



# The Spire

St. Stanislaus Alumni  
& Friends Newsletter

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2  
8 PAGES

JULY 2024



## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE Over Cleveland Helps Celebrate St. Stanislaus Parish 150th Anniversary.

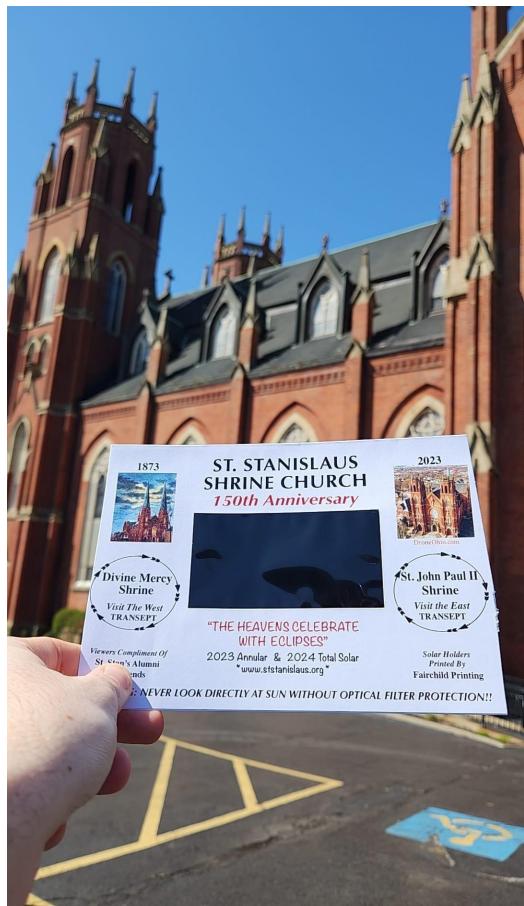


Photo courtesy of: BRYAN ISTENES



Logo Design:  
JAY RYAN

See Page 5 For  
Full Eclipse  
Story



Alumni & Friends  
PICNIC THIS YEAR  
Sunday, August 18, 2024



See Page 3  
for Full Picnic Details.

**RAINY DAY FUND -- RESULTS SINCE JANUARY - 2024 SPIRE**

*Thank you for all your support to our fund. Your donations AGAIN allow us to continue The Spire newsletters as well as our support for St. Stan's Elementary School and efforts to celebrate the 150th Anniversary.*

*The following 24 Rainy Day Donors allowed us to increase our working fund by \$2315.*

**Thank You For Your Generosity!****PACESETTER (\$500+)**

Jan ( Karash) Swift '58  
Florence (Karash) Nowocin '60

**LEADER (\$150-499)**

Robert Runo '65  
Bob Hasinski ES '49

**STAR (\$100-149)**

Helen Cooke ES '42  
Timothy Florencki ES '72  
Ron & Wanda Halinski ES '49  
Louis Kleis ES '51 HS '55  
Alan Mosinski '68  
Larry '61 & Joyce '62 (Blake) Guzy

**BENEFACTOR (\$50 - 99)**

Jim Havelec  
Jerry Ratusnik '68  
Pat (Niedzwiecki) Robejsek '59  
Donna (Leiblinger) Innocenzi GHHS '61

**PATRON (\$25 - 49)**

Bryan Istenes  
Steve Hujarski ES '61 HS '65  
Carol (Koprowski) Orzech ES '57 HS '61  
Jerri Donahue  
Mick Panek ES (k-7) '52-'60  
Anna Lesniak  
Norma Giesicki '62  
Donald Pekala  
Eleanor (Kaczmarczyk) Burma's ES'44 HS'48  
James & Susan Halamek

**Legacy Schools In Action**

*We spread the word that our campus is K-12. The tag line of "Drop them off for Kindergarten and pick them up to go to college" is very real. In early May, however, our K-12 concept went a step farther: Two students were baptized into the Catholic faith. One, William Morgan, just started in Kindergarten this year. The other, Amiya Holden, will graduate from CCC this month. William's aunt was his godmother, Sister Allison Marie and John Simon were the godparents for Amiya, and Fr. Rob Ramser was the official.*

*The Baptisms occurred as part of our regular Wednesday Mass. This is a part of our evangelization within our school community. Our Wednesday Masses are a breeding ground for faith sharing in many ways. The high school has started joining us by grade level this school year. Next year, we will have two grades from the high school joining us each week. So few elementary schools attend Mass as a whole school community anymore, let alone being joined by their high school friends. K-12 in learning, faith, and community!*



YES!

