



"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

Summer / Verano 2021

The Festival Returns!

by Sandy Sasso

For fifty-eight years, the week of the Feast of the Assumption meant new memories were about to be made in Lansdale. Children would scream on the Ferris Wheel. Pizza and ice cream and Funnel Cake would be consumed. Hermit crabs would be won and head to new homes. Parishioners would come together over drinks and hear hometown bands. The St. Stanislaus Festival.

Just saying those words would make any parishioner and North Penn resident smile. However, with all the other disruptions in 2020, the pandemic interrupted that tradition as well. In the interest of safety and given health department guidelines, the annual festival was cancelled. The Parish held some smaller events to support our community, the Garage Sale soldiered on, and we held a very successful remote raffle. But still, we all knew we were missing something.

Summer of 2021 will indeed see the St. Stanislaus Festival return for its 59th occurrence – and dare we say it will be back and better than ever!



Always so many booths to choose from!

The excitement starts Tuesday, August 10th (Dollar Dog Night!) and runs through Saturday, August 15th, 6PM to 10PM each evening. There will be the usual exhilarating rides, food and drinks, and all your favorite game booths like the Basket of Cheer Wheel, Speed Pitch, and the Dunk Tank! The Garage Sale has been open since Saturday, July 10th and continues until the end of the festival. Take your chances on the cash raffle prizes to be pulled at 10PM on Saturday, and wristbands for rides will be available on Family Nights Wednesday and Thursday. Attending the festival does not mean you miss out on sporting events: The Eagles game will be projected Thursday night and the Olympics all week long! Of course, every night features a live band in our Beer Garden (see page 6 for the schedule).

We're fortunate to have a vibrant parish with many volunteers to make this community event a SMASH! People from all over Montgomery County contribute to the great success we have always enjoyed. So get your plans started, and join us in the festivities. Throughout this issue you'll find some photos from the past to remind you of how much fun and how many memories we all had. Get ready to make more!✘



Even the simplest rides bring smiles to the faces of young parishioners!

Everything Old is New Again: Part II

Continuing an Interview with Father Sean on St. Stan's Church Upgrades

As discussed in our last issue, my curiosity upon noticing the removal of some pews sparked the idea for an article about the changes to the Church. Fr. Sean's explained about the mechanics and implications of the pew removal. He also explained about the shift of the Baptismal font to the middle of the Church and detailed some of the history and worship implications of the move. But one issue could not contain all the updates Father Sean had and so we have this continuation of our interview covering previews of a few more improvements to our place of worship. - Ed.

Paul Cutajar: We discussed the move of the Baptismal font from the Sanctuary to the body of the Church. Are there other changes planned for the front of the Church?

Fr. Sean: Many think the area in the front of the Church that we have been calling the Sanctuary, is called the Altar. However, the Altar is actually the specific "table" or place of sacrifice in the Sanctuary upon which the Body and Blood of Jesus is made present, sacrificed and offered to the Father. We *re-present* the same sacrifice of Calvary, within the Mass, each and every time. The place of the Altar has historically changed throughout Church history as well. In the early times, Mass was offered in homes, then at the places of burial of the early martyrs, then only when Christianity was allowed by law, in places dedicated to the Sacrifice of the Mass – Churches. Sometimes they were in the body of the Church (pews are a recent innovation). Over time the Altar moved to the area we see it today. Before Vatican II, Altars traditionally were located against the front wall of the Church. They were ornately adorned, as this was the whole reason for a Church. Priests



said Mass facing the same way as the people because the priest intercedes on behalf of himself and the people he serves.

PC: Was St. Stanislaus ever set up that way?

FrS: Our Church was designed during the time of Vatican II. Therefore, the Altar was not placed directly against the front wall of the Church. They were anticipating the changes of where the priest stands during Mass. In fact, I recently learned, that our Church had the tabernacle placed directly on the altar in the center. This allowed for priests to pray the Mass either in the same direction of the people (*ad orientem*) or facing the people, as we do today. The tabernacle we have today, has doors on both sides, because Mass was celebrated in both directions. Ultimately, after the Vatican Council, the norm became for Mass to be celebrated facing the people, particularly the Eucharistic prayers. (We have pictures of both ways celebrated in our Church.) When this happened, a decision was made to relocate the tabernacle to the Altar to the right of the main Altar. Those altars were necessary and used in a time when priests were not allowed to concelebrate but still offered Masses for those who donated. There has been a movement in the last twenty years or so to relocate the tabernacle to the center of the Church, what we call the main axis. The focal point of every Church should be the Altar (before which we bow), but this is further focused when the tabernacle (before which we genuflect) is in the same place as the Altar. At the beginning and end of most Masses in our Church, we need to bow before the altar then turn and genuflect before the Tabernacle.

