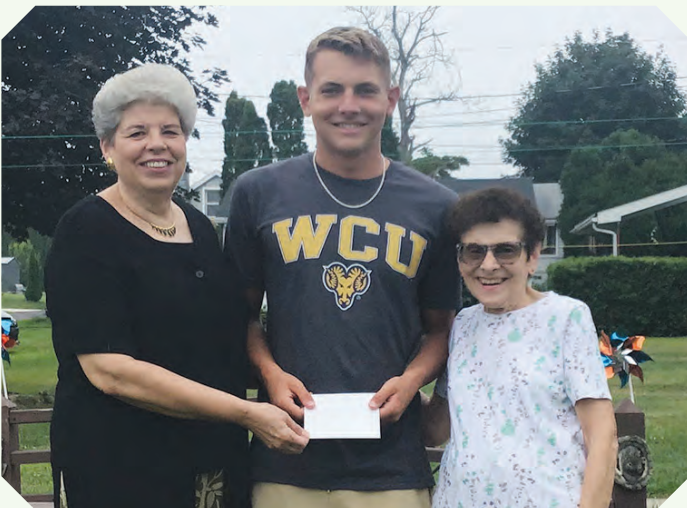
Maizie Pauline Lambrecht, W001 was baptized on Sunday, July 27, 2025 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague, MN. She is pictured with her parents, Amanda and Tony, and her sisters, Madison and Morgan.

Emma Siskoff & Kyle Dolan Wed at Wisconsin Vineyard

Emma K. Siskoff (W001) & Kyle P. Dolan were united in marriage at Over the Vines Vineyard & Wine Barn, 1242 State Road 73, Edgerton, WI 53534 on July 20, 2025. The parents of the Bride, Warren & Elaine Siskoff, New Berlin, WI and the parents of the Groom, Sean & Dawn Dolan, Kenosha, WI. The bride was escorted by Warren Siskoff, her father. Following the ceremony, was a dinner in the tent and then music was provided by a DJ in the barn. The number of guests in attendance were 165. The couple is on their honeymoon in Prague, Czech Republic.



Branch 484 Celebrates Scholarship Recipient



Sr. Branch 484 2025 Scholarship Winner is Michael Toth, a Pre-Med student entering his freshman year at West Chester University, PA. Presenting him with a branch gift is Anne Marie Bachman, President, and Delores Krempasky, Recording Secretary and Great Aunt. Congratulations and God Bless your future endeavors, Michael!

Klug Family Celebrates Emerson's Baptism



Emerson Eldean Klug, Salina, KS, was baptized at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Salina. She is the daughter of Dr. Kevin and Mrs. Mackenzie Klug of Salina. They are pictured with their children Korbin, Hudson, and Renley. Her baptismal gown was made by her great grandmother, Eldean Cahoj.



Three Districts Celebrate St Ann's Day



Thursday, July 24, 2025, FCSLA members from Northwest Indiana, Chicago Illinois and Milwaukee Wisconsin gathered at Christ's Passion Shrine in St John, Indiana. Members met at 10:30am to begin their tour, and were greeted by Helen Kocan District President, Rebecca Coleman and Betty Ortiz from Branch 452. A gift of an umbrella to shade yourself from the sun and a bottle of water was offered. Although the temperature reached 94 degrees, guests carried on. Some rode in golf carts while others walked the trail. Tour guides explained each station and gave interesting facts about the sculptor. They gave patrons time to visit each station and take photos. After the tour of the special sacred place, guests were invited to take a few minutes to visit the gift shop filled with rooms of beautiful items ranging from holy cards, rosaries, jewelry, and just about anything you could imagine for a religious gift. The next stop was the world-famous Teibel's Restaurant located in Schererville, Indiana. Rebecca Coleman welcomed everyone and introduced special guests from our neighboring districts. A prayer to St. Ann was recited by everyone followed by grace. We feasted on our choice of chicken, lake perch or combination, along with all the sides. Dessert was served while we reminisced with our friends. Floral centerpieces were given out to branches and every received St. Ann keepsake prayer cards. It was nice to see long distance friends and to share this meaningful religious event.



Reminder: Fraternally Yours Opt-In Deadline Approaching



Don't forget to return the **OPT-IN** envelope found in the August 2025 Fraternally Yours magazine or complete the form online at <https://www.fcsla.com/fraternal-department/fraternally-yours-delivery/> before the October 31, 2025 deadline. Thank you!

Honoring St. Anne: A Day of Faith, Fellowship, and Community



The spirit of tradition and devotion filled the air on Sunday, July 20th, as approximately 80 FCSLA members and parishioners gathered at Immaculate Conception Church in Jim Thorpe to celebrate the feast of St. Anne. The annual St. Anne's Day Mass, a beloved event in the Jakabcin Eastern PA District's calendar drew faithful attendees from near and far to honor the grandmother of Jesus and mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the days leading up to the celebration, parishioners prayerfully participated in the St. Anne Novena, offering daily intentions and petitions through her intercession. This meaningful spiritual preparation culminated in the beautiful liturgy, celebrated by Father Allen Minner, whose thoughtful homily reflected on St. Anne's legacy of quiet strength, unwavering faith, and enduring family values.