# **PICNIC THIS YEAR**

## **ALL CLASSES WELCOME!**

YES!

**When: Sunday August 18, 2024 • 1:00 P.M.**

**BASKET RAFFLES**

**Where: Klima Gardens**

4646 East 71st St, Cuyahoga Heights

**50/50 RAFFLES**

**Cost: \$20 Admission**

**Menu: Hamburgers & Franks (w/ trimmings)**

**Potato Salad • Baked Beans**

**Desserts • Coffee**

**Pop • Water (No bar sales).**

**\*\* SUGGESTIONS - CONTACT CLASSMATES & Gather for a Mini Reunion. \*\***

\* Those organizing class groups for table reservations of 8 to 10 people or more,  
Please call before Sunday, Aug. 11

Contact Bernadette (Larca) Smietana:  
440-825-0009 or bsmie155@gmail.com

**\*\* Additional Opportunity**

Meet With Pals

For the 11:30 a.m. Mass in Shrine Church

**Go to Picnic Afterwards.**



Alumni Committee Organizing Picnic

Donna Larca Burovac • Clare Larca • Denise Schultz

Norm & Iris Pieschalski • Bernadette Larca Smietana • Bill Dix

### **POST IT NOTE CORNER**



**I Can Assist  
at the Picnic!**

Contact:  
Clare  
440-234-3443



**Reservations  
for  
Class Table!**

Contact:  
Bernadette  
440-826-0009



**I'm interested in  
Volunteering for  
Parish Festival or  
Alumni Activity!**

Contact:  
Karen  
216-524-5621

**Visit To Divine Mercy Shrine**  
***Ed and Diane (Karwoski) Slovenski '69***

A devotion to Divine Mercy and St. Faustina is very important to many people not only locally but worldwide. So it is quite an honor to have a new Shrine built in the West Transept of St. Stanislaus, adorned with a painting of St. Faustina, St. Pope John Paul II, along with a relic of St. Peregrine, patron Saint of people with Cancer.

In 2002, two years after Pope John Paul II Canonized Sr. Faustina as a Saint and one month after he consecrated the International Shrine of the Divine Mercy, my wife, Diane, and I had occasion to travel to Poland on a religious pilgrimage. One stop was Krakow-Lagiewniki, which in 1985 Pope John Paul II called "The Capital of Divine Mercy Devotion". This is where Sr. Faustina lived and worked and also her final resting place. We actually spoke with a few Sisters from the Congregation of Our Lady Of Mercy. Fr. Ted Marszal, our pilgrimage director was able to celebrate Mass in one of the Chapels. It's exciting to reminisce of our time in Krakow and how it ties in with the building of the Divine Mercy Shrine at the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus.



**Roman Catholic Basilica**  
**(Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy)**  
 Built in the shape of a boat. Also a 272 Foot viewing tower which resembles a mast.



Altar

*As members of the St. Stans Alumni & Friends Committee and in conjunction with the Association, Diane and I made a donation for the painting of St. Faustina. We're proud to be involved in an act that means so much to so many.*

***"Jesus, I trust in You"***



**Sister from the Congregation  
 Fr. Ted Behind Sister - Diane to  
 Sister's Left. Our Polish Tour Guide  
 on Sister's right.**



**Ed and Diane (Karwoski) Slovenski  
 High School Sweethearts from  
 Class of 1969**



**Faustina's Chapel at Sanctuary**



***More information regarding the  
 Divine Mercy and St. Faustina can be  
 found in the July 2020 Spire (pgs. 1-3).***

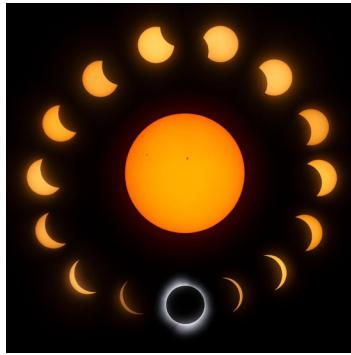
***Look up previous Newsletters at  
[www.ststanislaus.org](http://www.ststanislaus.org) website under the  
 ALUMNI section pull down.***



