

"I shall reflect on myself and ask: 'What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?'" -St. Stanislaus Kostka



New Stan

The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish
El Boletín de la Parroquia de San Estanislao

Autumn/Otoño 2018

Renovations: One Down, One to Go!

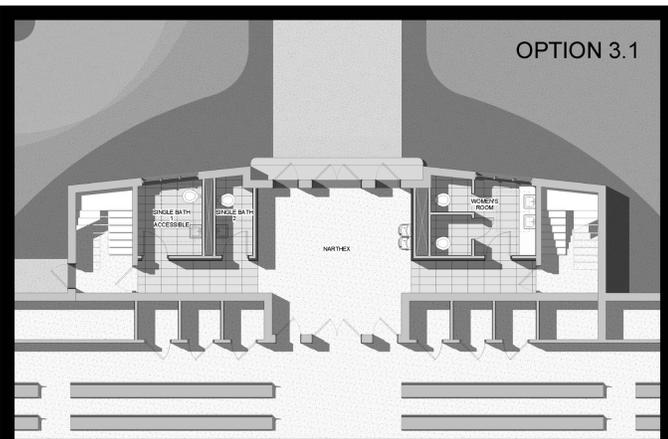
Church Bathrooms on the Way

by Cat Mattingly

It seems on any home renovation show, the bathrooms are always on the list for demolition. Often planned upgrades are more about personal preference and want, rather than need. For public places, however, efficient, bright, updated bathrooms are not only about looking pretty and providing a space to...well, you know. Accessible, spacious, functional, bathrooms are welcoming, better support people with diverse needs, and offer a chance to provide services beyond the original function of the facility.

Most parishioners are well aware of the size and inconvenience of the Church's current restroom facilities. The two rear bathrooms are original to the 1964 building, and an upgrade is overdue. They are cramped, dark, poorly ventilated, and do not properly support individuals with accessibility needs, young or infant children. They make larger events, such as weddings, baptisms, or any larger event hosted by St. Stanislaus a challenge. Thankfully, with the generous support of all of you, St. Stanislaus is now

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Architectural rendering of the new St. Stanislaus Church Bathrooms from KCBA

Mater Dei Bathrooms Completed

by Dan Miller

When the MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL community returned for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 5, they were welcomed back with a beautiful new update - four new bathrooms! The school has added new boys' and girls' rooms in the 4th grade wing, as well as two family bathrooms in the main hallway.

Originally, the plan was to simply replace certain parts of the bathrooms, but more was required. The original bathrooms were gutted and completely redone. In addition, since sections of the school cafeteria were needed for the updates, the cafeteria received all new flooring; another beautiful update to the school.

The boys' and girls' rooms will be used by the students on the west side of the school, while the single family bath-rooms can be used by faculty and by school guests. The family bathrooms are equipped with changing tables, and offer more space. These will be ideal for visitors, especially when the rest-rooms in the



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Church Renovations

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financially prepared for a dramatic improvement and expansion.

You may be wondering how much this improvement will actually cost. Based on our goals and space available, this qualifies as a “mid-range” capital project by the Archdiocese (i.e., expected cost between \$100K - \$199K). Through the generosity of those who have used the “Renovation” envelopes over the past years, the Parish has collected sufficient funds to cover the cost of this project, and is prepared to make up any difference if the final cost exceeds collections. The project will address the functional and aesthetic concerns presented by the current facilities:

- ❖ The entire Main Street interior will be reconfigured. Bathroom facilities will be doubled to accommodate four users and will comply with ADA codes. Additional amenities include a lobby water fountain, baby changing station, and seating for parents with infants. The space will be bright and welcoming.
- ❖ On the BVM-Lansdale Avenue side, there will be one large women’s room, with two toilets and with large mirrors for brides and others who want to look their best.
- ❖ The St. Joseph-Parking Lot side of the back will offer unisex family bathrooms. To accommodate the changes, the candle room and usher closet will be relocated, the former moving to inside the Church.

The Parish has retained the professional services of KCBA Architects to provide architectural and engineering drawings, ensure code compliance, and prepare the documents needed for approvals of the project from local authorities and the Archdiocese. KCBA has extensive experience with churches in the Archdiocese including St. Maria Goretti, St. Alphonsius, and many others. They will administrate contract bidding, recommend a contractor, and manager the renovation processes.

Anyone who has attempted a renovation project knows timelines are often rough estimates, but ideally, we envision a three-month process. Although the project start is forthcoming, we do not have a firm date as of now. Once started we do anticipate times when bathrooms will not be available for use; please use the restrooms available in the Parish Center before or after Mass and events. Although inconvenient and a little messy, the process will provide a beautiful space, certain to add a dimension of convenience and functionality that has long been desired!✘

School Renovations

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school gymnasium are being used.