During his remarks, Father Minner also spoke about the **First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA)**, highlighting how wonderful the association is and praising its mission of faith, service, and community. His words served as a reminder of the importance of Catholic fraternal organizations and the meaningful impact they have on both individuals and parishes.

The church resounded with music from the St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception choirs, whose harmonious voices added reverence and beauty to the liturgy. At the close of the Mass, Father Minner presented each attendee with a blessed St. Anne medal—a tangible reminder of faith and protection to carry with them beyond the celebration.

Following the spiritual observance, guests made their way to The Lantern Restaurant in nearby Nesquehoning for a festive dinner. The evening was filled with conversation, laughter, and a shared sense of gratitude for the community's strong bonds and shared faith. As a sweet final gesture, each person was given with homemade baked goods lovingly prepared by Treasurer Louise Dunstan. In addition, President Michele Mrazik Grasso generously distributed reflective umbrellas to all in attendance—compliments of the home office—offering both a practical and thoughtful reminder of the day's blessings.

St. Anne's Day remains a cherished time to come together not only to reflect on the strength and guidance of St. Anne, but also to reconnect as a parish family—rooted in faith and rich tradition.

CHART YOUR COURSE



10 YEAR PLATINUM ELITE ANNUITY***

5.20% APY current credited interest rate effective June 1, 2025*

3.00% APY minimum guaranteed rate

- Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (Contract FPA(10)-0415)
- 10 year withdrawal penalty (9% 1st and 2nd year, decreased by 1% each subsequent year)**
- Maximum issue age 79

7 YEAR GOLD ELITE ANNUITY

5.10% APY current credited interest rate effective June 1, 2025*

3.00% APY minimum guaranteed rate

- Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (Contract FPA(7)-0713)
- 7 year withdrawal penalty (8% 1st year, decreased by 1% each subsequent year)**
- Maximum issue age 85

5 YEAR SILVER ELITE ANNUITY

5.00% APY current credited interest rate effective June 1, 2025*

3.00% APY minimum guaranteed rate

- Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (Contract FPA(5)-0713)
- 5 year withdrawal penalty (6% 1st year, decreased by 1% each subsequent year)**
- Maximum issue age 85

The Following Apply to All Annuities Above:

- \$250 minimum initial premium; \$100 minimum subsequent
- \$500,000 maximum lifetime premium
- 10% one time per year penalty free withdrawal is available in the first year of the contract and every subsequent year during the surrender period or, receive interest only (minimum \$1000)

*Interest rates can change at any time but crediting rates will not go below the minimum guaranteed rate.

**A 10% federal tax penalty may apply to certain distributions if taken before the owner is age 59^{1/2}.

***10 Year Platinum Elite FPDA [FPA(10)0415] is not available in New York. Please contact the FCSLA Life sales team or home office for information on an alternative 10 Year annuity product that is available in New York.



Rating Date: October 2024
2024-2025 rating period
For the latest Best's Rating,
access www.ambest.com

Branch W033 Enjoys Annual Summer Picnic in Spillville

FCSLA Life Branch W033, Spillville, IA held their annual summer picnic Sunday July 13, 2025 at the Spillville Library. The day started with a social hour, followed by a delicious potluck dinner. The branch supplied Swiss steak, beverages and place settings, with members providing the rest. After the meal everyone enjoyed bingo for prizes and additional door prizes were awarded. Nineteen adult members and two children attended. It was a pleasant gathering where everyone enjoyed good food and company.



Branch President Dan Silhacek calling Bingo at the annual summer picnic



Our younger members sisters Lillian and Helen Madanado



Playing bingo are JoAnn and Jerry Andersa across from each other and Ron Puffer



L-R: Deacon Jim Zajicek and his wife Patrica; and Lois Zajicek and her husband Ken



Branch W033 Officers L-R: Dan Silhacek, President; Tom Novak, Vice-President; Rebecca Kuhn, Secretary; Rita Fjelstul, Treasurer; and two Directors, Ruchard Kuhn and Donna Ryant

47TH ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL UPDATE

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 47th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of July 15, the 2025 Appeal has received \$19,262.40 from 154 donors. Among the 49 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branches S10 & J386, Branch S86, Branch S88, Branches S107 & J38, Branch S233, Branches S301 & J143, Branches S414 & J272, Branch S475, Branches S481 & J374, Branch S615 and the Magdalen I. Iskra District of the FCSLA have donated a combined total of \$1,185. Donations to date have also been received from 5 churches, 20 clergy and religious, and 80 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2025 Appeal are asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2025 will be credited toward the 2026 Appeal.** Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdozic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Pennndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

47th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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

2025 National Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT

NOMINEE:

Nominee's Name

Branch #

Home Address

Phone #

E-Mail address

Occupation

Employer

NOMINATOR:

Name of Nominator:

Branch #

Phone #

E-Mail address

Signature of Nominator

Please provide your responses to the questions below on a separate piece of paper/s. *Please print or type.*

1. **Society Leadership:** Describe your nominee's involvement in the **past five (5) years** in FCSLA's local branch and district governance and activities. This would include service as a branch or district officer, committee member for any FCSLA branch meetings, activities, dinners, Matching Funds projects, Join Hands Day events, etc.
2. **Service to Others:** Describe how your nominee has provided significant volunteer service in the **past five (5) years** to his/her community or participated in outreach programs and environmental activities on a local, state, or national level. This would include participation in church groups, mentoring programs, school or community activities, disaster relief efforts, community or service groups, etc.
3. **Innovative Leadership:** Describe how this nominee has been a leader or an innovator during the **past five (5) years**. This would include engaging in a cross-generational event or activity, updating an old annual activity to make it more relevant, seeing a need and creating a program to address it, etc.
4. **Personal Thoughts:** Describe why you feel the nominee is deserving of this award.