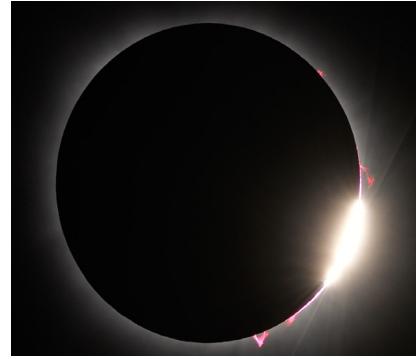
## ECLIPSE REPORT - From the Desk of Editor Bob Sledz

Monday, April 8, 2024 was a day most of us will never forget. Our eclipse experience was in Sledz's backyard with family and nearby neighbors comparing notes over the two hour experience. We lucked out weather wise, thanks for the extra prayers, and were able to witness the most complete shadow for almost 4 minutes of totality. The eclipse started in the Western sky slowly darkening as the shadow approached us for about an hour. The light initially dimmed and took an almost eerie and surreal twilight effect as the temperature dropped about 10° over the mid day experience. During totality, we could safely look at and see the Sun's Corona, an orange prominence along the lower right side, as well as nearby planets, Venus and Jupiter.

*At the time I thought about the awesome wonder of creation, and the thunder of "Oh..Lord..how great thou art!" What a remarkable coincidence that our moon's size and distance perfectly aligned for it to cover the sun's disc during this solar eclipse.*



Sweatshop Workers Photo



## BACKGROUND STORY

### *Background story behind the Eclipse Viewer Project to help celebrate the Parish 150th Anniversary.*

Back on June 5, 2012 Ingrid and I were involved with the Cleveland Astronomical Society project to provide free solar viewers of the very rare TRANSIT OF VENUS to allow safe solar observation as the interior planet slowly moves in front of the Sun. (The next transit will occur on Dec 11, 2117). We encouraged folks to keep their solar viewers for future eclipses they could use them for in Ohio. Three important eclipses were; Aug 21, 2017, Oct 14, 2023 annular, and Apr 8, 2024.

Ingrid and I went to Tennessee for the 2017 event, but were anticipating the '23 & '24 eclipses.

In early 2021 Fr. Eric Orczeh thought our idea to combine eclipse viewer gifts in conjunction with the Parishes 150th Anniversary was a good idea. One side of the holder would have eclipse info and the other side Parish & school info.

With our friends Suzie & Larry at Fairchild Printing providing much help and the ability to print & cut the viewer holders and mainly because of the generosity of our RAINY DAY DONORS we purchased enough safe Mylar filters to make the 4000 viewers.

Actual construction of the viewers was over 7 meetings of about 2 hours long each and referred to as the "alumni sweat shop". The first session was on Feb 24, 2022 (when Russia first invaded Ukraine), the last session on June 23, 2022. Each viewer was glued-not stapled-by using Fairchild's gluing machine, tested for safety, and all construction was done at Golubski's East 65th Funeral Home. We were all determined that **ALL** the viewers were to be given out **FREE** and that we **DID NOT HAVE ANY VIEWERS LEFT OVER ON APRIL 9, 2024**.

## PLANNING FOR THE TWO ECLIPSES

### **PART 1: Prior to the October '23 Annular Eclipse**

- Mailing viewers to Rainy Day Donors
- Distributed to all Elementary & CCCHS Students and Teachers.
- Given to all at Mass over Polish Festival Weekend.
- Given to parish guests & Visitors.
- About 1800 Viewers remaining, then rain and overcast in CLE on October 14th - Ouch!

### **PART 2: Prior to April 8, '24 Total Solar Eclipse**

- Distributed to CCC Calcutta Fundraiser
- After All Masses Easter Weekend
- Bundles of Viewers delivered locally to:  
Red Chimney, Daves Market, Holy Name, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, St. John Nepomucene Parish, SS Peter & Paul Parish, Boys & Girls Club, Jennings Hall, OLA Parish, PACC on Lansing Ave.
- Divine Mercy Sunday Masses
- At 11:28 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, Karen Neuman distributed the **LAST VIEWER** in church.

We all said a prayer for clear skies on Monday!

**RESPONSE:** *Many people told us how much they appreciated the quality of our viewers AND how much they were surprised by the Eclipse experience on them.*

## Reflections of a Grateful Student by Karen Matus Neuman '68

### MY LIFE'S TOOLBOX

I have been doing a lot of contemplating about how we maneuver through our lives. Psychologists and philosophers have done a lot of writing about the concept of nature versus nurture. The tendency is to rehash each concept and decide which one is dominant and that becomes the newest theory to raise children or drive educational models.

