

# The Spire

St. Stanislaus Alumni  
& Friends Newsletter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2  
8 PAGES

JULY 2025



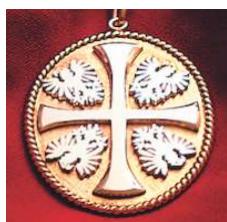
**Maryann Sasak and Edmund Skłodowski  
Were St. Stanislaus High School sweethearts  
From the Class of 1951 - *Congratulations!***

The Love and grace of Edmund and Maryann travels down to their children, grandchildren, and extended family. Altar servers **need** to be trained. Food **needs** to be prepared. Lilacs are **needed** for decorating. Booths **need** to be set up. Christmas tree lights **need** to be hung. Physical Education classes **need** to be taught. Prayers are **needed** to be said. Building, tweaking, designing and rimming of anything anywhere on campus ... Who fills that **need** well -

**A member of the Skłodowski family! - 2025 Four Eagle Recipients**

Their generosity goes beyond the financial support of all of the ministries of St. Stanislaus. Their generosity of spirit anticipates needs, fulfills needs, and never expects any show of gratitude. St. Stanislaus is blessed to have them in their community!

## LEGEND OF THE FOUR EAGLES



St. Stanislaus is the patron saint of Poland. Born in Szczepanow near Krakow on July 16, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in Poland and Paris. He became bishop of Krakow in 1072. Stanislaus quickly became involved in the political situation of Poland. He aimed his attacks at the evils of the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II, resulting in his excommunication of the king. The king, enraged, ordered his soldiers to kill the Bishop. When they refused, the king killed him with his own hands. (East Window of Church)

According to legend, the body of Stanislaus was dismembered after he was martyred, and four eagles came from different areas of Poland to protect the body.

The *St. Stanislaus Parish Four Eagles Award* has been given to an individual or organization which has been especially noteworthy in building up the Parish Community. The first honor was given in 2003.

(See Parish website for more information. ([www.ststanislaus.org](http://www.ststanislaus.org))



# RAINY DAY FUND -- RESULTS SINCE JULY 2024 SPIRE

Thank you for all your support to our fund.

The following 25 Rainy Day Donors allowed us to increase our working fund by \$1750.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## PACESETTER (\$300 +)

Constance (Reda) Wiget '65

## LEADER (\$150-299)

Jan '69 & Dona Juchnowski '60

Thea (Ziembicki) Kasprisin '60

## STAR (\$100-149)

Jim & Betty Cackowski '60  
 Donna (Michalski) Lantos '66  
 Timothy Florencki ES '72  
 Dennis '61 & Chris ES '58 Deluga  
 Donna (Gutfranski) Cesen '61  
 Alan Mosinski '68  
 Eileen (Halter) Rini '58  
 Angeline (Cwiklinski) Buerkley '55  
 Bob Hasinski

## PATRON (\$25-49)

Norma (Dombrowski) Ciesicki '62  
 Bryan & Grace Istenes  
 Carol (Koprowski) Orzech '61  
 Sharon '70 & Chester Kozak  
 Audrey (Pocta) Woznicki '55  
 Gerry Glatzer  
 Nancy (Bejger) Macklewicz '59  
 Theresa Gapinski '52  
 Frank Greczanik  
 Jim & Sue Halamek  
 Alan & Joan Burke '65

## BENEFACITOR (\$50-99)

Donna (Roginski) Heid '61  
 Donation from Class of 1964

## ROOF REPLACEMENT



Alumni support from the January 2025 Spire was very generous. Over \$4000.00 was contributed by 30 supporters. All are welcome to attend the “Roof Fundraising Events” publicized in the UPCOMING EVENTS listed on the parish website and in the Sunday weekly bulletin.

Thank You Alumni

# A Night at the Races

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025

**Contact: Matt Trafis 216-410-4062 or matt@bluestreakpm.com**

*Proceeds benefit the Roof Replacement Project*

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Last week, CCCHS students joined their grade school *Prayer Partners* from St. Stanislaus for a special end-of-year Mass. During the celebration, graduating 8th graders received a special blessing as they prepare to begin high school.

After Mass, students participated in retreat activities with their *pray partners*, celebrating a year of shared faith and friendship.