2025 National Youth of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT

NOMINEE:

 Nominee's name Branch #

 Address

 Parent/s' names

 Parent/s' phone # Parent/s' email address

NOMINATOR:

 Nominator's name: Branch #

 Relation to nominee

 Nominator's phone # Nominator's email address

 Signature of Nominator

Please provide your responses to the questions below on a separate piece of paper/s.

Please print or type.

1. **Society Leadership:** Describe nominee's involvement **in the past four (4) years** in FCSLA Life's branch and/or district activities, such as Matching Funds projects, Join Hands Day events, branch/district meetings, etc.
2. **Service to Others:** Describe how nominee has provided significant volunteer service **in the past four (4) years** to his/her community or participated in outreach programs and environmental activities on a local, state, or national level. This would include participation in church groups, mentoring programs, school or community activities, disaster relief efforts, community or service groups, etc.
3. **Innovative Leadership:** Describe how this nominee has been a leader or an innovator **in the past four (4) years**.
4. **Personal Thoughts:** Describe why you feel the nominee is deserving of this award.

Summer Fun at Knoebels Amusement Park

Over 100 Members Enjoy a Memorable Gathering on July 10th

July 10th was a perfect day for creating memories as more than 100 members from the Jakabcin District of Eastern, PA came together for a fantastic summer outing at Knoebels Amusement Park. With sunny skies and joyful spirits, families enjoyed a full day of connection, community, and classic amusement park fun.

Each junior member received \$20 worth of free ride and food tickets, giving them the chance to explore everything from the iconic Phoenix roller coaster to the scenic sky ride. Families also had the opportunity to purchase additional ride tickets at a discounted rate, ensuring everyone could make the most of the day.

The event featured *Tricky Trays* with exciting prizes, and no one left empty-handed—each junior member received a lollipop and plenty of snacks to keep their energy up between rides.

This special gathering wasn't just about amusement park thrills—it was a celebration of our shared values and commitment to the next generation. Thank you to all who made the day a success, and we look forward to making even more memories together in the future!



Helen Kocan District Scholarship Luncheon



Indiana District 6 scholarship luncheon was held on June 22, 2025 at Giovanni's Restaurant in Munster, Indiana. District President Rebecca Coleman welcomed everyone, inviting them to enjoy an Italian family style meal. After lunch Rebecca announced the scholarship winners that were present and presented them with a gift from the district. Branches were able to take photos with their winners. A drawing was held for centerpieces and gifts, with nearly everyone winning something. After visiting with scholarship winners and their families the luncheon came to a close. FCSLA officers and members stayed for a district meeting. The luncheon gave us an opportunity to have a district matching funds event. The benefactor was Save the Dunes, whose mission is to protect and advocate for the Indiana Dunes, a newly established National Park. We were happy to support a local environmental cause that protects our Indiana shoreline. JoAnn Ortiz addressed the group informing them of the actions of the FCSLA president's meeting in Ohio. She was a first-time attendee and came back with a plethora of information. We thank her for a job well done. It was a wonderful day of honoring our scholarship winners, contributing to an environmental need and enjoying fraternal friendships.



BRANCH W137 WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER KENNEDY MARIE PLUFF

On Saturday, June 14th, the newest member of Branch W137 (cedar Rapids, IA), Kennedy Marie Pluff was baptized at St. Ludmila Catholic Church during 4pm Mass. Kennedy is the daughter of W137 members Carolyn and Austin Pluff, grandmother Barb Morrissey and great-grandfather Bernie Drahozal.

Kennedy Marie Pluff, W137 was introduced to the parishioners of St. Ludmila by Father Ken Glaser following her baptism at St. Ludmila Catholic Church.

Branch S88 and J157 Scholarship Winners

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association recently awarded scholarships to Monessen Senior Branch 88 and Junior Branch 157 members. Those receiving scholarships Branch 88 were: Grace Allshouse - College Freshman, Samuel Bialon - College Sophomore, Rachael Rabe - College Graduate, Aylee Post - College Freshman, Joshua Zdrojewski - College Freshman and Kaitlyn Oslick - College Sophomore. Junior 157 winners were Vincent Horensky - High School Sophomore and Elizabeth Horensky - 6th Grade Elementary. A dinner honoring them was held at the Clubhouse Grille. Kaitlyn Oslick is attending the Culinary Institute of America with a focus on Baking and Pastry, Grace Allshouse graduated from PA Distance learning charter School and will attend St. Vincent College to pursue a degree in Psychology and a minor in Biological Psychology or Child Development., Samuel Bialon graduated from Belle Vernon High School and has worked in Information Technology departments for the past three years. He is currently employed at AGI Repair with their IT department. He will attend Penn State Behrend pursuing a degree in Computer Science. Kaitlyn Oslick was not able to attend as she is in her academic schedule at school. Baylee Post graduated Monessen High School with the class of 2025 as valedictorian. She was a French National Honor Society member and the Group for Performing Arts. She will be attending Robert Morris University planning to major in Business. Rachael Rabe is a registered nurse in the Neonatal ICU at WVU children's hospital and will continue her education through Millersville University to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. Joshua Zdrojewski graduated Belle Vernon High school and played football having been part of a State Championship team. Josh plans to attend Penn West California to study Fish and Wildlife Biology. Vincent Horensky attends Greensburg Central Catholic High School and placed on Highest Honor Roll. He played basketball and team and track. He is a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and currently planning his Eagle Scout project. Elizabeth Horensky and she just finished 5th grade at Aquinas Academy in Greensburg. She is a member of the Drama Guild and is active in two Scout Troops. She organized a children's coat drive to help the community and earned her Girl Scout Bronze Award.