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Parishioner Spotlight

Pat Stortenbecker

by Norm Berger

This article has been long overdue. Jane Friel, who had been previously spotlighted in this space recommended Pat as a Spotlight Parishioner because of her dedicated services heading up the Parish Festival Garage Sale for the last seventeen years. That was *last* summer. However, like so much over the last eighteen months, events and circumstances led to the article being delayed. But we promise – Pat’s story is worth the wait!

Just how dedicated did Jane mean? During Pat’s nearly two-decade tenure, the Garage Sale has generated an average income of \$10,300 per year to the annual total Festival income (Last year during the pandemic, the take was “only” eight thousand dollars!). Pat has brought special experience and talent to this effort. But we are getting a little ahead of ourselves: let’s see how this came about...

Pat was born in Philadelphia but early on moved to Lansdale with her family in 1950. Pat attended St Stanislaus Parish School, and then moved on to graduate from Lansdale Catholic. She was accepted at Gwynedd-Mercy University where she was an education major. In her third year, apparently because of a shortage of teachers, a special program allowed her to become a full-time teacher without going on to graduate at the time.

While a student at Gwynedd-Mercy, Pat also worked at the Montgomeryville Mart in a booth. There was also a snack booth there and Pat used to walk over to get coffee and talk to someone who served there. That “someone” was Jim Stortenbecker and the stops at the snack booth turned out to be for more than just for the coffee.

It was the Vietnam Era, and Jim decided to enlist in the Army. The two young lovers wrote to each other faithfully while Jim was away. Then they broke up for a while as Jim thought that things were going too fast. However, Pat had a supporter in her camp: Jim’s mother. Mrs. Stortenbecker

began pushing Jim to get married as she really liked Pat. Jim ended up at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis studying finance (even though his future career in the Army was in Security). One evening, Jim’s mother invited Pat over to their row house in North Wales. While Pat was sitting with the Stortenbeckers the phone rang. His mother answered it and started talking to her son long distance. Suddenly she called out, “Pat, Jim wants to talk to you!” Pat went into the kitchen and took the receiver of the wall phone from Jim’s mother. After greeting each other and

talking, Jim suddenly asked, “Is my mother there yet?”

Pat looked around and replied “Yes, she’s waiting to talk to you again.”

Jim abruptly responded, “Close your eyes!”

“What?” answered Pat.

Jim said again, “Close your eyes” and Pat did. “Do you think Mom’s there yet?”

Pat replied, “Yes, because I can feel her.”

Now Jim, a little more emphatically, directed, “Open your eyes!”. Pat saw his mother holding a small box in front of Pat. Pat

then heard through the phones a disembodied voice: “Will you marry me?”

And Jim heard a simple “Yeah.”

A plan was made for Pat and her prospective in-laws to travel to Indianapolis to see her new fiancé. This was quickly done over a weekend so that Pat could be back with her students on Monday. Later on, a call came from Jim in New York City telling Pat that he was on his way home on his way to Fort Benning where he was entering Officer Candidate School (OCS) there. A hurried wedding was planned and such began Pat’s time as an Army wife until Jim retired a little over twenty years later

Pat and Jim were blessed with three children, two girls and

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Father Sean Says

“Nothing compares to being there.”

This is the slogan for a new campaign the Archdiocese is instituting to welcome people back to Mass. It is catchy and simple, but it captures a shared experience we all have if we're honest. Many people dream about vacations by looking at videos or pictures of places they never have been. Once we have the opportunity to visit, we can share the beauty from our own experience and let people know that “they have to visit.” How different is the experience of listening to your favorite song at a concert compared to listening to the track at home? In all areas of life, the personal experience of a place or event truly doesn't compare to the pictures or stories people share. By analogy, we can see how this may be true with our experience of God.