Well, I've come to my own decision; and it is . . . both, folks! Each of us is born with innate skills and abilities that might have us strong in music, science, business, art, mechanics, writing, organizing, planning, athletics, or any of long lists of items from scores of options. Our personalities are just as variable with some of us introverts while others are extroverts; some want to make the plans while others prefer to tackle those plans to make a project viable. We each have a long list of our own attributes that surface as we walk through life facing each day.

I have decided all these skills and traits are aided by our very personal toolbox handed out the day we are born. Each day after that, every individual you meet offers you something that you can add to your toolbox. It started at home, extended to our neighborhood, our church, then to school. I have always laughed as I think of the term "Catholic guilt" being so strongly instilled with a Catholic education; I've now renamed it my moral compass. After school we went off to work, to raise families, to volunteer, to play, and to create new communities. By the time you get to be a mature adult, you have a fully equipped bright red Craftsman-size toolbox on wheels from which to draw your tools each day.

When I retired, I often met former students and colleagues who would stop to chat. Invariably I would have former students say how they appreciated something they learned in class or an activity in which they were involved. Even fellow teachers would comment about projects on which we collaborated years after the project was forgotten. My favorite was a teacher who said she admired that I always asked the questions everyone else was afraid to ask (OK, so some things don't change).

I started taking these encounters to heart and started telling those who added to my toolbox that I appreciated all their tool gifts. I was blessed with so many people along life's path--great parents; grandparents who were a second mom and dad; teachers; mentors at work; a loving spouse; good friends; fellow volunteers in many long-time commitments.

This led to a special experience I had a couple months ago which was having breakfast with my sixth-grade teacher, Miss Rosalie Brzozowski. At the time, Miss Rosalie was a first-year teacher at St. Stanislaus School. I was in her class along with almost 50 other cherubs. Imagine facing that many children in a classroom today. Teaching contracts would limit size to 20 or 25; at that time, it was dealt with by assigning one of the larger middle classrooms.

I thought about contacting her so many times, but somehow life always got in the way with its excuses. A couple of years ago, I made a call. At first, I heard the apprehension in her voice. Then we chatted for an hour about a lifetime of experiences. In the small-world department, we lived a couple miles apart when I was in her class; today we are again just a few miles apart in different homes and communities. After the initial conversation, we agreed that when our schedules opened up, we would set up a breakfast.

Time passed, and we made a breakfast date. Now imagine two people who had not seen each other in more than a few years now meeting and having no idea how the other looked. In sixth grade, I was all of 11 and Miss Rosalie was 21. Now we're, well, now we're more mature and both of us have changed a bit; but we are still as cute as ever! We had an initial awkwardness with comments as to whether we recognized each other (the answer is "no"), and a delightful breakfast to catch up on a couple of lifetimes. We chatted, laughed, smiled, and swapped stories. Breakfast menus changed to lunch menus around us as we talked for over two and a half hours.

The breakfast was interesting because we were still only 10 years difference in age, yet age and experience had made us more equal. Our original contact in the classroom was a teacher-pupil relationship; I looked to her as the authority figure. She looked at me as one of 50 students within a class. Our conversation flowed as easily as two long-time acquaintances getting together for a long-overdue meal.



Rosalie Brzozowski 58'

Karen Matus Neuman '68



#### Alumni Three-Fold Overall Goals

- Appreciate and savor our PAST.
- Live in and enjoy the PRESENT

Work to help the FUTURE of St. Stanislaus Parish and School as well as our Alumni Development.

*Miss Rosalie is a graduate of both St. Stanislaus School and St. Stanislaus High School. I would like this article as a tribute of a student remembering a teacher who stood out in her mind over a lifetime.*

*Miss Rosalie, over the year in sixth grade you offered us so many wonderful experiences. I remember the all-city diocesan school choir in which many of us participated. We learned the music in class; then for several months, we met in different parishes on Sundays to practice together culminating in the final presentation in the auditorium of the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel on the Square. You gave me an opportunity for a Christmas Eve midnight mass solo in the chapel; and it is a fond memory as I still remember the carol, The Snow Lay on the Ground, so vividly. We had a large group of students you skipped to eighth grade involving summer school (seventh grade math and English in summer; there's nothing like diagramming sentences when it's 90 degrees outside!) We all attended St. Henry's School at Harvard and Lee taking the CTS bus, getting off at E. 131 and Miles, walking down E. 131 to Harvard, and picking up the next bus. That was quite a daily trip for 11-year olds for 8 weeks. All these experiences and so many others have stayed with me, and I appreciate how they influenced me all these years.*

