



WE ARE MAKING A COMEBACK



WHERE IS STAN & HELEN'S CANDY STORE?
See page 7 for Steve Hujarski's story



LARRY GUZY'S COWBOY STORY!
See page 3

Alumni & Friends Committee plans for 2021:

With emphasis on COVID-19 safety, as well as comfortable activity settings, the following decisions were made for this year.

- 1.) **No** July Alumni Summer Picnic at Klima's in Cuyahoga Heights.
- 2.) **No** November Pork Chop Harvest Dinner.
- 3.) We **SUPPORT** another Virtual Polish Festival in early October if it is scheduled. Check the status of the festival on the parish web site www.ststanislaus.org. The food at the virtual festival last year was very good for both preordered as well as from the outside hot grills. **CHECK OUT** the virtual auction online to both donate your "stuff" as well as to buy. (The virtual auction made \$4,000 for the parish last year).
- 4.) **There WILL BE a 1st Alumni Memorial Service in church on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Following the 5 p.m. Mass— ALL ARE WELCOME!**
(See p.8 of this *Spire* for details and the Memorial name input form).

– St. Stanislaus Alumni & Friends – Rainy Day Fund – Call for Support –

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Amount enclosed _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____

GRADUATION: ES-_____ HS-_____

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

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

RAINY DAY FUND JULY 2021

Thank you for all your support to our fund. Your assistance, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic, allows us to continue the *Spire* newsletters as well as our involvement with St. Stanislaus Elementary School and Parish.

The following 37 Rainy Day donors allowed us to increase our working fund by **\$2,795** since January 2021. Below is a listing of the latest HONOR ROLL DONORS, THANK YOU EVERYONE.

STAR PERFORMERS (\$100-199)

Larry '61 & Joyce '62 (Blake) Guzy
 Ron ES'49 & Wanda Halinski
 Shelly (Koran) Hartong
 Jim & Marie '65 (Bykiewicz) Jenkins
 Martin Kapinski ES '73
 Dale & Linda Kast
 Louis Kleis '55
 Peggy Krysinski
 Felicia Ann Madden
 Alan Mosinski '68
 Michele Peck ES'70
 Jan (Karash) Swift '58
 Regina (Mack) Tomek CCC '73
 Ron Wilinski '65

PACESETTER (\$500+)

Florence (Karash) Nowocin '60

SUPER STARS (\$200-499)

Donna (Ruminski) & Jim Goliat - both '60

BENEFACTORS (\$50-99)

David Anderson '64
 Linda (Lange) Benedict
 Tim Dominak
 Geri (Gmur) Evans
 Timothy Florencki ES '72
 Daniel Jarzynkowski '64
 Carol (Wroblewski) Monaghan '61
 Jerry Ratusnik '68
 Frank '56 & Rosemarie Scarci

PATRONS (\$20-49)

Arlene (Kneblewicz) Baer '55
 Mary Garapic '59
 Andrew Guzy '59
 Laurie Holdash
 Steve Hujarski '65
 Annamarie Kaczmarski-Dechert
 John & Elaine Martin
 Gayle (Luboski) McGlumphy '65
 Helen (Pruc) Pekala '69
 Bernadette (Larca) Smietana '63
 Barbara (Rutkowski) Stine '58
 Michel ES '43 & Annette Zagata

What we have done since September 2020

\$4,000—St. Faustina Portrait for new Divine Mercy Shrine

\$1,400—January 2021 *Spire* mailing

\$240—Elementary School PPE

\$200—Month of November 2021 Church Altar Wine and Hosts

\$300—Elementary School 'white' paper cases

\$500—June Teacher Appreciation 2020-2021

WHAT THE ALUMNI GROUP PLANS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF ST. STANISLAUS PARISH (2023-2024)

In 2023 the parish will begin celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Not only is it an historic year for the Church BUT also a rare and much anticipated Year In Astronomy. There will be an *ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE* on October 14, 2023, and a *TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF THE SUN* on April 8, 2024, with Cleveland near the center of TOTALITY — these are exceedingly rare events.

It is almost as if “the heavens are celebrating” along with us. We will use our Rainy Day Funds to construct enough SAFE SOLAR VIEWERS for all the Elementary and CCCHS students, parishioners, and Alumni. These will be special viewers with information about the parish as well as the Eclipse.