“This partnership has been such a gift for all of our students,” said CCCHS Principal Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND. “It’s beautiful to watch relationships blossom as older and younger students walk together in faith, supporting one another through prayer and presence.”



YES!

**PICNIC THIS YEAR**

YES!

**ALL CLASSES WELCOME!****When: Sunday August 10, 2025 • 1:00 - 5:00 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.**

**Picnic****Alumni Committee Organizing Picnic**

Donna Larca Burovac • Clare Larca • Denise Schultz

Norm &amp; 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!**

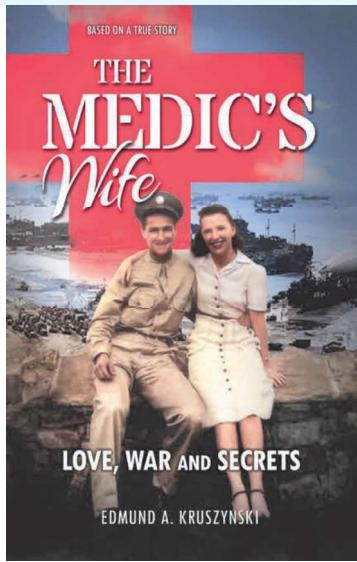
Contact:  
Karen  
216-524-5621

**Editor****Note:**

Soon after the January 2025 Spire I heard from Brigid Krane regarding my “Grandma Sledz” family story from the 1920’s. She recalled her Uncle Bob Krane’s story from the July 2028 Spire and that another cousin - Edmund Kruszynski - wrote a book based on the true story of WWII and old neighborhood.

I highly recommend it - it’s a story that will stay with you and in your heart. Plus, author Ed Kruszynski is the first cousin of Rich Kruszynski, my classmate from ‘61 - a great guy.

Bob and Jim Krane (Kruszynski) are Ed (junior), the author’s first cousins. Ed Kruszynski (senior, aka “The Medic”) and Mike Kruszynski (Bob and Jim’s father who owned Kruszynski’s Deli on Fleet and 65th) were brothers.



## The Medic's Wife Story From the Author

*The story of a courageous WW II combat medic and the spry widow who ensured his valor was not forgotten.*

*It's 1941. Amid the chaos and uncertainty of World War II, a remarkable romance unfolds. Courageous young combat medic, Staff Sergeant Edmund Kruszynski's dedication to saving lives takes him to the front lines of battle. Through D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and the horrors of the Holocaust, Ed soldiers on and saves lives even while seeing close friends perish. Although he returns home adorned with medals, the battle still rages within.*

*Follow the journey of the medic's wife Mary, whose strength and devotion are tested as their seemingly unbreakable bond teeters on the edge. Will Mary's vow to protect her husband's secrets hold firm, or will the weight of what happened cause their world to unravel? Some vows...are destined to be broken.*

It sounds like a plot for a movie. But for former long-time Cleveland, Ohio residents Edmund (Ed) and Mary Kruszynski, it's a true story. A story that almost remained untold, until a small miracle occurred in 2006. A devastating flood destroyed widow Mary's Mill Creek condo, it also unearthed a long-forgotten hidden box of WWII photographs and letters. “We knew dad was in the war and mom worked in a military factory, but our parents never talked about it,” said their son who wrote a book about his parent’s experiences. After the box’s discovery, however, Mary gradually begins to reveal the secret details of their story.

### Here is their story from the Book Cover:

After the Pearl Harbor bombings, the U.S. Army drafts Ed. He and Mary wed and move to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia where they live for the next 18 months. In 1943 Ed makes Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt) and deploys overseas. On D-Day, he leads a platoon of medics onto the blood-soaked beaches of Normandy, France. Ed’s unit faces off against the Germans in all five European battle campaigns, and he witnesses the brutality of the Nazi concentration camps first-hand.



Ed and Mary married.  
Camp Forrest, TN 1942.

While Ed serves overseas, Mary moves back home to Cleveland and lives with her parents. When she takes a job as a military warplane parts inspector, she works 12-hour shifts, seven days a week with one day off a month. As Mary worries about Ed’s safety, unjust accusations about their rushed marriage test her devotion.