*What I didn't know when I was 11 is that you were passing me so many tools to use. Looking back, I see how you influenced my self-confidence. I learned how to recognize unique opportunities and to determine whether I was capable of taking a chance on something new. The events you presented to us all taught us how to work with others, to see projects through to a successful end, to organize, to seek solutions, to raise a hand to volunteer. You taught us the 3 Rs most certainly; but you offered so much beyond; and those are such valuable soft skills you added to each tool box.*

*I've met with many of my former students after having taught for 35 years. It's always fun and interesting to chat with them and catch up. I wanted you to know that I've thought of you and spoken of you often over the years, always with a smile. There were other tool suppliers who come to mind as well, and my cadre of tool suppliers have always given me a nudge and passed the right tool along for the right job at the right time. Thank you, Miss Rosalie, from one St. Stanislaus graduate to another.*

# The Neighborhood News

Your Community Newspaper Since 1923

**SERVING SOUTHEAST CLEVELAND, GARFIELD HEIGHTS, NEWBURGH HEIGHTS, CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD**

*The neighborhood news has been providing the weekly paper over the last century and celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at Klima Gardens in Cuyahoga Heights. Several recent issues provided a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the stories and pictures from over the last century. Founder Vaclav Psenicka and his publication carried readers and our families through the Great Depression, WWII, the Korean conflict and countless other current events at home and abroad. The 100 years of publication was appreciated by NN archives opening old stories, ads, and photos in its recent editions*

Thank you to the Psenicka Family; Vaclav, James, Ellen, Michael, and Elena, for guiding the Neighborhood News through the first century.

In recent NN editions of 'The Iron Ward News' column, our friend Charles Gliha has contributed the Slavic Village News and has generously allowed us to share several recent stories we thought you would find interesting. Thank you NN and Chuck.



## The Many Neighborhoods of Slavic Village

One of Cleveland's largest neighborhoods is actually a place full of little neighborhoods, each with its own unique history, geography, and vibe.

Starting from the north:

**Hyacinth:** East of East 55th St, South of Kingsbury Run. Named after an old Roman Catholic Church, it is currently anchored by Elizabeth Baptist Church and remnants of heavy industry.

**North Broadway:** West of East 55th, north of the business district. Historic anchors include University Settlement, Bohemian National Hall, and many large churches: Cuyahoga Faith, Our Lady of Lourdes, Community of Faith Assembly.

**Broadway-55th Historic District:** once the second biggest shopping strip in the city. Its landmark storefronts remain largely intact.

**Union:** the tight houses around Slovenian National Home recall the district's ethnic roots. Still a place of heavy industry.

**Fleet:** St. John Nepomucene Church anchors its west end. Recently renovated as the first Complete and Green Street in Cleveland, Fleet is Slavic Village's parade street and festival street.

**Forest City:** hard by the Industrial Valley, this district has intimate streets, great downtown views, even its own public golf course. An amusement park operated here a hundred thirty years ago.

**Warszawa:** the historic Polish neighborhood around East 65th and Fleet is an interesting mix of institutions: the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, the Polish American Cultural Center, and three schools, including Central Catholic High School.

**Harvard Grove:** two historic cemeteries make the area around Lansing and Harvard Avenues naturally picturesque.

**East 71st and Harvard:** one of Slavic Village's many retail strips. It had a horse racing park in the late nineteenth century.

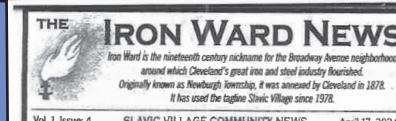
**Goosetown and Ducktown:** East 71st St. south of Harvard has an edge-of-town feel. No one alive today can say for sure where the geese ended and the ducks began. Called The Orchard, for its fruitful soil.

**Broadway-Harvard:** once a powerhouse manufacturing and retail district. Even had its own railroad depot, Holy Name and Jones Road Churches are Slavic Village's oldest.

**Warner-Turney:** home of Mill Creek Falls, Cuyahoga County's tallest waterfall. The city's biggest modern housing development was built here in the 1990s.

What did we miss? Contact Iron Ward News 2164694806.

For more information on the past and future, contact the Slavic Village Historical Society 2162187779 and Slavic Village Development 216429182.