Monday, April 8, 2024, is a school day and totality will be OVER 3 minutes long-starting just after 3 p.m. — an historic day for the Parish and the City.

DIVINE MERCY SHRINE UPDATE

The three portraits for the New Divine Mercy Shrine in the West Baptismal Transit area are finished and waiting for their trip from Poland. Once it is safe for the artist Mariusz Gradman to bring them to Cleveland, the framing & installation along with the completion of the electrical and wooden carved finishings will complete the Inspiring Shrine. In the meantime — remember that ‘Divine Compassion and Mercy’ are the foundations of Catholicism and should remain in our hearts as well.



Four Western Adventures from the *Old Neighborhood* ...



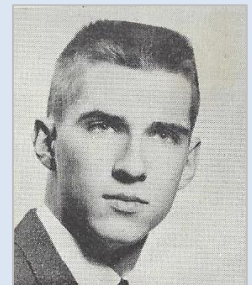
Larry Guzy '61



Bill Dix '60



Geraldine Rybicki '54



Bob Sledz '61

In the previous *Spire* issue, Bill Dix '60 reminisced about his backyard '40's and '50's cowboy adventures with the Slabinski brothers and neighbor Annette 'the lovely Indian princess.' A challenge was issued by Bill for others to submit their stories and pictures. Well — stories came in, as well as another from Bill. Here are four Alumni stories about the "Western Cowhands" from the old neighborhood ranches.

"I have a funny story to tell about wanting to be a cowboy..." Larry Guzy

"When I was probably 4 or 5 years old, my grandmother asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I told her that I wanted to be a cowboy. She looked horrified and said, 'you want to be a *boy cow!*' I said, 'no grandma, a cowboy.' She again uttered, 'you want to be a *boy cow!*' I realized that the situation was best left alone. I don't think I ever bothered to tell her what a cowboy was. She prayed a lot and even had a small altar devoted to the Blessed Mother in her bedroom. It just gave more reasons for her to pray for me so that God could enlighten me and stop me from hoping to become '*a boy cow*'."



My cowboy photo with my brother Andy ('59)

“The Stagecoach” part TWO -- more adventures from Bill Dix . . .

“The 1939 John Ford movie “Stagecoach” with Claire Trevor and John Wayne was shown quite often on TV in the 1950’s and was a favorite for the neighborhood cowhands. Our stagecoach was the side porch of our house at 3641 East 59th St. where we fought off numerous attacks by bandits and “Injuns.”

First, some background information — my mother was a lifelong friend of Mrs. Mowinski; mother of Annette ‘60 and her brother Teddy. They frequently visited us, and I was always in awe of Mr. Constantine Mowinski, he was a Cleveland Police Officer and a rather large dude. He worked at every BROWNS home game, usually in the bleachers (Dawg Pound today). When a football was kicked into the stands, he would retrieve it — plowing thru the crowd like an icebreaker on Lake Erie! If a fan refused to give him the ball back, he retrieved them BOTH out. It was a sight to see.

One day Johnny Vasco was driving “our stagecoach” and I was riding shotgun with my trusty cap pistol. Suddenly Johnny yelled – “Injuns” — and I instinctively whirled around and accidentally pistol whipped the intruder. Unfortunately, it was Annette, the “lovely Indian Princess” who unbeknownst to me was visiting our house!



The side porch
Aka ‘The Stagecoach’



‘Gene Dobre’ and ‘Indian Princess’
at Kindergarten Graduation

I inflicted, by accident, a rather deep gash above her eye! I felt terrible about my action. Her mother was understanding about the accident – but – her father JUST STARED AT ME.

Flash forward over 50 years — and every time I saw Annette, she reminded me of the incident by showing me (and anyone else present) the scar.

About four years ago, unfortunately, Annette’s younger brother Teddy passed away. I went to the wake in Hudson, taking with me an old 1956 photo of Annette and me graduating from St Stan’s Elementary School. I gave it to her hoping to distract her from talking about her injury. Alas — it did not work; she told several people about it. SUDDENLY! I felt a large hand on my right shoulder. I turned and heard “SO THIS IS BILL DIX!” It was Annette’s son, but I saw ‘CONSTANTINE.’