In 1945 WWII finally comes to an end. Ed and his valiant platoon receive the U.S. Army’s prestigious Meritorious Achievement Award for exemplary performance against an armed enemy. He returns home adorned with five bronze combat stars, and one silver battle star. Because he struggles to assimilate back into civilian life, a catastrophic event occurs and threatens everything he holds dear.

*The Medic's Wife* is named for Mary. If it weren’t for her courage to break her promise of silence, this story would have been just another lost footnote in history. “Mom’s testimony was heart-wrenching, beautiful, and utterly captivating. The Band of Brothers meets the Greatest Generation is how I’d describe it,” says their son.

The Medic's Wife: Love, War and Secrets Paperback

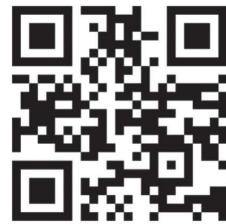
by Edmund A Kruszynski, (Author)

Order on Amazon: US Srp: \$16.95 US • Scan QR or URL: <https://a.co/d91gEJcP>

Checkout at Local Library • ISBN: 978-1954163744

Download the first 30 pages: <https://www.hellgatepress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/>

Pages from TheMedicsWife.pdf



A powerful reminder that the freedoms we cherish were won, defended, and preserved by the brave veterans who have "borne the battle" and the families who sacrificed along with them. —Robert A. McDonald, West Point Distinguished Graduate and Chairman of the Board of the West Point Association of Graduates; Retired Chairman, President & CEO of the Procter & Gamble Company; 8th Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs.

A must-read for anyone who has ever loved someone in uniform and for those who want to be inspired by the indomitable spirit of military spouses and their families. —Mrs. Ann Yingling, Former U.S. Army Wounded Warriors Advocate Wife of Maj. General John A. Yingling U.S. Army (Ret) Mother of Maj. Scott Yingling, currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Army.

A BLOCK OF FIGHTING MEN

## Neighborhood Pals Answer Call

Ninety-Six Families in Small Section Off Harvard Avenue Send 26 Sons  
To Fight With U.S. Armed Forces on Far-Flung Fronts of the World



The Cleveland Press ran a story about how 96 families in a small section off Harvard Avenue sent 26 sons to fight in the U.S. armed forces. It was an unusual concentration of servicemen coming from a small neighborhood. Ed is shown 3rd row, 3rd from left. Courtesy of the Cleveland News 7-23-1942.

1st row: Walter Luchka, Theodore Luchka, Carl Grossmeyer Jr., John Edwards, Walter Pikus, James Green. 2nd row: Joseph Gornick, Frank Gornick, George Archer Jr., Frank Farren, Joseph Shimick, William Novak.

3rd row: Edmond Sliwinski, Stanley Koral, Edmund Kruszynski, Curtis Clark, Steve Woicik, Mathew Zielinske.

4th row: Oliver Gault, Elgio A. Rogo, Gerard Kennedy, John Papushak, George Papushak, William Rubick, George Rubick.



Ed right,  
Big Hand Center  
Brother Harry, left  
Circa 1941

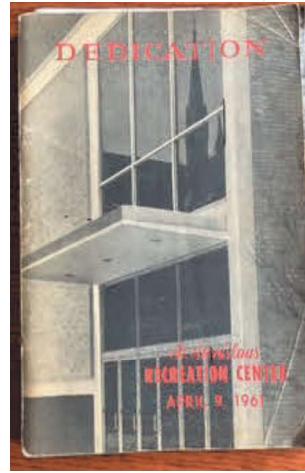
On Monday, April 28, Cleveland Central Catholic High School (CCCHS) and the St. Stanislaus community gathered to celebrate the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated St. Stanislaus Social Center and to dedicate the Carol A. Chase Entrance Hall.

The event opened with a warm welcome from CCCHS Principal Sister Allison Marie, S.N.D., followed by prayers of blessing from Father Eric Orzech, pastor of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus. The recent renovations mark a significant milestone for the campus, transforming the 65-year-old building with an expanded entrance hall and various other upgrades, including an elevator, energy-efficient windows and lighting, renovated office space, and an outdoor promenade and gathering space.