The project began right after the last day of the 2017-18 school year, and was completed the day before school resumed - just in time to welcome the students, faculty, and staff!

It is the first update to these bathrooms in decades. At an event last year, adult alumni of St. Stanislaus commented that the bathrooms still looked the same as when they were students; so this was a greatly welcomed venture! The project has been two and a half years in the making and was coordinated by Mater Dei Business Director Suzanne Verzilli, a longtime member of the parish and school community, who has four children who attended St Stanislaus and/or MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

The school worked with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Office for Property Services on the planning and execution of the renovations. They ensured that the bathrooms met the standards of both the Archdiocese, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project was funded by MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL’s Annual Fund, as well as some generous gifts from anonymous donors.

The initial feedback from the students and faculty has been great. Students are thrilled about the modernized bathrooms, but they are apparently most excited about another addition: an updated water fountain with a special spout for filling water bottles! The teachers love having the use of the family bathrooms, and feedback from parents and visitors has been positive as well!

Ever since MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL was incorporated as a regional school, it has been dedicated to making necessary capital investments in the property including new roofs, updated air conditioning for the gym and cafeteria, gutters, new windows, and flooring updates. These bathroom renovations are just the latest. All have been funded through careful budgeting. How fortunate to we are to have this wonderful educational community!✘



Photos care of Suzanne Verzilli

Parishioner Spotlight

Father Charles Ravert

by **Norman Berger**

There have to be people wondering what Father Charles Ravert is really like. Whatever Sunday Mass Father celebrates, parishioners listening to his homilies are, by now, used to Father staking out a place right in the middle of the main church aisle to talk to the congregation. At the finish comes the already trademark ending to his homilies: He looks out over the people and asks in a way not to be missed: “Amen? Are you with me?” Listeners respond with “Amen” seeming to forge a link with Father Charles. So how did our young priest get to this point? Well, let’s lift that curtain a little...

Father Charles grew up in Manayunk which lies along the Schuylkill River in the lower Northwest section of Philadelphia. His family were parishioners of the historically-Irish St. John the Baptist Church where Father also attended grade school. Father Charles says that he enjoyed his childhood

there. He was always very close to his mother (shown at Father’s right in the above picture) who worked two and three jobs to support her son. Father Charles’s grandmother also lived with him and his mother. He enjoyed growing up with his mother’s four brothers, all of whom had been in military service. He especially looked up to his uncle “Mo” who impressed Father in his Marine uniform.

The priesthood began to appeal to Father in the fourth grade. Sister Theresa, IHM, at his school got him into the choir. He also became an altar boy. For the choir, Father remembers his mother buying him black pants and a black shirt with horn-like buttons that he really liked. One day Sister Theresa glimpsed him with his tee-shirt showing and thought for a second that he was one of the parish priests. This actually got Father thinking of the priesthood and thereafter he never quite got that image out of his mind.

After grade school, Father went on to what is now known as Mercy Career and Technical High School where he

studied to become a Certified Nurse’s Aide.

He credits a newly-ordained priest in his parish, Father Jim Casey (who was considered “cool” and “awesome” to the young man) with encouraging him in his aspirations. Father Jim remains a close friend to this day.

A formative experience for Father Charles came during Easter break near graduation from Mercy Vo-Tech. He, his then-girlfriend, and some fellow students took their newly-acquired electrical, carpentry, and nursing skills and journeyed to Mississippi to help out in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. His eyes were opened to the suffering and devastation endured by the residents and it sharpened his desire to serve by entering the priesthood.

Father Charles entered the Seminary in August, 2007, as a second-year collegian, getting credit for the nursing degree courses he took prior to entering seminary. He was ordained in 2014 and was assigned to St. Charles Borromeo in Bensalem. This past June, he “swapped” rectories with

Father Forlano and came to us at St. Stanislaus as a Parochial Vicar.

Before receiving Communion, a priest prays an inaudible prayer. Father related that he loves this prayer with its three intentions: 1) free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; 2) keep me always faithful to your teachings; and 3) never let me be parted from you. He says the prayer slowly, listening to what he’s saying. Father revealed that this prayer, for him, symbolizes what it means to be a priest. “Everything I am,” he says, “is the mission of Jesus. It’s His Priesthood, not mine. I share His Priesthood by his grace.”