## The Parks of Slavic Village

Slavic Village is what it always was: a gritty, industrial neighborhood. But it's also full of natural beauty, with open land, planned and unplanned, public and private, alongside its factories, worker homes, and retail stores. And its residents enjoy close proximity to Greater Cleveland's great public park systems.

Among our greenspaces:

**Hyacinth Park:** a large rolling landscape where an elementary school once stood.

**Barkwill Park:** near the Broadway-E55 historic district.

**Morgan Bluffs Nature Preserve:** recently developed as a wetland/educational center where the Cleveland Worsted Mills once stood.

**Dan Kane Park:** the site of a long-running summer concert series.

**Forest City Park:** currently undergoing a major expansion.

**Warsaw Park:** great for swimming, tennis, and basketball in summer and sledding in winter.

**Rathbun Park:** a little park off East 71st Street that some want renamed to Goosetown Park.

**Warner Turney Family Park:** developed in the last decade by the Warner Turney Neighborhood Association.

**Cleveland Metroparks:** manages four reservations near Slavic Village, all of them easily accessible by the neighborhood's growing network of bike paths.

**Washington Reservation and Golf Course**

**Mill Creek Falls Reservation**

**Garfield Reservation**

**Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation**

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park:** one of the nation's top twelve, is accessible from the neighborhood by bike in under twelve minutes.

For more information visit [www.cleveland.gov/parks/recreation](http://www.cleveland.gov/parks/recreation), [www.clevelandmetroparks.com](http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com), and [www.rps.recreation](http://www.rps.recreation)



## The Churches of Slavic Village

Neighborhood churches are many things: houses of worship, social clubs, cultural institutions, schools, service centers, historic monuments, even tourist destinations.

Slavic Village, arguably the oldest neighborhood in Cleveland, has many of them. Some are cathedral-like structures dating back a century or more. Others are little storefronts, recently opened by tiny congregations. Each is its own community of faith--faith in God, but also faith in the capacity of its members to make better people and a better world.

Here is the current list, by district:

### Hyacinth

Elizabeth Baptist church

### Broadway-East 55 Landmark District

Cuyahoga Faith Center

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Broadway Christian Church

Community of Faith Assembly

### Fleet

St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church

### Forest City

Greater New Beginning Church

Missionary Baptist Church

Faith Freewill Baptist Church

First Tabernacle Beth El Church

### Warszawa

Shrine Church of St Stanislaus

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

### Harvard-Broadway

Jones Road Church

Holy Name Catholic Church

Prophetic Outreach Chapel

Center of Hope Bible Fellowship

### Warner-Turney

New Life Christian Fellowship Church

Community Friends Church

If we missed anything, let us know. Call/text 216.469.4806



**The St. Stanislaus Alumni and Friends extends its condolences to the family and friends of the recently departed and pray the Lord will welcome them into everlasting life.**

Kathleen (Bartells) Rzeczycki wife of John '60

Barbara (Pospie) Enzress '63

Donald Biegacki, Husband of Theresa ( Brzuski) '55

Robert Leciejewski '57, Brother of Ted '61 and Jim'67

Barbara Okleson, MMHS '59, Wife of Ron '59 (*deceased*)

Virginia (Lesczynski) Plum '62

CONTACT: Alice (Smolinski) Kulwicki at 216-398-5390  
or Donna (Roginski) Heid at dheid1961@gmail.com



## Coming Soon Elevator at Social Center

Construction is progressing on the exterior wall of the Baxter Avenue Social Center to provide a space for the much needed elevator and new lobby.



Photos courtesy of:  
S. Winkler

## Four Eagles Award 2024

A wonderful time was had by all the 175 parishioners, guests and friends who celebrated the parish's 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of having been named a 'Shrine Church' and the Four Eagles award!

Fr. Eric Orzech presenting to Ron Zessut, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson, who accepted the Medallion on behalf of all the Parishioners of The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus - Bishop & Martyr.



The many pictures of the event taken by Don Pieniak are available on the church website via his link. Check it out! You'll see all the smiling faces, including many parishioners, who posed wearing the medallion awarded to them this Jubilee Year!

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*Previous Spire Issues*

Contact Information:  
The Shrine Church of  
St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street

## St Stanislaus Alumni & Friends - Rainy Day Fund - Call for Support

\$100  \$75  \$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$25  Other

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

St. Stans Alumni  
The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATION: ES- \_\_\_\_\_ HS- \_\_\_\_\_