They say that in a moment of fear, your life flashes before your eyes (at my ripe age, it sort of flickered). I quickly expressed my condolences, made for the nearest restroom, and promptly left.

I’ve read that most Western Tales are actually “morality plays” with the good guy (white hat) triumphing over the bad guy (black hat). In this case all you need to know is that me as “GENE DOBRE” the stagecoach driver has his BLACK COWBOY HAT on — case closed.”

The REAL neighborhood COWGIRL on E 61st St and Heisley

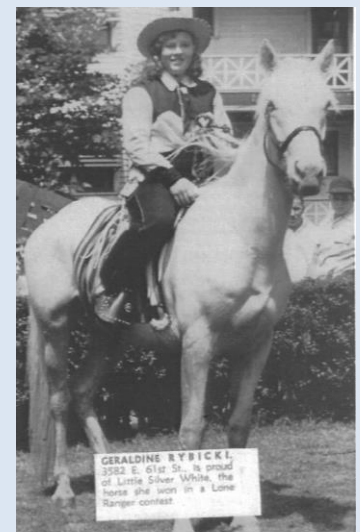
As a St Stan’s 8th grader in 1950, Geraldine Rybicki sent in her entry into the General Mills box top coloring contest. She cut out the picture of the Lone Ranger from a Cheerios box, colored it with crayons, followed all the entry rules and mailed it in. Then - months later - she listened with everyone else from across the country as the ten contest winners were announced during the Lone Ranger radio show over local AM station WJW. She was one of the 10 winners out of 10,000 entrants who won a ‘REAL WHITE PONY.’

She was the envy of all the kids in Cleveland but especially in the neighborhood she grew up in. Gerry named the pony - “Little Silver”- and set up to keep the horse boarded at The Brookpark Riding Academy over at Brookpark and Pearl Rds. (FYI - the “pony” was 15 hands high, he left “pony school” a long time ago and was a horse.) To help cover costs she worked at the family store on Heisley and played in an all-girl’s polka music band as well. She saved for a motor scooter to travel between the riding academy and home.

As the school year began at St Stanislaus High School she was the only freshman with a pony but so also began the start of hard academic work and active involvement in school organizations & activities. Over the years she was honored as Homecoming Queen and received the Miss St Stanislaus honor in her senior year in 1954.

At graduation time Geraldine felt another calling —upon getting her diploma, she entered the Postulate with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and in time became Sr. Madeleine Rybicki CSFN.

Today, 67 years later, she reflects on a very fulfilled and satisfied religious vocation that is continuing today as she also tries to attend parish and Alumni events when her schedule allows. Looking back over the years of her religious career... Sr. Madeleine initially taught for 9 years...then a child and youth care worker...working at Holy Family Institute ... got a Master’s Degree from the



Polish
Festival
2019

Front left:
Linda Golubski
and Sr.
Madeleine.
Back left:
Rita Golubski
and Sharon
Kozak



University of Pittsburgh in Child Development and Care ...then became the Director of the Residential Program — Working with abused and neglected children...then years at the Parmadale Training Institute training and consultant for teachers, social workers, and also pre-service training for foster parents...today providing guidance and support for Vietnamese seminarians as well as teaching them English when the opportunity arises.

Her white western hat and riding her “Little Silver” pony was the start of a lifelong adventure of doing good work that even the Lone Ranger from the “Old West” would admire.

Cowboy adventures from the ‘E 97 Ranch’

...Bob Sledz ‘61

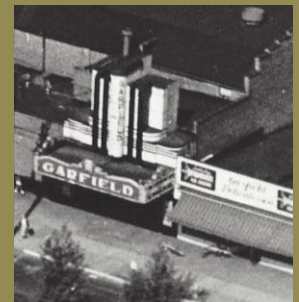
Growing up in the late 40’s & early 50’s, my best cowboy adventures were with my longtime pal Dennis Zaborowski ‘61. The action usually took place in the woods or by the dump at the end of our street. Usually, we took turns being the hero Hopalong Cassidy or his sidekick Gabby Hayes. “Hey Dennis, you were Hoppy yesterday, it’s my turn today!”

