
"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

Spring / Primavera 2019

What is Ascension Thursday?

by Norm Berger

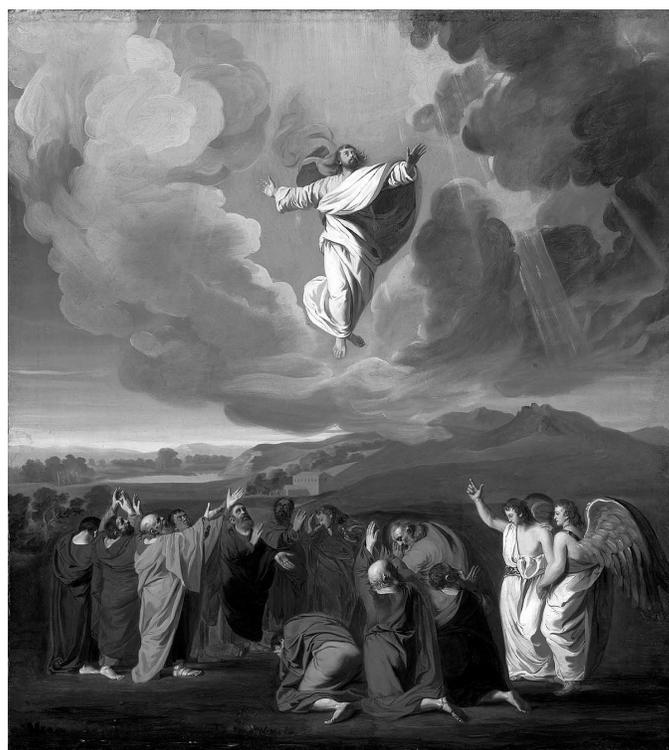
Ascension Thursday! We know it comes forty days after Easter. We know it is a Holy Day of Obligation. But what is meant by the Ascension and what did it accomplish?

Well, we all know that it is the day that the Lord ascended into Heaven in the midst of His apostles and witnesses. It is important for that in itself, and due to the fact that it prefaced the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost which could only be accomplished, however, by Jesus leaving them. He made room for the Holy Spirit to act in the world first in the apostles and, then, through them, in the world.

In John 16, we find Jesus explicitly telling His disciples as they are journeying to Jerusalem where His mission will be completed: *"But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away [read: the Ascension], for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you"* (John 16:5-7).

Later, in the same chapter of John, Jesus continues: *"I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak"* (John 16:12-13). This should have been of great comfort to His hearers on the road, but could they have put it all together in the face of their anxiety for their Lord and His fate? This passage is key, I think, to understanding the meaning behind the Ascension. It is not only that the Son has finished His mission from His Father and is going back to the Father, but also that it must occur to allow the work of the Spirit to begin.

We can look back to a conversation that Jesus had with



His apostles to appreciate what Jesus would do after He ascended into heaven. This is found in John's Gospel: "Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also..." John 14:1-3 This is the comforting assurance that after His Ascension, Jesus would prepare a place for His apostles. Unfortunately, this moment must have been shattered a little with Phillip asking Jesus to show them the Father and they would be satisfied (John 14:8). Jesus has to explain once again that He and the Father are one. We