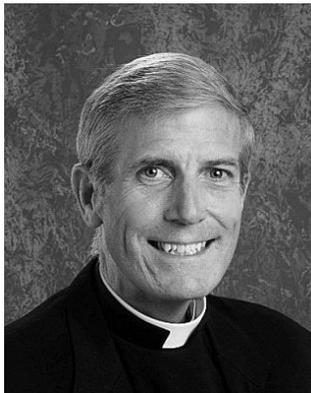
A few last random facts for your information: Father loves action heroes: Batman is favorite character. His Dodge Charger, a recent proud acquisition, is a witness to his love of muscle cars. And if you’ve seen the car, you may be wondering what the the Gaelic mean on the front license plate? It translates as “Our Day Will Come,” a historic rallying cry during the Irish uprising.✠



Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

During his brief time in the Jesuit novitiate, our parish patron, St. Stanislaus, kept a journal of his days in formation. His determination to serve in the Church was a driving force of his



young life even if his aspiration was not to be since he contracted an illness while helping those by the black plague which ended his life.

One of the musings the saint meditated upon centered on this journal entry: "I am so ashamed and confused because I see how many have been lost on account of a single mortal sin ..." His response was the line that we see in the masthead of every *NewStan*: "I shall reflect on myself and ask: "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?"

I wonder how much shame and confusion St. Stanislaus would feel if he were alive today? The ugliest of men's sins have been revealed in the Church, and many of us are struggling to deal with the ghastliness of the abuse and the sheer numbers of those who were affected. Many have left the Church; perhaps more have at least one foot out. More than a few are lost. **But now is not the time to leave, or run away from the comprehensive reforms that appear to be necessary to protect young people.**

When Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the doors of the Wittenberg Cathedral, many of the abuses he described had occurred in the Church. But God raised up holy men and women to combat the untruths which were also circulated, and worked arduously to fix what was wrong in a very human institution. Our present crisis challenges us to be part of the solution as well. In my opinion, the reform has already begun in Dallas and the number of clerical abuse cases has trickled down significantly. Will we ever get it to zero? Probably not, given the human penchant to sin. Ultimately this is a test of faith, not in an institution, or a man, or a group of those administering Church operations. It is a test of faith in Christ, and like St. Stanislaus, we must consider our own personal response: "I shall reflect on myself and ask: "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?" Leaving is not going to solve the problem, nor help you answer those around the workplace cooler who simply read the newspaper headlines. Admittedly it is a hard time to be Catholic, but if we are truly trying to live our faith, when is it not? ✠

HAVE A GOOD AUTUMN, EVERYONE,

Msgr. Joseph Tracy

Surfing Around?

The motto of Dynamic Catholic, founded by Matthew Kelly who's current book is reviewing this issue, is "Be Bold. Be Catholic." You can learn more about this organization at www.dynamiccatholic.com.

NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the St. John Paul II's call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish started publishing *NewStan* to serve members of the parish community and the community at large, to inform parishioners and members of the North Penn region about new developments in the parish, and to serve as a channel for communications among St. Stanislaus parishioners and benefactors.



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Those who wish to contribute items for publication should forward them to the *NewStan* mailbox in the St. Stanislaus Parish Center. The inclusion of submitted material is subject to the judgment of the editors in consultation with Monsignor Tracy and the St. Stanislaus Communications Director. The editors reserve the right to edit all submitted material for length and content.

Visit St. Stanislaus Parish on the web at

www.ststanislaus.com

Follow us on Facebook: St. Stanislaus Lansdale



Have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general? Forward questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will get them to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

Altar and Rosary Society

by Lino and Nancy Viola

Our Parish has many opportunities for serving. There are various ministries where one can fulfill God's call to us to serve others. Many of these are very visible to us. We can easily spot the lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, choir members, ushers, and greeters. But some are not so visible. They work "behind the scenes." The two of us have had the pleasure of meeting a few members from one of these groups that humbly and lovingly serve the Church through the Altar and Rosary Society. It is the longest running volunteer group in the Parish. Looking through their scrapbook we noticed that the first listing of officers was from 1953, leading one to assume that was when they were formed, but the heading states that in that year the Society was *re-activated* meaning that it actually goes back even further.

The Society's mission is to foster a devotion to the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and to provide care and upkeep of the altar and all things pertaining to the sanctuary. Each week members take turns along with cleaning of the Holy Water fonts, the confessionals, and the sanctuary. Four members are dedicated to laundering and ironing the linens (the altar cloths used for at Mass). The Group also purchases items needed to enhance the celebration of the sacraments. They distribute rosaries to the children receiving First Communion and visit local nursing homes to pray with residents.