My most memorable “cowboy coming of age moment” happened at the old Garfield Theater when I was in about the 1ST grade. (The theater at 4719 Turney Rd was torn down in Sept 2010).

My older sister Carol took me there for a western double feature — and we sat near the front in the middle; we **did not** want to miss any action. On this day, I anticipated a scene that was played in almost all the movies where the western hero and his sidekick would walk into a rough saloon — go through the swinging doors — then stroll over to the bar and be greeted by the bartender. (I anticipated what was going to be said and just **could not** control myself.) The bartender said, “*Hi Gents - What-da-ya-have?*” At that instant, I jumped up -turned around - and yelled - “PABST BLUE RIBBON BEER!” (Just like I used to respond to their beer commercials on radio & TV.)

Everyone around us laughed – there was even some applause for my performance. Carol was humiliated and quickly said “you better not do that again.” **SUDDENLY! TROUBLE BEGAN!** — as a couple of movie ushers came rushing down the aisles with flashlights looking for the troublemaker with the big mouth. I was sweating bullets, just like that I was the bad guy!

Fortunately, no one around us turned me in, so I avoided being punished by having to stand along the back wall of the theater lobby with the other ‘hooligans and no goodnicks.’ (I avoided jail time). Eventually Carol did admit on the way home that my timing was good, and it was funny. The **BIG PLUS** was no one ever told my mom or dad, and I still have the fond memory of my *first cowboy-like-beer-ordering-caper-at-a-western-saloon-and-almost-jailed adventure!*



Leo and Sr. Erin . . .

Thank you for your leadership . . .

About Leo Hyland — After 11 years at CCCHS he will now become the President of St. Vincent - St. Mary HS in Akron. His leadership at CCCHS extends from capital campaigns, new roof and windows on older structures, master plan, traffic pattern studies, and work to extend the footprint for the campus.

About Sr. Erin — a popular guidance counselor and then assistant principal who worked to improve communication between students, their family, and staff for success. She then coordinated efforts to provide breakfast and lunch during the pandemic as well as safety during COVID.

With sincere gratitude we offer best wishes and prayers in their future endeavors.



St. Stan’s Elementary Principal Deborah Martin (left) at 4 Eagle Dinner with outgoing CCC President Leo Hyland (center) and Sr. Erin Zupal OSU both of whom will be leaving CCCHS after this school year.

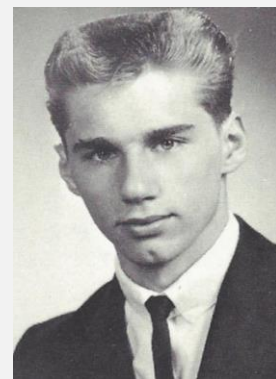
'Spire' photo inspires Tony & Steve memories...



Tony

The last Alumni *Spire* had an Elementary School Corner story by Principal Deborah Martin about the demolition of the "old church/school" opposite the present school on Forman Ave. The idea of major changes brought back cherished memories from two Alumni:

Tony (Chludzinski) Asher '61 and
Steve Hujarski '65.



Steve

Tony's story consisted of a myriad of heartwarming vignettes from the tender age of 5

The Chludzinski Family - Mom, Dad, and Tony - spoke mostly Polish at home. They rented a small lower addition at the back of the old Church/School building (6524 Forman) for about 2 years in 1948-1950. The property manager and his family lived upstairs and had a "barber shop" downstairs facing Forman and the school. Tony was NOT HAPPY about going to the first day of school – there were tears! He fondly remembers that he then did make a good impression on the kindergarten teacher by knowing the *OUR FATHER* and *HAIL MARY* prayers in Polish. His mom was incredibly happy too.

One of his daily home chores was to get the Polish newspaper from the store near Fleet Ave; it cost 5 cents. He had a direct route down Forman to E 65th then south to Fleet and then straight back home. No extra money, no stops, no detours - quite a daily chore for a 5-year-old. It was a different time. His dad was especially devoted to the 'Tarzan' comic strip and waited patiently for Tony to come home with the paper.