Pictured L-R are: Samuel Bialon, Joshua Zdrojewski, Grace Allshouse, Dorothy Urbanowicz - S88 president, Flora Funtal - S88 Rec. Sec., Rachel Rabe, Cindy Pawelec - S 88 Auditor, Vincent Horensky and Aylee Post.

Branch S84 Celebrates Scholarship Winners Maccarella and Medica

Branch S84 (Philadelphia, PA) congratulates their scholarship winners John M. Maccarella and Tyler J. Medica and wishes them success as they pursue their dreams. Both are pictured with Carol Medica. Anna Rabatin (great grandma) and Carol Medica (grandmom) served as Secretary of S84 and J007 for many years. John will be attending Cornell University studying engineering and playing football. Ty will be attending the University of North Carolina studying biology.



John Maccarella and Carol Medica



Tyler and Carol Medica

Weather Can't Dampen Branch W187's Picnic and Scholarship Celebration

FCSLA Life Branch W187 (Valparaiso, NE) held their annual picnic on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 following Mass. Due to stormy weather the event was moved from the park to the church hall. After a delicious meal, local scholarships were presented to members. Ten members received local scholarships. Five members received national scholarships.



Tables filled with picnic food.



Some of the members enjoying the picnic.



Pictured are double winners L-R Benedict Benes, Lawrence Schultes, Branch Secretary Clarice Sabata, Adalynn Masek, and Ethan Masek. National winner Lucy Benes is not pictured.

Ziembra Children Special Events

The Ziembra children, all members of Branch Z128 and lifetime members celebrated some special events. They are the sons of Paul and Lauren Ziembra and grandsons of Stephan and Andrea (Golarz) Ziembra.



Graham John Ziembra, Z128 recently was confirmed at St Gabriel the Archangel in McKinney Texas. He will be a high school freshman in the fall playing trumpet in the jazz and marching bands and the snapper on the 9th grade football squad. He is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society.



Owen Phillip Ziembra, Z128 graduated from Rock Hill HS. He is an Eagle Scout, played flute in the band and is a member of the National Honor Society. He will be attending Purdue to study genetics in the fall.

Branch S44 Honors Scholarship Recipient

Branch S44 (Mt. Pleasant, PA) congratulates their scholarship recipient Nathan Gyados. Nathan will be attending West Virginia University this fall.

Pictured L-R: Elizabeth Butler, Nathan Gaydos, and Kathyryn Janesko.



PITTSBURGH DISTRICT SPRING MEETING

On April 27, 2025 the Pittsburgh District held its spring meeting at Gaetano's Event Center in Pittsburgh, hosted by Branch S233, South Side. President Virginia Holmes opened the meeting. Father Ed Mazich led the prayer and National President Emeritus Cynthia Maleski led the National Anthem following the pledge of allegiance. After the luncheon President Virginia introduced Carolyn Potanko of Branch S233 and presented her a check for the district's contribution to the luncheon and a check for a Mass for her members. Following roll call, the reading of the last meeting's minutes, the Treasurer's Report and business discussions, National President Emeritus Cynthia Maleski made her last report to the District as a National Officer. President Virginia recognized President Maleski for all of her accomplishments as a National Officer over the years, including her tenure as National Trustee and her extensive achievements as President and CEO. The District Officers, on behalf of the district members, presented her with flowers, a fruit basket and a monetary gift. She was given a standing ovation by the membership. President Virginia recognized Justin Metz, of Branch S218, who was awarded National Youth of the Year by FCSLA Life. Justin was also the winner of Pittsburgh's own Youth of the Year several years ago. President Virginia discussed some of his many accomplishments and presented a gift from the district. The district held its raffle for the Lottery Tree and Share the Wealth, followed by drawings for prizes from Branch S233. The meeting was closed with prayer and the singing of Hey Slovaci and God Bless America. The summer meeting will be held on July 27, 2025 at the Lamplighter in Delmont, PA, hosted by branch S313.



Placing a Memorial in *Fraternally Yours*



A memorial for a deceased member may be placed in *Fraternally Yours* at the request of the family. They are published as space allows and include up to 250 words and a head shot photo. There is no fee associated with publication of the memorial.