CAROL A. CHASE ENTRANCE HALL

A Lasting Legacy:  
The Chase Family Dedication



**EDITOR NOTE:** *It's very appropriate that the dedication ceremony was at the stairway entrance of the Social Hall. Sixty four years ago, April 9, 1961, the original St. Stanislaus Recreation Center dedication book included photos of all the students in school. Among the photos was a stairwell view of Sr. Carmella with her senior home room 317 which included both Carol Majewski Chase and George Chase.*

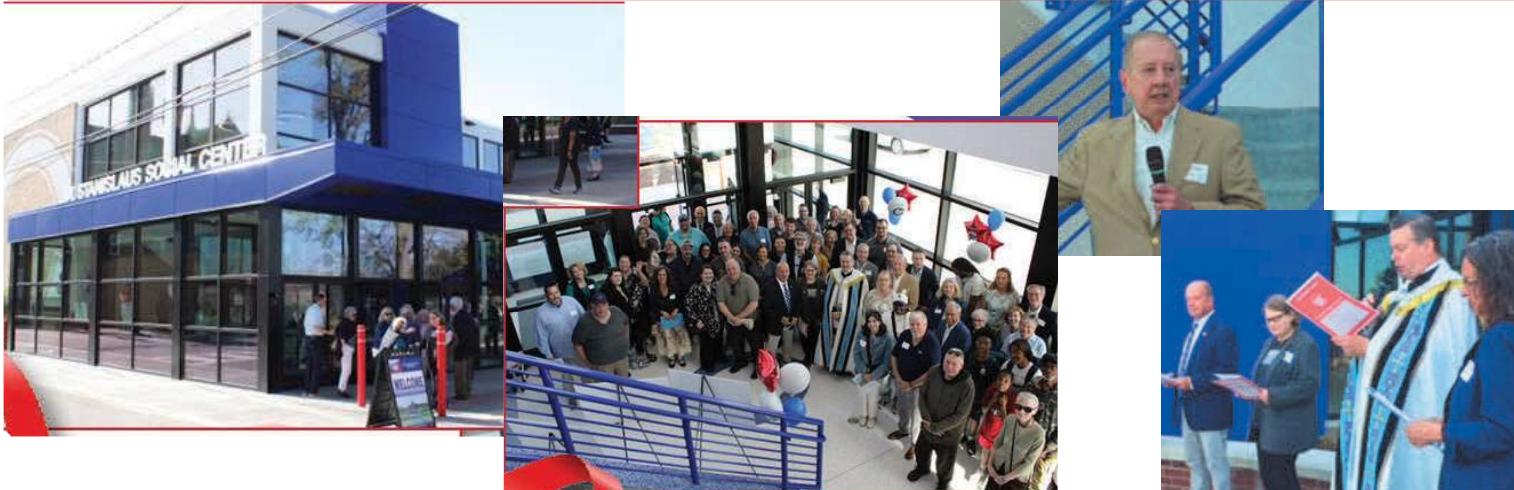


CCCHS President John Simon, Class of 1972, expressed heartfelt gratitude to George Chase, Class of 1961, whose generosity and dedication made the project possible. In a touching tribute, the new entrance hall was named in honor of his late wife, Carol Ann Chase, also Class of 1961.

Special remarks were delivered by Daniel Sirk, Architect/Owner of SA Group; Joe Korfant, Class of 1985 and Senior Project Manager with the Dalad Group; and Dr. Frank O'Linn, Superintendent of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

The celebration continued with a building tour and a blessing of a memorial bench donated by the family of beloved former CCCHS math teacher, Cory Hargis. Situated in a quiet respite area, the bench is engraved with the words: "A Place to Sit, A Place to Think, A Place to Remember."

"This project sends a strong message to the families, students, and other constituencies we serve in the Slavic Village community that we are committed to the well-being of our campus — now and in the future," said Simon. "We are grateful to the many individuals, foundations, and families who made this project possible through their generous support."