continued on page 5

Adoration Chapel Turns Sixteen

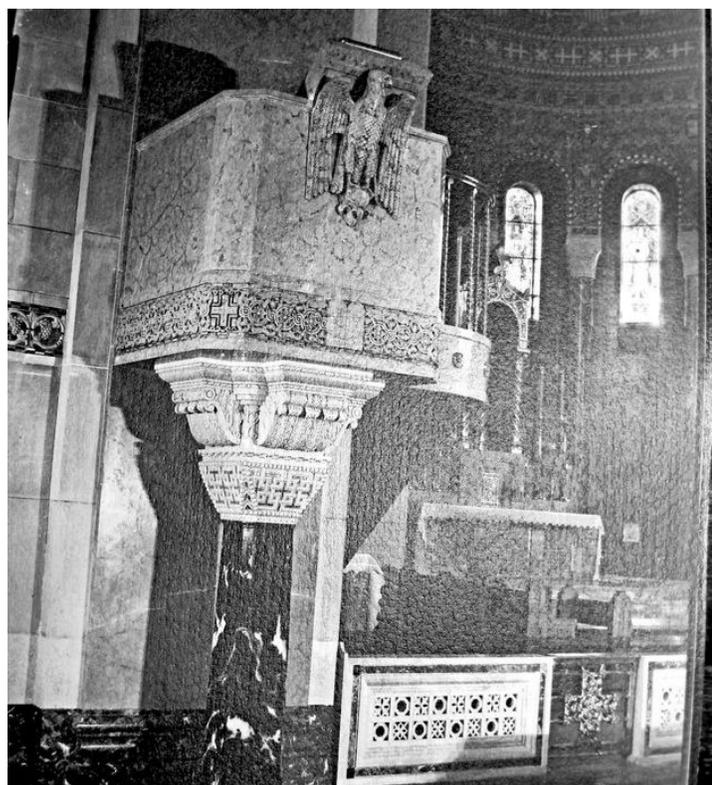
by **Caroline Nielsey**

As early as The Council of Nicea in 325 the Eucharist was reserved for the sick and dying. Clergy, religious and laity adored Jesus in the Eucharist. Sixteen years ago, this privilege came to St. Stanislaus through the vision of Pastor Emeritus Msgr. Joseph Murray.

One worry: How to get coverage 24 hours a day? The Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament visited and taught the protocol we use today, a coordinator, division leaders, and adorers working together in unison, stepping in when a substitute is needed. Fr. Victor Warkulwiz preached to help recruit initial volunteers. People came.

Msgr. Murray wanted a large chapel and as part of the Parish Center renovation we got a private chapel. Msgr. Murray's motto was, "Keep it simple," meaning unadorned except for Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The stained glass angel windows were designed by Joseph K. Beyer Studio. The Italian/French carved stone gold mosaic inlaid altar of the chapel was the base of the pulpit from Transfiguration Church in West Philadelphia which was dedicated in 1924, and demolished in 2009. New marble was purchased for table and base.

The antique filigree monstrance is inset with semi-precious



1928 Picture showing the pulpit base from the Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, West Philadelphia, PA (PAHRC Archives)

stones and inlaid with symbols of our faith; the tree of life, the ark, the date palm, the loaves and fishes. Ornamental alpha and omega dangle beneath. The Latin inscription reads, "*In nobis et verbum caro factum est et habitavit.*" which means, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The 100-year-old crucifix was donated by the late Catherine and Joe Janus who played a large role in the coordination of adoration. Bernadette Kubej took on the role after. Today, Susan Gillen serves as our coordinator.

Kevin McGilloway, one of our division leaders, shared this memory from the day he served as a lector at his son Ryan's Confirmation. Cardinal Rigali was celebrant, just back from electing Pope Benedict. "As we processed from the Parish Center to the Church proper, Cardinal Rigali insisted on stopping in the Chapel before Mass. Just Msgr. Murray and Cardinal Rigali went into the Chapel and stayed for 5 minutes...How would you like to have been 'Joe Adorer', minding your own business in the Chapel and in walks Cardinal Rigali?"

We will never know this side of heaven how our prayers are answered. What we do know is grace has come to our parish family through the presence of Christ in Eucharistic Adoration. Have we seen miracles? Our local hospital stopped doing abortions. Two young men are now priests plus we have four new deacons. Other answered prayers; healings of illnesses and addictions and children born to infertile couples. There was even a proposal of marriage in the chapel. Adorers were years ago asked to pray for a "Msgr. Tracy" who was suffering with cancer. Little did we know, our prayers would be answered and he would become our pastor!