To submit information you may:

Send a link to the on-line memorial to zibazik@comcast.net; memorials are edited to 250 words or less; email a head shot and your own edited version of what you would like to appear keeping it to 250 words or less to zibazik@comcast.net or send a hard copy of the information to: Editor, PO Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603-1617.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S081, WHITING, INDIANA

Annual Fish Fry

FCSLA Senior Branch 81, in Whiting, Indiana sponsored the second of six fish fry's benefitting the capital fund for St John the Baptist School. The capital fundraiser is currently being used for a complete overhaul of the school and church heating system. For the second year, a dedicated committee and volunteers transformed the school cafeteria into a seafood extravaganza. FCSLA officers and members of Branch 81 were asked to bake ethnic delicacies for the guests to purchase. They also plated and boxed desserts, and manned the tables throughout the dinner. Guests enjoyed roshky, nutrolls, cheesecake, banana bread, fruit and nut bars, to name a few. FCSLA members volunteered in many capacities. They helped in the kitchen, sold raffle tickets and tip boards, filled the salad bar and cleaned up. Patrons were returning customers, anticipating the excellent variety of fish, shrimp, and combo entrees available. An 18 foot long, all you can eat salad bar gave everyone a chance to choose their favorite sides. The Marilyn Gaza Jazz Trio brought light musical enjoyment to all. A faithful FCSLA member gifted this classic dinner music that put our fish fry over the top. The evening ended with basket and raffle winners being selected. A special thank you to Jamie Sandona, faith formation coordinator, and FCSLA members Andrea Lucas and Tom Markovich for their dedication and organizational skills that made each fish fry a success. As a matching fund event, St John School will receive an additional \$600 to add to the capital fund. We appreciate the FCSLA Home Office and their efforts to help our fundraising endeavors.



BRANCH S484, EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Bake Sale



On July 13, Sr. Branch 484, Egypt, PA, held a Matching Funds Bake sale event during Holy Trinity Catholic Church's annual Parish Picnic. Thanks to the help of parishioners who baked the sale and the picnic was a success. Proceeds benefited Holy Trinity Parish, Egypt, PA.

Life Insurance
Awareness Month

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S081/J058, WHITING, INDIANA

Bake Sale

Junior Branch 58 held a matching funds event to benefit the youth NCYC conference trip. On Sunday, July 20, 2025, officers and members of Whiting, Indiana Branch 58 & 81 joined the youth to hold a bake sale. The funds will help defray the cost of the NCYC conference lodging and transportation to Indianapolis, Indiana. Jamie Sandona, Youth and Faith Formation Director, Kim Duha and their helpers baked pies, banana breads, cheesecakes, lemon bars, brownies, rice crispy treats, pound cakes, and so many cookies. They are holding bake sales each Sunday in July to raise funds for their upcoming trip. The students and parents also helped refill tables and sell items. They completed the fundraising project on the last Sunday of the famous Whiting Pierogi Fest.

A special thank you to Marion Vargo, Andrea Lucas, Susie Kwasman, Mary Igras, the Zabrecky's, Laura Jaros, Marina Sabol, Becky Coleman, Annette Markovich, and Mary Markovich for sharing their baking skills in the heat of July. We filled the tables with homemade bread, nut rolls, nut and fruit kolachky, pizzelles, cookies, blueberry muffins, cakes and more. We would also like to thank all who made cash donations to this worthy cause: Deacon Leo, Sue Adam, Nancy Dunn, Judy Vhrin Mojzik and many more who said keep the change. We found out that people don't want to bake when it's over 90 degrees outside, but they enthusiastically will buy baked goods! The July 20th bake sale was sponsored by FCSLA Branch 58 and netted \$747. The group will also receive \$600 in matching funds for the FCSLA home office. What a great way to encourage the youth to develop their faith and bring new ideas back to our parish.



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

BRANCH S533/J481, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Bake Sale

A bake sale matching funds project was held on July 19, 2025 at the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival. Funds raised will benefit the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club which was established in 1939 by Msgr. Francis Dubosh to promote Slovak music and culture in the Cleveland area. They are the oldest continuously broadcast Slovak radio program. It is broadcast on 1490 AM at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday.

A branch member activity for S553 & J481 was also held at the festival with members given free admission to the festival and \$25 in food/beverage tickets. It was a perfect summer day for the festival and everyone really enjoyed the array of homemade Slovak food, pastries, music and camaraderie.





IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Bezdicek, W121



Bob passed away on January 11, 2025, in Dickinson, ND. Bob was born on December 31, 1930, to Joseph and Agnes (Kovash) Bezdicek. He grew up on the family farm working alongside his dad farming and ranching. He married Alice Adamski at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Hradec on November 12, 1951. The wedding reception and dance was held at the Catholic Workman Hall and, as was typical then, it was an all-day affair with lunch, dinner and dancing.

The newly married couple lived on the Bezdicek family farm and raised three boys and two girls. Along with operating a successful dairy farm, they had beautiful, big gardens, from which they shared with neighbors and friends. Bob served on the New Hradec parish school board, the Farmer's Union Creamery Board, the Credit Union Board and as an election judge. Bob and Alice were also active supporters of the Catholic Workman Hall. Besides volunteering to work at hall events, he served 13 years as a secretary for the New Hradec Catholic Workman branch, also as the state secretary and eight years as a trustee for the national board. He also believed in helping friends and neighbors and his support went beyond helping with farming or cattle issues. During his last years at the nursing home, he always looked forward to seeing his dog, Patches, and eating the produce from Greg's garden. Bob is survived by his sons, Greg on the farm and Myron (Rita) of Tarpon Springs, FL; daughter, Joyce Bezdicek (Milt Epstein) of Champaign, IL; and grandsons, Aidan Epstein of Oakland, CA and Devin Epstein of Urbana, IL.