The experience of the Pandemic created a longing for the return of so many things that were sacrificed due to safety measures. In reality though, a lot of the changes we made during the Pandemic restrictions seem to have become permanent. Many people who used to commute to work have told me they are now working from home. Some restaurants have maintained their take-out numbers even though the tables have been set. And, in the case of coming back to Mass, many continue to watch live-streams from home, or perhaps have fallen out of practice all together.

Archbishop Nelson reminds us:

AT EVERY MASS, WE BEAR WITNESS TO CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD. THROUGH THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST, WHICH THE LORD INSTITUTED AT THE LAST SUPPER, WE RECEIVE HIS PURE AND BOUNDLESS LOVE OVER AND OVER AGAIN. AS CATHOLICS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EUCHARIST IS THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST. SUCH A PRECIOUS GIFT DESERVES OUR REFLECTION AND APPRECIATION. IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE CAN EXPERIENCE VIRTUALLY. CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE EUCHARIST IS REAL AND OUR PERSONAL PRESENCE IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE IT.

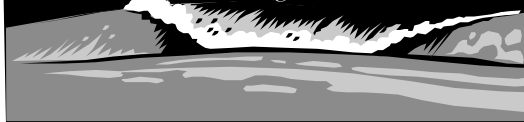
If you haven't been to St. Stan's in a while, I welcome you. Stop by for Mass, enjoy the festival, check out the changes to our Adoration Chapel; just give yourself a reason for the experience of being here in person.

Changing an old habit starts with taking the first step. Let us walk with you!✠



Surfing Around?

The St. Stanislaus Restoration Appeal was started to help our recover from losses in income incurred during the pandemic. It's not too late to contribute if wish, just visit www.ststanislaus.com/restoration-appeal/ and click on the link to go to a special Parish Giving site.



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 Father Sean 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



Do you have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general?

Forward your questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will direct the questions to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

Old is New Part II

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PC: So, is there a plan to move our Tabernacle then?

FrS: It has been my desire, as well as that of some predecessors, as well as many parishioners to move the Tabernacle to the main axis of the Church. It's also been mandated by previous bishops. Our Church is unique. Behind the wall, at the exact point where the Tabernacle should be, is a large chimney. If you ever stand in the parking lot and look at the Church you will notice it. Because of the placement of the chimney, and the lack of space between the altar and the wall, it was not possible to move the tabernacle where it should be. The same anonymous donors who allowed us to move the font, also donated the means to move the altar forward towards the main body of the Church. This would allow room to move the tabernacle, without having to place it in the wall, which we don't think we can do because of the Chimney. Unfortunately, during the attempted moving of the altar, we discovered the Altar is not one solid piece of Marble. It is marble that has been built around a base of poured concrete and cinder blocks, which is dug into the foundation. It became an issue of dismantling and rebuilding the altar, rather than moving it, which we could not do. What we were able to do, was move the top part of the Altar, called the mensa, forward six inches, which increased the room behind the Altar, where the celebrant stands. This may have given us enough room to come up with a creative way to place the tabernacle in the center of the sanctuary, on the main axis. However, that is another project for another day.

PC: Speaking of other projects, are there any other items planned for the near future?

FrS: The next improvements are the ones the parishioners have been supporting with the lighting upgrade envelopes. We are close to finalizing the bidding process for new light fixtures, updated LED lighting both inside the building and in every external light fixture. We also will be adding security cameras around the campus. A dedicated live-stream camera will be part of this project too.

PC: And did I hear you say something before about the sound system?

FrS: Yes, finally, we will be updating the sound system and hopefully providing a positive and enjoyable listening experience at St. Stanislaus.

PC: I will really look forward to and all those changes. For the Baptismal font there were donors who contributed to the project. Were there other donors for these projects?

FrS: The generosity of our parishioners has already funded these projects. The dedicated envelope was started by Msgr. Tracy, and we are now at a point to move forward with these projects. I will update the Parish as we begin each phase, and I look forward to sharing the gifts of our parishioners with completed projects soon.