It isn't too much to give God the one hour Jesus asked of His disciples. If you would like to continue our tradition of adorers, contact Sue Gillen at scgwindows@gmail.com.✠

Upcoming GIFT Programs

June 11, 2019 at 7:00PM

Speaker -- Susan Brinkmann, author and journalist
Topic: *Eucharistic Adoration: How to Change the World in One Hour*

September 17, 2019 at 7:00PM

Speaker -- Meghan Cokeley, Director, Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Topic: *What Can We Do? The Role of the Laity in the Church's Time of Crisis*

Parish Staff Spotlight

Trish Cunningham

by Dianne Spotts

What is a parish? A Catholic business? A ministry? A family?

Perhaps it is all the above, operating smoothly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our clergy, and a competent staff, including those who operate “behind the scenes.” You may have had correspondence from one of these staff members, perhaps regarding your annual contribution information for tax filing. And that would be Trish Cunningham, Records Coordinator and Parish Cemetery Administrator.

Born Patricia Dobranski in North Wales, St. Rose of Lima parish, Trish was in 3rd grade when her family (including an older sister Paula and younger brother Stephen) moved to Lansdale and St. Stanislaus. She attended Montgomery Elementary School, Penndale Middle School, and North Penn High School.

At King’s College in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, she shortened her name to ‘Trish,’ majored in Accounting, acted in some school plays, and was an officer in student government. There she also met her future husband Mike Cunningham. They married in 1987 at St. Stanislaus and moved to Hatfield and St. Maria Goretti Parish where their four children were born. While there, Trish coached cheerleading, Mike coached basketball and all their children were very involved in CYO sports. The Cunningham’s moved to Souderton in 2005.

Trish’s parents Steve and Irene have been parishioners here at St. Stanislaus for over 40 years. To her Catholic upbringing, she owes her belief in God, love of family, knowledge of right and wrong, and her sense of “Catholic guilt.” (LOL)

Trish’s work experience began as a teenager at Macy’s Department Store. During her years at King’s College, she completed an internship at Coopers & Lybrand, public accountants in Philadelphia, which turned into her first

full-time position. She enjoyed the city experience, and with her daughter now at Temple, visits the city often and her favorite restaurant: El Vez where she enjoys Mexican food and margaritas. Before coming to St. Stanislaus, she worked at American Olean Tile in Lansdale, as the Sales and Marketing Accounting Supervisor.

Mike is employed at Quest Diagnostics in Colledgeville as a Director of Information Systems.

The Cunningham children include Allison (aged 27) who graduated from Gwynedd University with a degree in Human Resources. She is employed by Henkels and McCoy in Blue Bell. Stephen (23) who graduated from St. Joseph’s University with a degree in finance, is employed



by SEI Investment Company in Oaks. Lisa at 20 is the aforementioned junior at Temple, majoring in Journalism/Marketing. The youngest, Christopher (16), is a junior at Souderton High School and is on the school’s golf and volleyball teams. He is thinking about majoring in Accounting in College. Trish is enjoying the newest addition to the family: her daughter Allison’s dog,

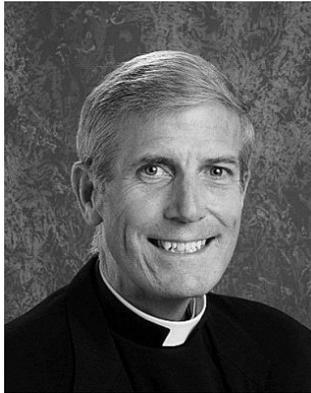
Nelson: a 6- month-old Cavapoo pup.

Trish’s penchant for shopping may have begun with that job at Macy’s in the jewelry department, which may have been when ‘glitter’ became her favorite color. Trish cherishes her family and makes no bones about enjoying life – going to concerts and restaurants with family and friends, and turning ordinary occasions into celebrations for her family, friends, and her co-workers.