The young Family did not have a television set, yet but there was a display console set in the front window of Edbin Furniture (down the street at 6508 Forman) which was turned on occasionally for demonstrations. He fondly cherished the memory of watching a boxing match, with his dad, through the store window one cold evening. He and his dad had a pact; "don't tell mom!" because they should only be going for a walk and not watching violence. That building is still there today.

Sometime after the 2nd Grade, the young family moved from Forman to a home they bought at 6638 Ovington Ave on the other side of Union Ave and Broadway. Tony did not change schools and as a result had a much longer and dangerous daily journey to and from school. Tragedy struck the family six months after moving, in August of 1950. His father died at age 44 of lung cancer and one month later his mother gave birth to his baby sister Christine. Suddenly at 8 years of age, he had to grow up fast with family responsibilities. The new neighbors,

friends, and family were helpful but so were businesses. One of the brother owners at Bartunek Custom Men's Taylor Shop on Union, around the corner from the new home, remembered Tony from when he came in earlier with his dad when he got a new suit. The gentleman was aware of the neighborhood "toughs and bullies" and was also aware of Tony's daily journey to school. One day he gave Tony a brass whistle with the instruction - if you are ever in trouble blow the whistle as long and loud as possible - and help will come! There were good neighbors and police in the area. Tony still has the whistle today.

One other vivid school memory was an early lesson in electric safety. The classroom teacher Sr. James seemed to have a "short fuse" for patience and oversaw 65 second grade students. One day after playing a record on a phonograph in the middle of the room, Sister told one of the boys sitting nearby to unplug the player because the wire was stretched across the room. Tony thinks the lucky student was Ron Stadnik. WELL - in an effort to do the job as quickly as possible and impress classmates, he yanked the cord to pull out the plug. BAM! Sparks and smoke erupted by the plug! The lights went out! SEVERAL FUSES WERE BLOWN - both in the circuit and Sr. James. Her "*vigorous shaking and tongue lashing*" left a lasting impression on the entire class. To this day we all learned to unplug an electrical device by carefully pulling out the plug - NO YANKING!



Steve's Memories : 6516 Forman Ave – The Store

It started as Krysiak's Delicatessen in the late 1930's by Catherine and Stanley Krysiak (my mom's parents). In 1955, my parents took it over and it became Stan & Helens. They sold candy, pop, chips, bread, ice cream, milk, and cigarettes. The most popular was Coke, Pepsi, chips, and, of course, cigarettes. The back of the store is where everyone hung out sitting on pop cases. There was a back door exit so that a quick exit can be made when teachers or other forms of authority came to checkup on the students. In August, all the football players would come and buy orange drink and chips and have it with their lunches, and my mom would make sure there was enough for everyone. If someone forgot their lunch, she would make them a sandwich. There were some hot August months, and the store would smell like a locker room when they left.

There are many stories of students escaping out the back door. My mom and dad acted as guidance counselors for the broken hearted and survivors struggles that those who came to the store

would tell. The store was closed in 1963 because my parents could not handle the workload even though my sister and I picked up some of the work for them.

My parents turned the store into an apartment and tore down the old garages and built new ones. They lived in that apartment until they died, my dad in 2001 and my mom in 2006. Even after the store was closed, Stan and Helen would host a Christmas Eve gathering with some of the graduates before midnight Mass at St Stan's. Someone would bring a half gallon of whiskey (Santa's cheer) and my dad would make whiskey sours for everyone who came and provide cookies, chips, and pretzels. Then 10 minutes before Mass started, my mom pushed everyone out the door to go to church. By then, the whiskey was gone and there was a lot of Christmas Cheer going on. My dad reminded them to "sing loud and strong and put your money in the collection basket." Not sure if everyone went to mass; but they walked, or stumbled, that way.

After my Dad died in 2001, the house was sold to the Franciscan Foundation and my Mom lived there for free as part of the deal until her death in 2006. The idea was to rent the apartments to low-income parishioners and help stabilize the area and keep it safe for the school and church. When the housing market crashed in Cleveland in 2008, the house was sold to a California-based property management company. Because they only bought the property to bleed it dry, the house fell into disrepair and was condemned in 2018. In August 2020, the City of Cleveland tore it down along with other houses in the area because it became a danger to students and parishioners.