James L. Faimon, W074



James L. Faimon, age 77, passed away in his sleep at home on March 5, 2024, after several years of chronic illnesses. Jim was born on July 28, 1947, in Stratton, NE to Rudy and Rose Faimon. He married Mary Hunter in 1969. Together, they had five children and 18 grandchildren. After graduating from college, Jim served in the army for three years, then he and Mary moved back to the family farm where they had lived for 50 years at the time of his death. He was a member of FCSLA Branch 74 (formerly Catholic Workmen), where he followed in his father's footsteps serving at the local, state, and national levels in various offices. Jim was proud of the fact that

his family was named National Catholic Workman Family of the Year in 2001. He was a life member of the VFW where he served as Quartermaster of local post 9155 for many years. Jim was a charter member of the Men's Prayer Breakfast Group in Stratton, Neb., and a member of St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, both of which he attended regularly as long as he was able. Jim is survived by his wife, Mary, children, Amy (Rod) Halstead, Jeff (Tiffanie) Faimon, Scott (Melanie) Faimon, Jenny (Michael) Anderson, and Kayla (Eric) Wood and 18 grandchildren.

Robert 'Bob' Polacek, W013



Robert 'Bob' Polacek, 100, passed away on March 14, 2025, at South Haven in Wahoo, NE. Bob was born July 20, 1924, on a farm NW of Prague, NE to Emil and Mary (Vasa) Polacek, the 3rd of 10 children. The family, of Czech descent, was strong in their Catholic Faith. Bob attended and boarded at St. John's Grade School, graduated from Prague High School and farmed. He served the US Navy in Pacific Duty during WWII. He married Arline Cizek in 1947. They raised five daughters on their farm one mile south of Prague. Bob was committed to his faith, family, and farming. He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church in Prague where he served as an altar boy, acolyte, lector, committees, choir, KD Lodge #W013 officer for 35 years with 70-year membership, then FCSLA, Wahoo Knights of Columbus, and member of Legion Post #308 in Weston. He was instrumental in the organization of Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo and was an original school board member. Bob was an active supporter of BNHS and enjoyed attending many events there. The couple retired to Wahoo where Bob remained active at St. Wenceslaus Parish. He continued his gardening hobby, fall pumpkin displays, beautiful Christmas lighting, visiting nursing homes, entering fair exhibits, and enjoyed travel with his wife, Arline. Bob never knew a stranger and was endeared by many.

Monica Guru, S156

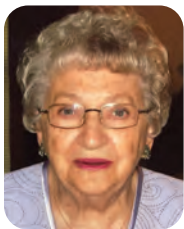
Monica M. Gura, 92, formerly of Youngstown, Ohio passed away peacefully Monday, March 24, 2025, in Peabody, MA. Monica was born January 31, 1933, in Struthers, one of 14 children, Monica was the beloved daughter of John M. Gura and Anna Marie (Lucas)

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Gura. She was a member of Holy Trinity Church in Struthers, where she also attended grade school. At age 13, Monica and her twin sister, Marian, entered the Daughters of St. Paul convent in Boston, where Monica devoted herself to religious life for 33 years. Following her time in the convent, Monica lived and worked in Pittsburgh before eventually returning to the Boston area to be near Marian. Monica deeply loved her large family and often shared fond stories of growing up in Struthers. While living at the Jeffrey and Susan Brudnick Center for Living in Peabody, she proudly spoke of her family's closeness and love. She is survived by her sister, Ann Marie Fabilli; her brother, James Gura; and numerous nieces and nephews, including Fran Warino, who lovingly cared for Monica. She also leaves behind many great-nieces and great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews, and extended family members. Monica's family suggests memorial contributions be made to Care Dimensions Hospice, 75 Sylvan St. Suite B 102 Danvers, MA 01923 or to the Jeffrey and Susan Brudnick Center for Living, 240 Lynnfield St. Peabody, MA 01960.

Bernadine M. Barry, S156



Bernadine M. Barry, 92 passed away peacefully on Sunday April 28, 2025, in New Middletown, Ohio. Bernadine was born May 10, 1931, in New Castle, PA, a daughter of Alois and Mary (Zak) Badurik. She married her husband Francis Barry on November 1960. She was a homemaker and one of her unique hobbies was egg artistry. She also enjoyed gardening, arranging flowers and making pierogies at church. Bernadine will be deeply missed and always remembered by her husband Francis; her sons Stanley (Ellen) Barry of Philadelphia PA, David (Jamie) Barry of Columbus and Dr. Christopher (Robin) Barry of Arcadia, Oklahoma; and a daughter Marianne (Andy) Guidos of Ashburn VA; her 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren and another one on the way.