None of this takes away from the dedication and hard work she puts into her position as Parish Records Coordinator and Administrator of the Cemetery. She maintains the parish database containing each parishioner’s information, adding new parishioners as they join. She maintains records of contributions/envelopes which are also the information for tax filing. She purchases the supplies for the Parish Center, coordinates the parish

continued on page 6

Our Pastor's Pen



Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

I always associate the celebration of Easter, first Communion days, and the crowning of the Marian statue with spring seasons of times past. When I was in grade school, the May procession was a huge deal, celebrated by a walk around the Church and School blocks in our Lawndale neighborhood. People would come with their fold-up patio chairs and sit near the street to get a good look at each grade's students and the parish groups that were in the procession. Once processed, we would have an outdoor crowning of the Marian statue and sing songs asking for Mary's intercession for our needs.

May is one of the months of the year that the Church dedicates to the praying of specific prayers to the Mother of God. Perhaps because the secular Mother's Day falls right in the middle, it is a perfect month to remember our heavenly Mother and Jesus' own mother, Mary. The pious practice of honoring Mary during the month of May has been especially recommended by the Popes. Pius XII, in his great Encyclical on the Sacred Liturgy (*Mediator Dei*), characterized it as one of "other exercises of piety which although not strictly belonging to the Sacred Liturgy, are nevertheless of special import and dignity, and may be considered in a certain way to be an addition to the liturgical cult: they have been approved and praised over and over again by the Apostolic See and by the Bishops" (no. 182). Paul VI wrote a short encyclical in 1965 using the Month of Mary devotion as a means of obtaining prayers for peace. He urged the faithful to make use of this practice which is "gladdening and consoling" and by which the Blessed Virgin Mary is honored and the Christian people are enriched with spiritual gifts" (no. 2). In May 2002, Pope St. John Paul II said, "Today we begin the month dedicated to Our Lady, a favorite of popular devotion. In accord with a long-standing tradition of devotion, parishes and families continue to make the month of May a 'Marian' month, celebrating it with many devout liturgical, catechetical and pastoral initiatives!"

This year, why not try to start a month-of-May family tradition in your home to invoke the intercession of Mary, our Mother? Outdoor processions may have declined over the years, but that does not mean that children of today should not be exposed to Marian piety. Of course you can always attend the ones at Church; we would love to see you! Peace and all good to you and your family.✠

Sincerely in Christ,

Surfing Around?

For more information on the Adoration Chapel (see page 2,) including hours in need of adorers and an easy way to sign up, visit www.ststanislaus.com/perpetual-adoration/

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.

Parishioners Attend the March for Life

by **Caroline Niesley**

On January 18, 2019, parishioners from Respect Life and others from St. Stanislaus and Mary Mother of the Redeemer parishes shared a bus to DC to give witness to our support for the protection of unborn children, women in crisis pregnancies, and for men and women who have suffered following the abortion of a child.

Respect Life is a group of dedicated Catholic people who believe in *Humanae Vitae*, the encyclical written by Blessed Pope St. Paul VI in 1968, about God's plan for married love and the transmission of life. The Respect Life group meets the first Tuesday of every month.

The weather was snowy at dawn but warmed up and was quite comfortable during the March for Life. Vice President and Mrs. Pence were keynote speakers. The President gave a televised speech encouraging the marchers. It is quite refreshing that this administration has acted by supporting policies and appointing judges who support life. Sister Barbara held a prayerful retreat at the beautiful Basilica of the National Shrine with those who were unable to make the lengthy walk. We deeply appreciated their prayers. It is easy to get lost in the throng of what was estimated to be between 100,000 and 300,000 people, though no one did!

Youth were well-represented including single people, families, sisters and brothers, seminarians and priests. The thousands of high-schoolers who regularly attend are really invested in the cause for life. People of every race, nationality and creed were represented. Flags were carried by Lutherans, Anglicans and Orthodox believers who marched. Some identify as atheists, liberals, conservatives, and LGBTQ. There were elderly with walkers and handicapped people in wheelchairs. There were hymns sung and rosaries being said. People came from all across the United States to take part and walk the muddy Mall. For that time we were all one, undivided.