Financing for all they do comes from member's dues (\$5 per year) and their annual cookie sale. This year, however, the group is doing something new. Instead of a cookie sale they are having a bake sale featuring Philadelphia's famous Stock's Pound Cake.

We were impressed with the group's rich tradition and history and surprised to learn that they were instrumental in paying for the purchase and installation of the Blessed Mother Altar and Statue in the church. As we sat with Anna Malickson (the newly elected co-chair along with Eunice Gandley) and longtime member, Anne Loeffler, we soon discovered how the group has been quietly involved in various phases of community outreach. The love they have for their ministry was readily visible.



At its height the Society had 300 members and was a woman's group. Now it has approximately 25 members and is open to all parishioners. Members participate in the activities that fit their schedule and talents. Anna shared that Rose Chapman is the longest standing member. If this information has piqued your interest you may want to attend one of their monthly meetings which take place at 7:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month, in the Parish Center, and perhaps become a part of this longstanding and revered St. Stanislaus institution.

"Blessed are they who give St. Stanislaus Parish their loving attention and affection, for they shall be the ones who keep our Parish vibrant and alive." – quote from The Beatitudes of the Altar and Rosary Society.✠

Upcoming GIFT Events

Growing **I**n **F**aith **T**ogether continues to be an important program of adult formation at St. Stanislaus:

✠ Tuesday, December 11: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Israel: Photo Travelogue by Deacon Tony Belitto

There will be no GIFT talk in November. However all are encouraged to participate in the **Parish 40 Hours' Devotions**. Check the Sunday bulletins and Parish website for updated information. GIFT programs start at 7:00PM in the Parish Center meeting room.✠

Mater Dei Catholic School Named National Blue Ribbon School

In its first year of eligibility, MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL was named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School, under the category of Exemplary High Performing Schools (schools that are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests).

MATER DEI was one of 349 public and private K-12 schools so-named in 2018 and one of only 19 in the state of Pennsylvania (1 of 9 in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia). It is the most prestigious honor available to schools in the United States.

Now in its 36th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 8,800 schools. On November 7-8, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and the Department of Education will celebrate with 300 public and 49 private school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

According to Principal Diane McCaughan, "The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award affirms the work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging



MATER DEI
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



content and achieve a high level of academic success."

The announcement was made by Secretary DeVos on October 1. Students celebrated "Mater Dei Blue Ribbon Day" the following day with students wearing new Blue Ribbon shirts. The children participated in fun community activities involving technology, treats, and even a school-wide aerial picture using the school's very own drone. Additionally the school is in process of planning a Family Blue Ribbon Celebration Day for Saturday, November 17.

When announcing the accomplishment, Miss McCaughan went on to say, "It is an honor and a privilege to be part of such a strong and loving community. MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL recognizes that knowledge enlightened by faith, excellence, service, and community is the heart of Catholic education. May God bless this community as we further the mission of MATER DEI!✠"

A Problem with a Simple Solution

Does this sound familiar?

It's a summer Sunday and you are down the Shore, headed to Mass at St. Joseph's in Sea Isle City, or St. Augustine's in Ocean City, or Our Lady of the Angels in Cape May, and you suddenly remember you forgot to put your St. Stanislaus donation for *this* week in *last* week's basket.

"I have to remember to double-up next week" you think to yourself. Only the following week it totally slips your mind because you are late, and pretty soon you've forgotten altogether. And since you are not the only one, the St. Stanislaus Parish collections for the summer were down again.

Or maybe this happens when visiting relatives for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Or because the kids had soccer and lacrosse Sunday morning and you attended at another Church with a Sunday-evening Mass time.

There's an easy solution to this year-long problem: Sign up for Parish Giving.



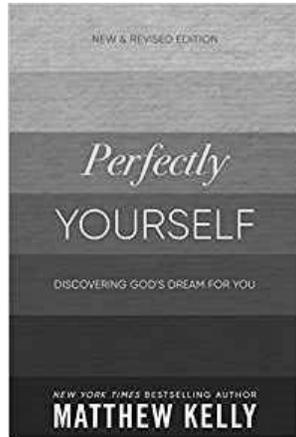
With Parish Giving, you can set up an automatic, online payment for your Parish donation which gets sent to St. Stanislaus whether you attend Mass locally or elsewhere. You can have the deductions done weekly or monthly and you have total control to stop, increase, or decrease an amount at any time. You can even add special payments such as for Christmas or Holy Days. It is completely safe and secure. And it eliminates the hassle of writing checks and finding your weekly envelopes!