Agnes R. Zajac, S156



Agnes R. Zajac, 86, passed away peacefully, April 28, 2025, at Hospice House with her family by her side. Agnes was born Oct. 23, 1938, in Youngstown, Ohio, a daughter of the late Stanley and Agnes A. Javorsky Kaminski, and was a lifelong area resident. She was a proud graduate of Ursuline High School, Class of 1956, and dedicated her life to raising and caring for her family. She later worked making eyeglasses for Optical One and held various other jobs throughout her life before she retired and even after. Mrs. Zajac was a member of

St. Joseph Church in Austintown. She enjoyed bowling, reading, solving word jumbles and word search puzzles, and playing games on her Kindle tablet. A devoted Buffalo Bills fan, she especially admired quarterback Jim Kelly. She also liked watching golf and was known for her cooking — especially her liver and onions and haluski. Most of all, Agnes cherished the time spent with her family and many friends. Agnes is survived by her four children, Toni (Rick Sr.) Nicholson of Warsaw, N.C., Mark A. (Daniele) Zajac of Fort Wayne, Ind., JoAnn Zajac of Warren and Dennis M. Zajac, with whom she shared her home; nine grandchildren, Michael, Ricky Jr., Celeste, Mark Jr., Shannon, Dakota, Amanda, Rita and Kelley; 11 great-grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.

Helen Glocka, S376



Helen Glocka (Nee Kotras) Age 96 of Hartland, Wisconsin formerly of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was born to Eternal Life Thursday May 1, 2025. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 44 years, Stanley J. Glocka. Dear mother of Gerald (Susanne) Glocka and Nancy (Dan) Danhauer. Loving grandmother of Angela (Paul) Lois and Jennifer (Evan) Arnold. Proud great grandmother of Adelaide, August and Evangeline Lois and Maya and Myles Arnold. Sister-in-law of the late Joseph and Betty Glocka. Further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Helen was a lifelong member of St. Stephen Martyr Church in Milwaukee. She was a retired teacher's aide with the Milwaukee Public Schools. She was also a member of St. Ann's Society Branch 376 and Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 93. Special thanks to all who cared for her at Heritage Lake Country Senior Living and Brighton Hospice Care. In lieu of flowers memorials to Holy Hill Basilica would be appreciated.

Barbara Ann Suroski, S408



Barbara Ann Suroski, a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister, passed away peacefully on May 4, 2025, in Mount Dora, Florida, at the age of 76. Born on December 19, 1948, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Paul and Mary Stanko, Barbara was raised in a nurturing home steeped in her Christian faith, family values and rich tradition. She proudly attended St Joseph Academy in Cleveland and Cuyahoga Community College. Following her marriage to Arthur James Suroski "Jim", she channeled her creative passion into a distinguished career as an interior designer, earning the prestigious ASID certification while her entrepreneurial spirit carried on through several successful business

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endeavors. Her extraordinary life was rooted in her deep devotion to Christ, her love for family, nurturing heart for animals, and a gift for playing the piano, which brought joy and harmony to her household. She leaves behind a legacy of love and is survived by her devoted husband of 54 years, Arthur James Suroski "Jim"; her daughter, Julie Marie Hamilton (Kevin), their children, Kinsley and Parker, her son Arthur James Suroski Jr. (Jennifer), along with their sons, Charles and Grant (Haley), their son Owen; as well Barbara's caring brothers, Thomas Stanko (Janet) and Robert Stanko (Kim). As well as many loving nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. Her boundless love for her children and grandchildren was the cornerstone of her life, and Barbara's legacy of kindness, creativity, and devotion to those she loved will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

Dolores M. Chadek, W013

Dolores M. Chadek, 87, of Prague, NE, died May 17, 2025, at her home in Prague. She was born on December 12, 1937, in Prague to James and Antoinette (Houfek) Vanek. She attended St. John's Catholic School and graduated from Prague High School. On May 28, 1957, she was united in marriage to Ronald Chadek at



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Prague. She taught school for a short time in District 80 near Prague. She later became a full-time farm wife, helping on the farm and raising her family of four. In spring 1993, Ronald and Dolores moved to Prague. After retiring from farming, Dolores and Ron worked for the Natural Resource District maintaining Czechland Lake and cleaned the Bank of Prague for over 20 years. She was a life-long resident of Prague and a devout member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. She was a member of St. John's PCCW, Rosary Society and Catholic Workmen (FCSLA). She is survived by children, Lori Kunc of Wahoo, Gail (Jack) Kessler of Columbus, Terry (Kathy) Chadek of Lincoln, and Debi (John) Wade of Prague; grandchildren, Kendra (Eric) Gomez, Kelsey (Nick) Foehlinger, Kyle (Kayla) Benesch, Morgan Benesch, Kristen (Tim) Kipper, Cody Chadek, Shelby Wade and Colin (Angela Koenig) Wade; great-grandchildren, Tatum Gomez, Piper Gomez, Camden Foehlinger, Carson Foehlinger, Jett Kipper, Ella Kipper, Jace Kipper, and Avyn Wade; sister, Marlene Fujan; many other family members and friends.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

Balance Sheet As of 5/31/2025

Admitted Assets	
Category	2025
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 15,030,997
Bonds	1,029,299,219
Preferred Stock	1,020,000
Common Stock	346,720
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,398,949
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	4,145,887
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,677,021
Other Assets	6,570
Interest Maintenance Reserve	4,893,880
Total Admitted Assets	\$ 1,069,819,243
Liabilities & Surplus	
Category	2025
Life Reserves	\$ 309,792,277
Annuity Reserves	627,031,746
Death Claims Payable	2,734,411
Unearned Premiums	350,906
Matured Endowments	324,866
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	5,392,876
Accrued Convention Donations	250,000
Provision for Future Conventions	186,758
Asset Valuation Reserve	11,844,697
Other Liabilities	2,173,948
Total Liabilities	\$ 961,482,485
Surplus	\$ 108,336,758
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$ 1,069,819,243