What really stands out is how the overwhelming majority of people are in their twenties and thirties. Jeanne-Marie Motley, head of Respect Life, noted that this is the first generation of young people who have an ultrasound picture in their baby album.

Please join us in 2020! We will continue marching until every life counts as much as our own.✠



*March for Life attendees from left to right: Deacon Tony and Mrs. Bellitto, Caroline Niesley, Mary Ann Bonner, Pat Shovelin, Jeanne Marie Bonner Motley, Mary McNulty, Juan Lastra, Bonnie Henry, Marlene Hangey, and Eileen McKeron.
Photo by Jeanette Sichel.*

Ascension Thursday

continued from page 1

also should take comfort in our faith that Jesus will create a place for us as well when we pass away. That is a source of a great hope from the Ascension.

It is interesting that the risen Jesus appears to His apostles by the seashore in Galilee and brings Peter to a confession of love after his thrice-repeated denial of Christ. In Acts we hear Jesus telling His apostles “not to depart from *Jerusalem*, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me...”(Acts 1:4). Luke 24 has the same injunction, to stay in Jerusalem but in the context of his first appearance to His apostles after His Resurrection. Then Luke has Jesus walking with His disciples to Bethany on the Mount of Olives. This becomes the site of his Ascension. Got it?

Do you ever wonder if there were any other people around the site that Jesus ascended from on that occasion? I have, while meditating on the Second Glorious Mystery of the Rosary I can only think that the walk to Bethany came about early in the morning when no others were “out and about”. If a few others had been in the vicinity there may have been a morning mist enveloping the area with Jesus rising out of it unseen by anyone other than the apostles. The mist would have parted as Jesus ascended with His eyes to heaven leaving the sun to shine from on high to create a golden pathway for the glorified King. This Ascension Thursday, why not meditate on what it would have been like if you were there – and what you have gained because of that day.✠

Parish Staff News

Spring is the season of rebirth. So perhaps it is fitting that this spring St. Stanislaus is happy to announce the expansion of the Parish Staff family with the hiring of two new very significant staff members.

Starting Monday, April 1, **Patricia Diehl** began as Office Coordinator. She will be responsible for calendars, room reservations, and sacramental record-keeping (marriages and funerals). She will also manage the front desk receptionists, funeral intakes and the scheduling of funeral ministers. As office coordinator there may be other duties as well, as appropriate.

Patricia has been a life-long resident of Lansdale and a long-term St. Stanislaus parishioner. That will serve her well as she begins in this position. She is a choir member and helps Mary Gaus with the children's choir. Many of you may recognize her from her parish involvements. Patricia is actually "coming out of retirement" to take on this role and help serve the Parish. She will work 30 hours as week over 4 days, taking Tuesdays off. Her office is in the rear of the first floor, closest to Lansdale Avenue.

Our second new addition is **Joe Campbell** who joins the staff in May as the Parish Youth Minister upon his retirement from his current job. Many parishioners – especially youthful parishioners – know Joe already as he has been involved in CYO at St. Stanislaus for over twenty years. He has coached virtually every sport that CYO offers from basketball to softball to soccer. He has also been a soccer coach at a number of our high schools in the local area.

Joe will be working to involve young people in the spiritual and social life of the parish. He is looking forward to continuing to work with young people not just in athletics but in other youth ministry activities. His primary focus will be parish youth in junior high and high school, grades 7 to 12. Joe will be working mainly later in the day and will occupy the desk in the "bull pen" at the rear of the first floor of the Parish Center.

Speaking about the new staff members, Monsignor Tracy said, "I know that I am extremely happy that we have finally filled these positions, and look forward to working collaboratively with them and with you all to make St. Stanislaus Parish the best we can! May the Lord bless our new employees as they join more directly in building God's Kingdom in North Penn!"