PC: Father, thank you, for taking the time to preview all of these enhancements to our Church and for enhancing our knowledge to the theology behind them. ✠

Pat Stortenbecker

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a boy, eventually nine grandchildren and now nine great-grandchildren. Pat was often with Jim on his tours in Virginia and three different sites in Germany among other locales. However, Pat also learned to cope with times when Jim's was away on tours by herself. She had to learn to deal with children and bills and the challenges of day-to-day family life all by herself. She put this experience to good use after Jim's Army retirement when she took over as the head of the Garage Sale. There she was able to draw upon her creativity and problem-solving as well as her evident people skills — not to mention, every so often, Jim's assistance.

Pat is also a survivor. She endured a bout with intestinal cancer and a later return of the same condition. She has been cancer-free since 2004. Unfortunately, Jim was not as fortunate. He acquired spinal stenosis and his back was operated on three times and he suffered from COPD. Last year he became COVID positive and his COPD became a complicating factor which quickly brought led to his passing in January of this year. Rest in peace, Jim!

As just noted, Pat is a survivor. And her lifetime of experience as an Army-wife and as the incredibly capable directory of the Parish Garage Sale has shown that Pat know how to deal capably with everything life throws at you. I can tell it has helped her also to cope capably as she enters this new stage of her life. Our prayers – and thanks – are with Pat and her entire family! ✠

Help Wanted: Memories and Musings

by Anne K. Kaler and Dianne Spotts

The recent ending of the pandemic means a welcomed release from of hibernation. But it also brings forth new efforts at communication between people and their fellow parishioners.

The *NewStan* staff would like to hear YOUR **memories** from the past and the **musings** of the present in a new column starting with our *NewStan* fall issue. Short glimpses of what you and other our parishioners remember from Church, School, and everything in between will hopefully bring back smiles of recognition from all of us. Equally important are the expectations and ideas about the future, the recounting the hopes we had and have for our parish's future. The *NewStan* editors want your ideas and your short essays to lead the way through this new column.

With the speed of texting and emailing, the editors can easily process our fellow parishioners' stories for each issue. We suggest that your entries be less than 200 words so that we can fit multiple into the same of them into the issue. Send your memories and your musings to Dianne Spotts at dianspot@gmail.com and Anne Kaler at akkaler@verizon.net who will handle editing your submissions for each issue!

Need an example of what we are looking for? We thought you'd never ask!

Anne Kaler: School Lunch in '41

I started St. Stanislaus Grade School in 1941, just as the Second World War was starting. School was the single brick building across the street from the current church. It was a large and scary place with high and wide steps to the second floor for the upper grades and the lower grades on the first floor. The first-grade classroom fronted on Lansdale Avenue and the second-grade room faced the playground. However, the steps down to the basement led to the bathrooms and the lockers where our Friday lunch sandwiches of tomatoes and onion, tuna, or cheese perfumed the air on warm fall days. We sat in front of our lockers, lunch boxes and bags on our laps as we whispered quietly.

On sunny afternoons, after lunch and after school, one of the Franciscan sisters sold long stick pretzels with yellow mustard. Our playground was in back of the school and served as the off-street parking for the church which sat

beside it. As I recall, it was not paved but had some gravel on it with a long bench of a single plank acting as a seat for student s. At the end of the bench was our only source of water, an old, round sink with a single spout which delighted the boys who enjoyed dousing each other with its weak and warm stream. Unfortunately, in that first year, I had to leave the cool trees of Lansdale as my family moved to the hot and noisy streets of Brooklyn to be nearer to my father who worked for the Maritime Commission during the war.

So, be on the lookout for stray memories and beckoning musings in your life to send to us. We looking forward to being able to share them with the rest of the Parish and help us all make new connections together! ✕

FESTIVAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

St. Stan's Summer Festival always features live musical entertainment. The band schedule for this year is:

Tuesday, August 10 th	The Fiasco's
Wednesday, August 11 th	Our Daily Rage
Thursday, August 12 th	Big Daddy and the Fender Benders
Friday, August 13 th	Malpractice
Saturday, August 14 th	Highway Run



Can you name this past Festival dunking victim?

Altar and Rosary – and Pizza?

This past March, the Altar and Rosary Society held a fundraiser for the Parish that was not only successful – it was pretty delicious too!

The long-time St. Stan's organization organized the fundraiser with Giuseppe's Pizza on Cowpath Road: on all Sundays in March, from Noon to 8PM, Giuseppe's donated 20% of all purchases (excluding alcohol) to St. Stanislaus as long as you presented the "St. Stanislaus Dine-Out Coupon" that was available in bulletins and on our website.

