



The Spire

St. Stanislaus Alumni
& Friends Newsletter



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8 PAGES

JULY 2026

Alumni 20th Anniversary—Let's celebrate..... A reflection by editor BOB '61

As Ingrid and I were gathering the stories, photos, and information for this July's SPIRE issue – we enjoyed talking about previous Alumni picnics, the locations varied from Parish grounds, to Morgan's Hollow in the Metroparks, to Klima's Garden in Cuyahoga Heights for the past 10 years (but not available this year due to construction). This year the St. Stans Alumni & Friends Picnic will be at CCC Ironman Center on **Sunday, July 19th**. Full details on page 3.

Doing this research led to the question: "How did the Alumni get started? Who can we thank?"

We have been mailing the SPIRE Newsletter since July 2013, – but – the origin of the St. Stan's Alumni was another story. Pastor Fr. Mike Surufka O.F.M. initially met with Sharon (Sielaty) Kozak CCC '70 and Rita (Krynsinski) Golubski SSHS '48 to create an Alumni Reunion Committee in 2005, about three years after Fr. William Gulas died on December 7, 2002. As Sharon recalls, the initial project was to celebrate Catholic Schools Week in January 2006 – finger foods, pastry and beverages – for a social in the Elementary School following the 5 PM Mass on January 26, 2006. It turned out to be a great success with about 500 people attending. The committee soon followed with the First Alumni Mass and Picnic, June 4, 2006, on parish grounds – this year's picnic will be the 20th Anniversary event.



The 2006 Reunion Committee, left to right: Kim Montgomery, Craig Montgomery, Rob Jagelewski, Larry Mielczarek, Jack Caster, Sharon Kozak, Bob Gailey, Kathy Gailey, Tim Gailey, Rita Golubski, and Stanley Racicki. Taking the picture is Jim Jagelewski

Over the years as graduating classes celebrated reunions especially for their 50th – they were encouraged to join our Alumni picnic and possible school tour. The Alumni activities evolved over the years from Soup & Salad, Chili Cook Offs, Fundraising Raffles, Pork Chop Dinners and always included our support for both the Elementary School and the Cleveland Central Catholic High School–THE LEGACY SCHOOLS! Working with Dr. Deborah Martin, Sister Allison Marie, and CCCHS presidents Karl Ertle, Leo Hyland, John Simon and staff made all of this possible.

Pastor Fr. Erik Orzech recognized our Alumni group with the Four Eagle Service Award at the May 10, 2013 ceremony.

Pictured: Back Row: Donna Ciborowski, Norm Pieschalski, Larry Pizon, Wally Kase, Peggy Krynsinski, Fr. Eric Orzech, Sharon Kozak, Ralph Konkowski, Bob Sledz, Len Pryer. Front Row: Mary Ann Sklodowski, Rita Golubski, Fran Bankowski, Jane Bielawski, Ingrid Sledz.



Over the years, our title name on the SPIRE Newsletter has slowly changed from an Association to an Alumni and Friends making us more open to all who want to support St. Stans, all in an effort to keep the Parish, Church, and legacy schools strong and growing in faith.

As we gather for our picnic this year, the Alumni & Friends should take comfort in the opportunity to reminisce with cherished friends and that the hallowed halls are still loved and respected in these changing times.

Pictured: Rita Golubski, Sharon Kozak, Linda Golubski, Sr. Madeleine Rybicki



Closing out another school year! As much as we try and spread things out, May just gets filled with so many exciting things to send our children off for the summer. Sitting down to write this piece for the Spire, however, I think of August, and September, and all of the months between the opening of the school year and the closing of the school year.

Early on, we suffered the tragedy of losing Mrs. Terwilliger. Her death rippled through our community and made us all hold each other just a little closer. Her presence is equally missed, and equally present.

Picking ourselves up, we travelled through MAP testing and Positive Panther celebrations and high school acceptances and Authors' Tea. We squeezed in some field trips. We met our growth goals in Reading. Normal things that guide us through our school days. Normal things that give us daily opportunities to provide our children with care and commitment.

That commitment is found in the daily showing up of staff, most of whom have been with us for years. That commitment is in the long days, the hours of prayer, the mountains of patience. We are blessed by classroom teachers, staff, and community supports that are ever present to our school.

Our partners across the parking lot, Cleveland Central Catholic, continue to be a presence in our school. From Masses to retreats, to Easter Bunny and Santa Claus visits, our friends across the parking lot join us in raising our students in the tradition of Catholic Education.

For the months and the weeks and the days that make up a school year, we thank the Holy Spirit for accompanying us through all of it. We look forward to the change of pace the summer will bring, the plans and hopes for the next school year that will be formed, and the continued support of our parish community.