Please join us in welcoming both Patricia and Joe to the



It is not too late to schedule a tour at MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL and enroll for the 2019-20 school year! All families with preschool to grade 8 children are welcome. We are taking registrations for our **fifth** Pre-K classroom. While North Penn now has a full-day Kindergarten, **our Preschool and Kindergarten Programs have both half and full day options!** Give your child the gift of an exceptional Catholic education from a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School. For more information, please contact us at 215.368.9787 or gsamanns@materdeicatholic.com.✘

Your child in Kindergarten at Mater Dei will:



- Be nurtured in faith and love;
- Learn through discovery;
- Play outside in the morning and afternoon;
- Be in a class with 25 or fewer students;
- Have the choice of half or full day program!

Help Us Spread the Word About Making the Best Choice for a Child: Kindergarten at Mater Dei

Trish Cunningham

continued from page 3

baptisms (making sure all paperwork is in order), and records various baptismal sacramental information into the sacrament registers. This summer, she will become one of the wedding coordinators at St. Stanislaus.

Since I now work a few hours a week as a receptionist at the parish, I've found Trish to be a friendly and helpful co-worker.

If our parish is a *Catholic business*, Trish's strong work ethic, professionalism and knack for order and detail are valued. If it's a *Ministry*, her service and caring nature are important. And there's great evidence in her life that being part of a *Parish Family* is 'key' for Trish.

Trish, thank you for being real, warm, and a definite asset to the St. Stanislaus behind-the-scenes family.✘

Church Renovations Completed!

Incredibly it was only two *NewStan* issues ago that we describing the upcoming bathroom renovation project. Demolition began soon after the Christmas season and in a couple short months, the new additions were complete – including a wonder feature that was not part of the original plans shown in the fall issue: an enclosed “children’s room” for families with young children. Below are some snapshots of the enhancements to our beautiful Church.✘



The new foyer area features crisp, clear signage welcoming visitors as well as two donated prints from Philadelphia-born artist Jacob Landau.



The room in the rear of the Church for families is carpeted and contains two full pews – and plenty of room for strollers.



The new exclusively women’s bathroom is located on the side near the entrance to the choir loft.



On the opposite side of the foyer is a family bathroom as well as the new men’s/women’s room.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 *What is Ascension Thursday*
- 2 *Adoration Chapel Turns Sixteen*
- 3 *Parish Staff Spotlight: Trish Cunningham*
- 4 *Our Pastor's Pen*
- 5 *Parishioners Attend the March for Life*
- 6 *Parish Staff News*
- 7 *Church Renovations Completed!*

Parish Census Data for December 2018 – March 2019

 <p>Claire Bailey Franklin Battavio Frank L. Bowser Charlotte J. Clarkson Patrick J. Coyle Eileen Mary Cross Rossi Elena Joseph T. Flaherty Francis S. Gaunay Antoinette M. Gehringer Tom B. Hammer Margaret Herbine Stella Jendsen Bill Kraynak Henry A. Kuzminski Ann F. Loeffler Katherine J. Lugas Pauline A. Marsaglia Timothy A. McAllister, Jr. MaryLou McGuire Tara Lynn Noonan Kathleen T. O'Hara Margaret M. Ousey Kira Poccia James R. Polito John F. Polito Shannon Marie Ryan</p>	 <p>Mary Ann Aviles William and Sara Clipp Kyle and Jenna Fry Alessandro and Christina Gambino Thomas and Kathleen Gaus Nicholas and Brianna Giuliani Michael Han Deborah Jones-Miller Sean Lacerte</p>	<p>Michael and Maria Jacqueline Le Catherine McGuire Joseph and Kellie McMurtrie David Miller Matthew and Kim Mongon Caroline Murray Michael and Ashley Revak John and Caroline Robinson II</p>	<p>David and Christine Roy Gina Scaccio Anne Scheffler Eric and Kathryn Schmid Thomas and Stephanie Talty David and Kari Wright</p>
	 <p>Evelyn Margaret Doyle Rebecca Carmella Dunstone Mia Lucille Fagan Lucy Mae Flaherty</p>	 <p>Celeste Anlas & Brett Linsky Caitlin McGarry & Gene Stricker Jose Garcia & Petrona Velasquez</p>	