Given that many people were still home at this time on Sundays towards the end of the pandemic – people were very happy to have a pizza lunch or dinner and support the Parish. How happy? So happy that the fundraiser ended up "topping" out at \$2,020 – that the best "2020" we've seen in a long time!

Many thanks to everyone who came out one March Sunday and purchased food! Of course, a huge congrats and thank you goes out to the whole Altar and Rosary Society, including their Executive Board Betty Grouke, Christine Horace and Ann Malickson. Finally, a huge thank you to Sal Moscariello, owner of Giuseppe's who not only agreed to participate in the fundraiser, but really "delivered" with an additional donation over and above the proceeds we made for the fundraiser! Thank you, Sal!✂



From left to right, Executive Board Betty Grouke, Christine Horace, and Ann Malickson with Giuseppe's owner Sal Moscariello



The whole Altar & Rosary Society poses with Father Sean



The Executive Board presents Father Sean with a check for the money collected by the fundraiser.






We did mention Funnel Cake, right?


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Parish Census Data for February 2021 – May 2021

Gregory & Colleen Bruno	
Armando & Elizabeth Castillo Rodriguez	
Ryan & Megan Cheeseman	
Weber & Petra Condori-Rojas	Daniel & Yudi Pacas Argueta
Helen Daly	Roni & Esperanza Pacheco Rodriguez
Michael Dank	Morgan Pfaff
Garrett & Janine Dudzik	Robert and Jeannie Prykowski
Stephen & Kathleen Ferraguti	Chad Reid
Francis Ferris, Jr.	John & Jennifer Russell
Frances Fiordimondo	Erik & Heydi Sanabria Rodriguez
Jonathan & Tracy Flissar	Michael & Caroline Schoenewald
Mike & Priscilla Irely	Norma Singley
Patrick & Rebecca Jochum	Colleen Smith
Jon-Paul & Victoria Kaczmarek	Ernest & Kathleen Sobkow
Olivia Kane	Angela Thorsen
Anthony Krolikowski	Bradley & Jennifer Troxclair
Joseph & Dana Malizia, Jr.	Kevin & Rachel Walker
Anna Maria Morgado	Brian Wingate
Stephanie Neri	
Juliet Ogengo	

Jack Anton	Maryanne Mogensen	
John Cahill	Joseph Molasky	
Thomasina Canavan	Patricia Moran	
John Carney	George Murphy	
Brendan Clark	Mary Paone	
Brett Conley	Teresa Pisinski	
Sarah Cummins	Domenic Pulitano	
Julia Diliberto	Francesco Pulitano	
Elizabeth DiMascio	James Raffaele Sr.	
Joseph Dulis	Eleanor Roach	
Margaretta Fry	Catherine Rocchino	
Raffaele Fusca	Mary Rowen	
Louis Giuliano	Thomas Saitta	
Charles Groves	Linda Schmitt	
Shirley Jacketti	Dr. Mary Margaret Scott	
Douglas Kissel	Kathleen Slotter	
Sally Lafferty	Francis Smith	
Joseph Larson	Camille Sztukowski	
MaryAnn Lewis	Dennis Viall	
Mary Ann McBride	Jane Walsh	
Paul McGee	Marta Maria Pena	
Susan McGinnis	Zubillaga	
		
Lukas Ryan Chapman & Jessica Lynn Torres		
Mario Efred Cortes Aguilar & Rafaela Aguilar Soriano		
Michael Thomas Dorsey Jr. & Samantha Lynne Taggart		
Jason Craig Vaccarelli & Kathleen Johanna Mitchell		
Francisco Javier Castanon Rojas & Jazive Isabel Arredondo Martinez		
Dominic Recco & Corynne Szczepanski		


Logan Daniel Bednarek
Evelyn Christine Conrad
Cole Robert Criscuolo
Dominic Michael DiTore
Genevieve Anne Gray
James Henry Groff
Lester R. Hernandez
Jalyn L. Loja
Helen Loja
Natalie Simone Moffett
Matias Sebastian Franco Monroy
Alexander Navarrete
Wesson Prykowski
Miles Prykowski
River Prykowski
Charlotte Ricco
Zoey Evelyn Walker
Arlo Wynne