You can sign up easily at www.parishgiving.org or click on the Parish Giving logo (seen above) on the Parish website, www.ststanislaus.com. Do it today – before you forget!✠

NewStan Book Review

by **Lorraine Miller**

For the past few years, members of St. Stanislaus parish have been given a gift of a Matthew Kelly book. For the past twenty-five years, as a speaker and an author, it has been his goal to “raise morale among Catholics, remind us that there is genius in Catholicism, and engage disengaged Catholics.” With that aim in mind, each book is designed to help readers become the best possible version of themselves. *Perfectly Yourself: Discovering God’s Dream For You*, is about “exploring and celebrating what makes us unique.” It contains 9 lessons to guide readers how to do this.



Below is his list of lessons:

1. Celebrate your progress
2. Just do the next right thing
3. Put character first
4. Find what you love and do it
5. Live what you believe
6. Be disciplined.
7. Simplify
8. Focus on what you are here to give
9. Patiently seek the good in everyone and everything

In his career, Kelly tells us he has learned about a similarity in all of us, whether male or female. Each of us has a hunger for something that has been lost. We yearn to discover how to satisfy that hunger. He says this hunger is “really a desire for connection and union with God.”

First, acknowledge imperfections. Discerning what is a part of our true self, and what is a distortion of that self is necessary if we are to become the best version of ourselves.

Second, always do the next right thing after consulting with God when making all decisions.

Third, put character first, and invest in acting to the best of our ability.

Fourth, think about work. Am I happy in my job? If not, I will still do the best I can!

Fifth, determine what we believe. Our lives are directed by belief. We betray ourselves if we abandon what we believe. We need to live what we believe to be happy.

Sixth, be disciplined. When we control our impulses, we avoid conflict.

Seven, simplify life. Once we determine who and what we are, we can cope with whatever life throws our way.

Eighth, when we have decided what is most important to us, we can determine our mission in life.

Ninth, by patiently looking for the best in everyone and everything, we can improve the quality of our lives.

This book is about learning a way to fulfill that hunger. As each lesson builds one upon the other, Kelly describes the problems we face in our lives. At the end, give yourself time to apply these lessons to your life, and absorb what you have learned. We can ultimately become the best version of ourselves.✘

God’s Mighty Arm

by **James Flinchbaugh**

When fire erupts from under the ground
It may give a warning and even some sound
To tell all the people who live all around
Make haste to escape fatal harm.

But often the opposite is quite as true
No signal advance for me or for you
And then there’s not much for any to do
Except pray for God’s mighty arm.

To take the deceased back to His own self
And heal all the wounded who still need His help
The love from all others both near and far
Will calm all the souls who still bear the scar.

That’s how the divine shows care for us still
Through humans who only desire His will
That seek not their own, but that from above
Who clearly do show His own perfect love.✘

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Parish Census Data for March – May 2018

 <p>Sabine Lila Alcott Brendan Patrick Boe Isabel Maria Chiapas Garcia Olivia Irene Conrad Lilly Marie DiSanto Ashley Flores Logan Elias Galarza Lucas Anthony Giovanniello Andrew Joseph Grigg Sebastian Samuel Guerra</p>	<p>Catherine James Hogan Ava Luna Jimenez Juliana Joanne Jimenez Anne Theresa Kelly Raelynn Marie Kirby Gael Yadier Lopez Rodriguez Liam George McDowell Christopher Isaac Naranjo Perez Harrison Mark Nisbett</p>	 <p>Michael & Rebecca DiTore Lawrence & Jennifer Early Andrew Graham David & Georgette Gunther Lauren Hensel Frank & Stephanie Hevener James & Suzanne Kunze Clare Marino Julia Matyas Neil & Julianne McGarry William McDowell</p> <p>Tyler & Elizabeth Musselman Thao Nguyen Anna Nogiec Trevor & Catherine Pinto Christine Stevens Gene & Caitlin Stricker Slawomir Szast Jason & Jamie Torrance Stephanie Vuotto Kristen Wilby</p>
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 <p>Regan E. Hillman & Gregory L. Goldberg Matthew Adam Quaglia & Courtney Lynn Sell Tomas Sanchez De La Rosa & Rigoberto Flores Olivares Elena Sicilia & Benjamin Lauer Lauren E. Williams & Christopher A. Regal</p>

 <p>Jane Angelo Carlene E. Clugston Louis W. Connell Jr.</p>	<p>John Eadeh Mary C. Fassl Joan Keyser Jeffrey T. Klock Edward J. Kunze III Lyle F. Mackey Patricia Ann Manni John L. Marcolina Sister Joan A. Rice, R.A.</p>	<p>John M. Sabia William J. Spengel Mary Grace Tepper Edith E. Verna Charles P. Woods</p>
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