While it is now an empty lot, there are many fond memories. The ironic thing of that empty lot filled with grass, is that there is a flower bed and flowers planted where my Mom and Dad's bedroom was located. May they rest in peace remembering the smiles and happy faces and memories they made for and with the students of St. Stans.



Principal's Report -- Sr. Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND



In reflecting on the 2020-2021 academic year, the word that characterizes our students, staff, families, and our world is adaptability. The year has required movement between remote and in-person learning, the need to wear masks, keep socially distant, and to quarantine or isolate because of COVID-19 infections.

In many ways our world has been turned upside down and, yet we discovered our strength and our resilience. A little over a year ago Pope Francis said, **"We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."** This has been so true in our

school community. Students and staff have come to a greater appreciation of face-to-face interactions in the classroom and the need for personal connections. In order to build up our community atmosphere, we have engaged in multiple "spirit" weeks throughout the year. Our campus ministry team has conducted in-person and remote retreats for both students and staff and recently completed our fifth Kairos retreat. Our students and staff have used technology effectively as a teaching/learning tool. Google classroom, EdPuzzle, and zoom have provided opportunities to engage in the learning process, even with students attending class both remotely

and in person at the same time. We have come to a deeper realization that we are not in control of every aspect of our lives. We must rely on one another and most especially on our faith in God. Our world and our future are in God's hands.

And so, we face the future with confidence and hope. We look forward to our commencement activities where we send our seniors out to begin again in college, work training, the work force, or the military. Yes, we begin again. We plan for a new school year with new adventures. Our hope is that we can take what we learned this year and build greater adaptability and resilience, that we can learn and grow and be present to one another in ways that we had not dreamed possible. We pray that we are ever reminded of God's goodness in our lives as we proclaim with St. Julie, "Oh how good is the good God."



IN MEMORIAM

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

Elaine (Szarwark) Houseknect '57
 Richard (Ziemczonek) Zemo '57
 Carolyn (Luboski) Zielenski '57
 Edmund Binkowski
 Lottie (Czerpa) Ford (104) ES'30
 Patricia "Pat" Otlotski (82)
Rectory Secretary

Diane Joan Karpinski (85)
noted Court of Appeals Judge

Richard Hejl (81) '58
 Rev. Fr. Tim Buyansky OSB (78)
Weekend Parish Assistant

Rosi Miller Gregush (77) '61
 Rene (Peck) Ewing ES '67
 Joseph W. Luczak (51)
Son of Joe Luczak '61

Thomas A. "Tom" Neuman (73)
*Usher/Festival worker, Husband
 of Karen (Matus) Neuman '68*

Raymond Obojski '55
 Edmund Badarzynski '55
 Bob Brown (77) '61
 Thad Cooke (95)
 Gerald F. Chase (75)
CCC Coach

Ken Delewski (79) '60
 Barbara (Konopinski) Lukas (79) '58
 Steven E. Vichy '69
 Ken Wisniewski (79) '59
 Therese (Pawelecki) Carolan (76) '61
 Lucille (Kin) Patrick ES '44
 Ron Debelak '60
 Dennis Golembiewski '65
 Patricia (Borucki) McLeary '59
 Timothy Myslenski (75)
CCC Coach 10 years

Eleanor (Merman) Kusa '49
 Len Pryer ES '44
Alumni Committee Member

CONTACT: Rita Golubski at 216-341-0881 or Donna Heid at dheid1961@gmail.com

MEMORIAL SERVICE Saturday, November 6, 2021

MEMORIAL NAME

1. _____

2. _____

Requested by:

NAME _____

Phone _____

Memorial Service for Alumni and Friends

The First Memorial Service is planned for Saturday, November 6, 2021 and will immediately follow the 5 p.m. Mass in the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus. All the individuals listed in the *Spire IN MEMORIAM* list from 2012 to 2021 will be read aloud as well as individuals recognized in articles for that period. It is believed that by November 2021, restrictions will have eased but safe practices will remain.

Individual names YOU may want remembered to be included in this service such as deceased family, friend, classmate, or neighbor that had a special link to St. Stanislaus parish or schools can be included using the form on the left, no later than October 15, 2021.

Send to: Alumni Memorial: see Church address below.

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