Peace and all good-

Dr. Deborah Ann Martin



Dr. Deborah Ann Martin

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.

RAINY DAY FUND

PACESETTER (\$500 +)

Jan (Karash) Swift '58

LEADER (\$200-499)

Helen Cooke ES '42
Jim HS '60 & Betty Cackowski
Ron Mlicki
Timothy Florencki ES '72

STAR (\$100-199)

Eileen (Halter) Rini '58
Paul Blados
Jan Juchnowski HS '69
Larry HS '61 & Joyce (Blake) HS '62 Guzy
Michael Olenik HS '55
Tom HS '60 & Alice (Smolinski) HS '62 Kulwicki

Thank you for all your support to our fund.

Your Generosity is Greatly appreciated

BENEFACTOR (\$50-99)

Marilyn Mosinski ES '79, HS '83
Virginia (Olsen) Sikon HS '65
Michael Plon HS '66
Ron Wilinski '65
Donna (Larca) Burovac HS '60
Edmund Kruszynski

PATRON (\$25-49)

Bryan & Grace Istenes
Anna Lesniak '42
Steve Hujarski '65
Norma (Dombrowski) Ciesicki '62
Helen (Pruc) Pekala ES '64, HS '69
Anthony Teper HS '56
Pat (Niedzwiecki) Robejsek HS '59
Theresa Gapinski HS '52
Ron & Virginia (Mathias)
Koprowski both HS '60

ALUMNI PICNIC - 2026



St. Stans Alumni & Friends **ALL CLASS ALUMNI PICNIC**

When: Sunday, July 19th • 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Attend 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Shrine Church of St. Stans and then walk over to the entrance of the Ironman Center at Baxter and East 67th.

Where: Ironman Center @Cleveland Central Catholic High School
 (Our Old St. Stanislaus High School)

Why: *Enjoy an afternoon celebrating friends and classmates. Catch up on the latest news, basket raffle, 50/50 raffle, pictures with classmates and friends.*

What: \$20.00 (cash or check at the door) - hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, coffee, soft drinks, dessert

Thank you Dr. Debb Martin!

Secure parking at the Church and the Ironman Center
 Wheelchair accessible!

POST IT NOTE CORNER

I Can Assist at the Picnic!

Contact:
 Clare
 440-234-3443

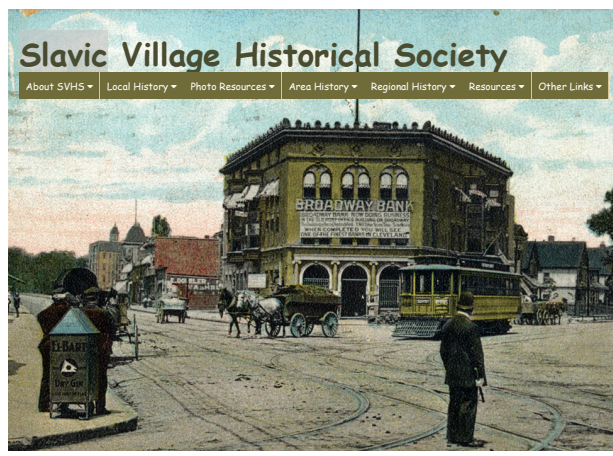
Reservations for Class Table!

Contact:
 Bernadette
 440-826-0009

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

Contact:
 Karen
 216-524-5621

Visit This Wonderful Website:
<http://www.slavicvillagehistory.org>





Details of the Four Panel Rose Window

1st Panel — Two Polish riders, one with Beard, other from back with no beard is James, son of King Sobieski of Poland. At bottom – old man with stick, hats in hand, blows kiss to king, woman with child.

2nd Panel — King Jan of Poland on horse in Court robe shakes hand with heroic defender of Vienna Garrison Count Von Starhemberg. At bottom – working man kneeling, moving stone.

3rd Panel — Count in Court costume, hat in hand, extends hand in gesture or greeting the King. At bottom bodies of two slain Ottoman Soldiers with broken Turkish military sign.

4th Panel — Two men watching the meeting — on left is Mayor of Vienna count Liebenberg. On right is clergy Bishop Wiener Neustadt holding crucifix, a sign that God helped in Victory.

At the top of all panels - The entire scene takes place in front of destroyed walls of Vienna and greeting of Residents.



1891
Original
Rose Window

Most Reverend Richard Gilmour, Bishop of Cleveland, formed the congregation of Saint Stanislaus by an official act in 1873. The early parishioners worshiped in the abandoned St. Mary's of the Flats. Reverend Victor Zareczny of St. Adalbert parish in Berea cared for the souls of the first parishioners of St. Stanislaus.

In 1876 Amasa Stone, owner of the Newburgh Rolling Mills, advertised in Poland for workers. Thousands of polls answered his call and migrated to the Newburgh area of Cleveland. As the congregation continued to grow, it became apparent that the parishioners of St. Stanislaus needed their own house of worship. Where St. Stanislaus Church currently stands was once a potato patch.

A small church was built in 1881 which had a school on the first floor and the church on the second floor. By 1885 there were about 600 families and a bigger church was needed. Reverend Anton Kolaszewski, who was then the pastor of St. Stanislaus, undertook the task to build the current church. The cornerstone was laid in 1886 and the structure was completed in 1891. The intentions of the original church design was to not only provide religious inspiration - Altar, statues, windows, murals - but to also appreciate the role of Polish History over the last 1000 years - to even today. Two Franciscan provinces have served St. Stanislaus Parish until 2012. Since then pastoral care has returned to the Diocese of Cleveland with Fr. Eric Orzech serving as pastor.



A new school building was erected in 1907, which coincided with the arrival of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who replaced the Franciscan Sisters.

On April 21, 1909, a tornado destroyed the twin spires at the front of the church and also devastated the roof. The parishioners bonded together and rebuilt the church within the year. After the tornado repairs, reconstruction and roofing decisions called for the relocation of a 4 panel stained glass window to be moved from the side of the church and repositioned to its present location above the front doors and facing the organ/choir loft - **A New Rose Window in 1910.**

In September 2025, the St. Stanislaus parish was notified that the famous gifted Austrian artist and teacher, Michael Stolz (1820-1890) would be featured in a special art show in Merano

Italy. Could the parish verify the authenticity of the artwork for a stained glass window installed by a NY glasswork company to a Polish church in Cleveland. David Krakowski, parish director of liturgy and music, led the research into the parish archives at the Cleveland Western Reserve Historical Society. The results of David's detective work was locating the original payment receipt of the purchase that verified the artist and story depicted in the **original 1891 Rose Window.**

The window is the artwork of Michael Stolz and represents the scene just after the Liberation of Vienna on September 12, 1683, when the assault of the Ottoman army was stopped and helped shape the future fate of Modern Europe..

DRONE OHIO (Droneohio.com)

Thank you, Jeff Holbury and his Drone Ohio images of the Saint Stanislaus exterior pictures Outstanding! Future interior images will help provide a close-up appreciation of our Gothic shrine Church for visitors.



25th Annual Four Eagle Banquet



The Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus 25th Annual Four Eagle Banquet was held on May 8, 2026 at the Bohemian National Hall at 4939 Broadway Ave. The recipient this year was **Brandon Edwin Chrostowski** who by his example and dedication to his mission, creates a legacy of service to our parish as well as pride for the Polish people. The story behind how Brandon became the mission driven restauranteur and culinary ambassador he is today is remarkable and an example of choosing the correct path when he came to an opportunity from the Justice system.

Chrostowski was born and grew up in Detroit, MI. At age 18 he was suspected of a drug related offense and a judge imposed a one year probation instead of a 10 year prison term. This probation opportunity led him to the Culinary Institute of America in NY where his cooking skills progressed and allowed his business plan to be developed. Beginning in Shaker Square, where he founded Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute to his current project in Cleveland Heights, an oyster bar, Brandon builds community with food.

He remains steadfast in his mission to help returning citizens find and develop new career paths in the restaurant industry. It has taken him to feed Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Ethiopian and Somali refugees in Djibouti and dispatched families in Israel. Using culinary contacts around the corner and around the world, Brandon creates meals and working community.



EDWINS is a non-profit organization and acclaimed fine-dining restaurant in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that empowers formerly incarcerated adults. Founded by Brandon Chrostowski in 2007, the institute provides students with a six-month foundation in the culinary arts, hospitality, and life skills to aid their successful reentry into society. The organization offers a comprehensive support system alongside its training curriculum:

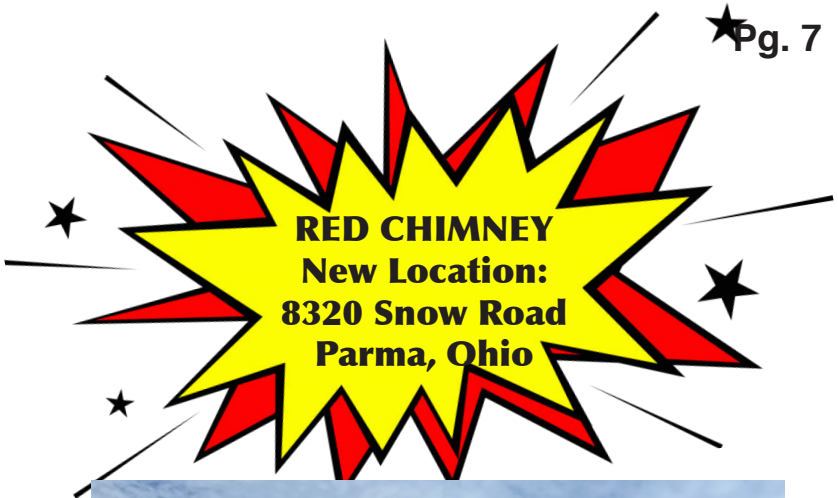


Flagship Restaurant: EDWINS operates an award-winning fine French restaurant located in the historic Nighttown building in Cleveland Heights

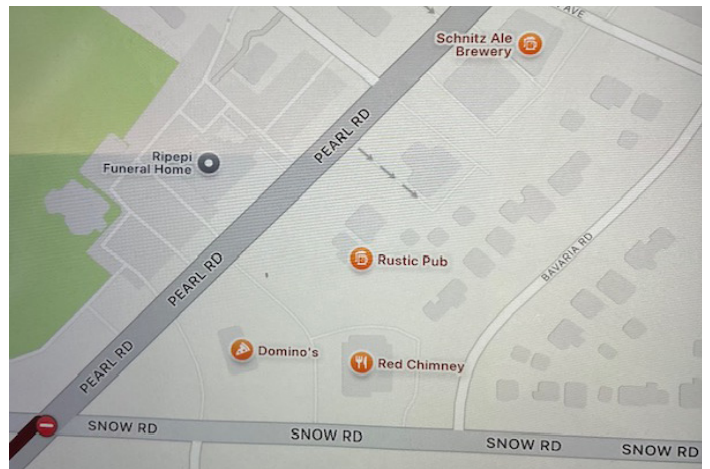
Student Support: Students receive vital transitional resources, including free housing at the Second Chance Life Skills Center, legal services, medical care, and free childcare at the EDWINS Family Center.

Campus & Incubators: The EDWINS campus features apartments, a fitness center, a library, and a computer lab. The organization also runs a Butcher Shop, a Bakery, and a culinary incubator known as EDWINS Too.

Impact: The program boasts immense success, with 95% of graduates securing employment and the program maintaining a recidivism rate of less than 1%.



Pete Skantzos



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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount enclosed _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____

GRADUATION: ES- _____ HS- _____


 IN MEMORIAM

Ron Stadnik '61
 Robert Nowack '63
 Patricia Rozman
 Erdine (Kotapish) Bajbus '68
 Sandra (Sledz) Kantai, MMHS
 Frank Kingzett '55
 Raymond (Niedzialek) Stefans '48
 Michael Florencki
 Jams Hogan CCC '82
 Robert "Bob" Bartczak '64



Robert Bartczak '64

John Andrassy
 Husband of SSHS teacher Gilda
 Sonny Reimer '74
 Gerald Szuter -
 Husband of Gerri Wysocki HS '61
 James Nowack
 Michaleen Krajewska SSHS '47
 Mother of of Laura DeRigo '69
 Louise (Hemel) Ganley '61
 Terrence Edward Kaminsky '66

To inform the alumni about the death of a member please contact:
 Alice (Smolinski) Kulwicki at 216-398-5390 or Donna (Roginski) Heid at dheid1961@gmail.com

First Graduting Class of St. Stanislaus - 1947

Madeleine C. DeRigo (nee Krajewski) passed away December 3, 1015 at the age of 96. She was a life long member of St. Stanislaus Parish. Beloved wife of the late Earl. Dear mother of Laura Lid, Peter DeRigo, and Lynne Wells. Loving grandmother and great grandmother. She was a part of the original 1947 Graduating class of St. Stanislaus High School. We believe that she may have been the last living member of the original class.

Interesting fact is that she was part of the first graduating class and her daughter, Laura DeRigo, was part of the last graduating class of 1969.



Betty Ann
 "Betts"
 Skrha (nee Stasny)

Betts Skrha (96) was very active in the North Broadway / Our Lady of Lourdes community. Many alumni nurses fondly remember her as a registered nurse and who later taught nursing at Saint Alexis Hospital nursing achool.. Betty Ann "Betts" (nee Stasny) was also a member of the Cleveland Central Catholic high school advisory committee and will always be rememberd as a beloved wife, mother, nurse, civic leader and friend.