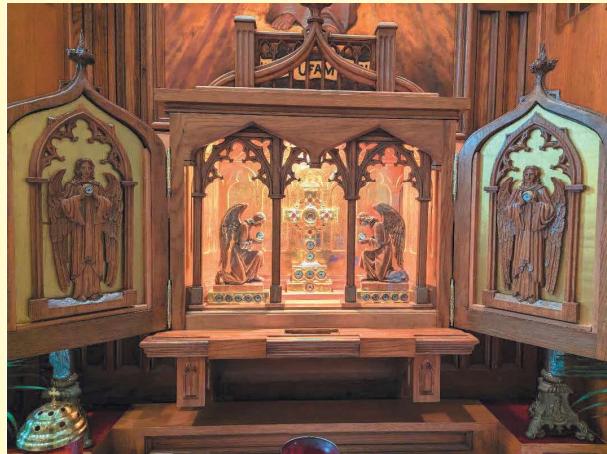
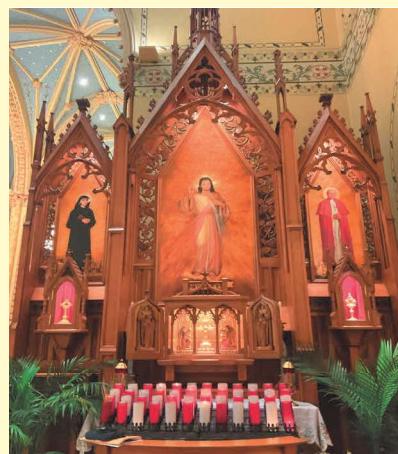


## THE DIVINE MERCY SHRINE

*The relics with in the new Divine Mercy central reliquary include the following: The Main Relic is that of the True Cross, located right in the center of the crucifix. It is surrounded with Carnelian, Garnet and Rainbow Moonstone Labradorite stones. The two relics directly beneath are those of the place of Christ's birth in Bethlehem & His death on Calvary.*

*The next 3 Relics are places associated with His Passion, Death and Resurrection, namely the Garden of Olives, the Holy Sepulcher and the place of His Last Supper.*

*The lone relic at the bottom is from the site of Jesus' Ascension into heaven.*



*The four angels are holding relics of the fourteen stations of the Cross to go with the other ten relics at the base of the two kneeling angels, they being reminiscent of the two angels atop the Ark of the Covenant.*

*The entire background and Crucifix are covered in gold leaf. The doors of the reliquary are meant to be open from Holy Thursday until the Pentecost. When those doors are closed you will see that the door on the left shows symbols of Christ's Passion and Death while the door on the right shows those of his resurrection.*

**EDITORS NOTE:** It is recommended to allow time for a visit, prayer and meditation at the beautiful Divine Mercy Shrine in the West Transept of Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus. The Alumni & Friends sponsored the St. Faustina Portrait back in 2020.

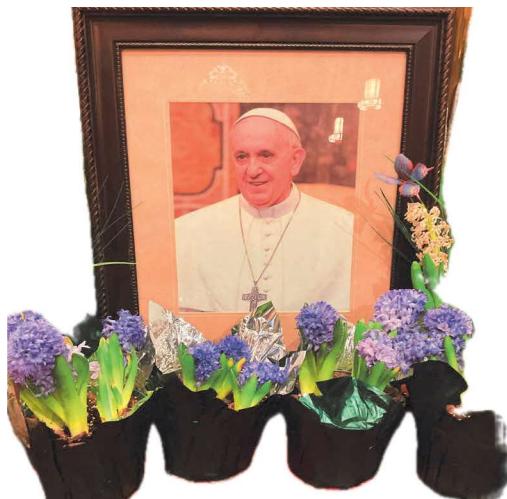


Dave DiCarlo '56  
 Jim Pelka '63  
 Chester Ziniewicz '65  
 Tom Jasinski '65  
 Lydia (Kryska) Hartzell '65  
 Jo Ann Blaha, DVM '65  
 Ed Boltrowicz ES '61  
 Ken Walters '62

Clarence "Bud" Szczech '64  
 Catherine Jaster, wife of Mike Jaster '59  
 Dennis Christopher, husband of Karen (Jaster) '66  
 Barbara ( Postie) Enzress '63  
 Ernest Kellermann '61 - Chanel  
 Kathleen Rzeczycki, wife of John  
 Paul Christopherson '62 (husband of Carol (Kowalski) '64  
 John Pace, Husband of Tina (Flowers) '61

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

## Pope Francis - Thank You!



## *Habemus Papem We Have A Pope* Pope Leo XIV



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 located on website

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 St. Stanislaus  
 3649 East 65 Street  
 Cleveland, OH 44105

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

\$100  \$75  \$50  
 \$25  Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Mail To:  
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 3649 East 65 Street  
 Cleveland, OH 44105