Income Statement For Period Ending 5/31/2025

Revenue	
Category	2025
Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,872,662
Annuity Premiums	8,040,975
Investment Income	20,728,463
Amortization of IMR	(246,895)
Rental Income	190,216
Other Revenue	32,541
Total Revenue	\$31,617,962
Direct Expenses	
Category	2025
Change in Life & Annuity Reserves	\$(8,360,368)
Life & Annuity Benefits	33,551,728
Salaries - Life and Annuity Employees	380,091
Underwriting & Commissions Expenses	396,211
Total Direct Expenses	\$ 25,967,662
Net Revenue before General Operating and Fraternal Expenses	\$ 5,650,300
General Operating and Fraternal Activity Summary	
Category	2025
General Operating Expenses	\$ 3,717,720
Net Income before Fraternal Expenses, Dividends, Realized Capital Gains/(Losses)	1,932,580
Less :Fraternal Expenses	1,802,785
Less :Dividend to Members	595,956
Capital Gains/(Losses)	-
Total Net Income /(Loss)	\$(466,161)

Color, Crunch, Comfort

DEVILED EGG MACARONI SALAD

8 large eggs hard boiled
12 ounces elbow macaroni uncooked
1/4 teaspoon salt or to taste
1/4 teaspoon black pepper ground
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 cup mayonnaise
3 medium dill pickles chopped
1/2 medium red onion chopped
2 ribs celery chopped
1/2 cup black olives sliced
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 tablespoon chives chopped

Prepare the pasta by following the cooking directions provided on the package. Once cooked, drain the pasta and rinse it thoroughly under cold water.

Peel eggs and cut them in half. Scoop out the yolks and set them aside in a bowl. Chop the whites into pieces.

Mash the yolks with a fork until smooth. Season them with salt and pepper, then add the mustard and mayonnaise. Stir everything until well combined.

Add the macaroni to a large mixing bowl. Add the dressing, egg whites, the rest of ingredients, and paprika. Mix everything until evenly coated in the dressing.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

BAKED CAESAR CHICKEN

4 large boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
1 1/4 cups grated Parmesan cheese, divided
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 cup creamy Caesar salad dressing
1/2 cup sour cream (room temperature)
Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Spray a large baking pan with nonstick spray.

Cut the chicken breasts in half horizontally. Using a meat mallet, pound to even thickness (3/4" thick).

Sprinkle chicken with half the Parmesan cheese on both sides and season with black pepper. Place them in a single layer in the baking pan.

Whisk together the Caesar dressing and sour cream in small bowl. Pour evenly over chicken and sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese.

Bake chicken for 30 minutes or until cooked to 150 degrees.

Turn oven to broil and cook for 2 - 4 minutes or until chicken reaches 165 degrees in thickest part of the chicken.

Remove from oven and let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

STUFFED MINI BELL PEPPERS

24 mini bell peppers
12 slices bacon
16 ounces soft goat cheese
4 tablespoons finely chopped red onion
2 tablespoon chopped parsley
2 clove garlic, minced
salt and pepper, to taste

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Place the bacon on a baking sheet and cook for 18-20 minutes, or until it's crispy. Transfer it to a paper towel to cool.

While the bacon is cooking, slice the mini peppers in half and scoop out the seeds.

Add the goat cheese, red onion, minced garlic, parsley, salt and pepper to a mixing bowl. Once the bacon has cooled, crumble it with your hands into the bowl, and stir together.

Stuff the mini peppers with the bacon goat cheese mixture, and place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment.

Bake the stuffed mini peppers for 10 minutes at 400 degrees, or until the mini pepper is slightly softened.

Remove them from the oven and let them cool for 5 minutes before transferring to a plate.

Serve them warm and if you'd like, sprinkle a little extra chopped parsley on top for garnish.

FRESHLY PICKED PEACH COBBLER

8 fresh peaches - peeled, pitted and sliced into thin wedges

1/4 cup white sugar

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

2 teaspoons cornstarch

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/4 cup white sugar

1/4 cup brown sugar

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces

1/4 cup boiling water

3 tablespoons white sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Combine peaches, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon juice, and cornstarch in a large bowl; toss to coat evenly, and pour into a 2-quart baking dish. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine flour, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup brown sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Blend in butter with your fingertips or a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in water until just combined.

Remove peaches from oven, and drop spoonfuls of topping over them.

Mix 3 tablespoons white sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon together in a small bowl; sprinkle over entire cobbler.

Bake in the preheated oven until topping is golden, about 30 minutes.

EASY LEMON LOAF

3 large eggs

1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

4 teaspoons lemon zest

1 1/4 cups self-rising flour

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x5-inch loaf pan with nonstick spray, line bottom and sides with parchment paper, and spray again with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside.

Whisk eggs, sweetened condensed milk, lemon juice, and lemon zest in a bowl. Add flour and mix just until flour is moistened. Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 55 to 65 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack before removing from the pan.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of water cascading over dark, textured rocks. The water is in motion, creating white foam and splashes, with sunlight reflecting off its surface.

PERIODICAL

9/25

The FCSLA Life Mission Statement

We provide financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Life Vision is to:

Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits.