

ST. STANISLAUS STAFF

PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Michael Surufka, OFM, Pastor
 Rev. George Kusy, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Joachim Studwell, OFM Associate Pastor

ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Alice Torrence

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC:

Mr. David Krakowski 883-7766

OFFICE STAFF:

Ms. Debbie Grale, Director of Redevelopment
 Mr. Dan Kane Jr., Business Manager
 Mr. Bogdan (Don) Pieniak, Parish Administrator
 Mrs. Denise O'Reilly, School Secretary

ST. STANISLAUS HALL MANAGER:

Mr. Fred Mendat 441-5339

E-MAIL ststans@ameritech.net

FAX 341-2688

DIRECTORY:

Rectory Administration Office 341-9091
 St. Stanislaus Elementary School 883-3307
 St. Stanislaus Convent 341-0934
 Social Center 341-0080
 Central Catholic High School 441-4700

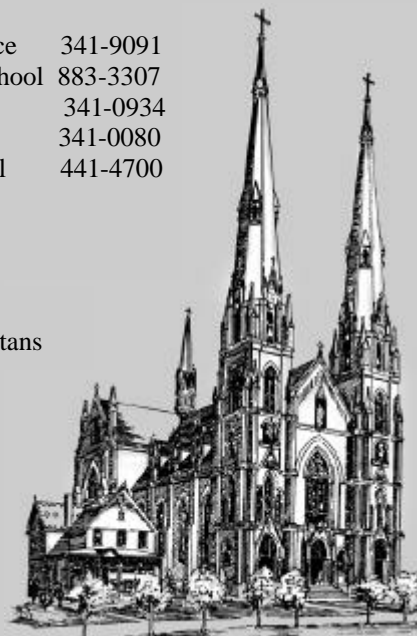
PARISH WEBSITE:

www.ststanislaus.org

PHOTO ALBUM:

www.picturetrail.com/saintstans

The artist's sketch on the right depicts the original building with the spires. Corner Stone laid in 1886 and dedicated in 1891.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MASS SCHEDULE:

Daily Masses: 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM
 Sunday Vigil: Saturday 5:00 PM
 Sunday English Masses: 8:30 AM & 11:30 AM
 Sunday Polish Mass: 10:00 AM
 Holy Day English: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM
 Holy Day Polish: 5:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 PM or upon arrangement with any of the priests.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Ordinarily on Sundays at 1:00 PM. Pre-Baptism instructions necessary in advance.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

All arrangements must be made with one of the priests of the parish six months in advance.

FUNERAL:

Please make arrangements at the rectory in advance of public announcement.

INQUIRY CLASSES:

(R.C.I.A.): Contact any member of the Pastoral Team.

OFFICE HOURS:

Weekday appointments with a member of the Pastoral Team may be scheduled between the hours of 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The office is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for all ordinary business.

CHURCH HOURS:

The church is open 1/2 hour before and after services. For tours or private prayer please call the rectory.

MASS INTENTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21 (Grudzien), 2003

Sat	5:00 PM	+Stella Pokrywka
Sun	8:30 AM	+Ted Kwiatkowski
	10:00 AM	+Celia Kopec
	11:30 AM	+Eddie Racut
Mon	Dec 22	Late Advent Weekday
	7:00 AM	+Myron Wilczynski
	8:30 AM	+Frank Kaminski
Tue	Dec 23	Advent Weekday (St. John Kanty)
	7:00 AM	+Helen Cendrowski
	8:30 AM	+Ted Leciejewski
Wed	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
	8:30 AM	+Jan Jarmuziewicz
	5:00 PM	+Helen Markiewicz
	12:00 AM	Sp. Int. Parishioners of St. Stanislaus
Thu	Dec 25	Christmas Day
	8:30 AM	+Br. Fidelis Veselak OFM
	10:00AM	+Stefan Sieminski
	11:30 AM	+Celia Kopec
Fri	Dec 26	St. Stephen , first martyr
	8:30 AM	+Richard Modlinski
Sat	Dec 27	St. John , apostle and evangelist
	8:30 AM	+Salomea Stecki

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 28 (Grudzien), 2003

Sat	5:00 PM	+Dr. Paul DeWitt
Sun	8:30 AM	+Ron Wodarczyk
	10:00 AM	+Celia Kopec
	11:30 AM	+Paul Valachovic

MUSIC – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MASS

Processional O Come Emmanuel (vs.7 & 1) #285
 Offertory: Lo, How a Rose #282
 Communion: Mary's Song #224
 Recessional: Behold a Virgin #185

POLSKA MSZA ŚWIĘTA

Procesja O przyjdź (chór)
 Ofiarowanie: Ciebie na wieki #204
 Na Komunię: Czekam na Ciebie #15
 Zakończenie Zdrowaś bądź, Maryja #27

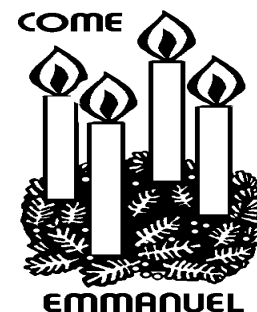
Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!
 Pan blis - ko jest, o - cze - kuj Go. Pan blis - ko jest, w Nim ser - ca moci!

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SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sun 3:00 PM Godzinki.
6:00 PM Solemn Vespers
Mon 6:45 PM Bingo in our social center.
7:00 PM RCIA— resumes Jan 5.
Wed 3:00 PM Church Cleanup Crew works until 5:15.
8:00 PM A.A. & Al-Anon in the social center.
11:30 PM Christmas Eve Polish and English Carols by St. Stanislaus combined choirs!
12:00 AM Midnight Mass Liturgy in Polish and English
Thu MERRY CHRISTMAS—RADOSNYCH ŚWIĄT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA
Fri Office Closed



So, What Brings You Here?

Jesus? Christmas decorations? Jesus is here all the time. He'd have us keep this church decorated with them year round if it meant bringing people closer to Him.

So, what brings you here?

Jesus? Festive carols? Jesus is here all the time. He'd inspire us to compose the greatest Christmas carols ever heard to be sung and played everyday if it meant more people coming to visit Him and worship His Father.

So, what brings you here?

Jesus? Faces of friends? Jesus is here all the time. Your friends might be too. Maybe you could become friends with Jesus. He'd like that to happen. Does that sound a little frightening?

So, what brings you here?

What brought Jesus here? Why did He bother to come at all? You could have stayed home to party down or exchange gifts or tell Santa stories while sipping champagne or guzzling a beer. For Jesus, those weren't options. His birth was God's concrete expression of His essence, Love.

Love brought Jesus here. So, what brings you here? Can you make time in your life to come back to get to know Jesus? Even without decorations or carols or familiar faces?

We can't promise those things will always be here but we can promise that you can find Jesus here to greet you, to listen to you, to forgive you and to love you. Don't be afraid to get to know Him. The decorations and music and friendly faces will become part of your life forever.

David Krakowski

SCHEDULE FOR MINISTERS

December 28, (Grudzien), 2003 Feast of the Holy Family

Sat 5:00 PM Lector — Betty Dabrowski
 Euch. Min. — Jean Potter, Joe and Pat Calamante, Stanley Witeczak
Sun 8:30 AM Lector — Sue Halamek
 Euch. Min. — Adeline Nadolny, Mike Potter, Yolanda Kane, Loretta Horvath
10:00 AM Lector — Kamila Bernas
 Euch. Min. — Aleksandra Jankowski, Gertruda Markiewicz
11:30 AM Lector — James Seaman
 Euch. Min. — Art Sprungle, Diane Bulanda, Larry Wilks, Marie Ostrowski

PARISH SUPPORT

Last Sunday's Collection

5:00 PM.....\$1,133.50
 8:30 AM.....\$1,065.50
 10:00 AM.....\$1,083.25
 11:30 AM.....\$1,145.46
 Mailed in.....\$997.00
 Total (525 envelopes) \$5,423.71
Children's Collection (21) \$12.00
Immaculate Conception (194)\$1,518.00



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Whenever I drive to visit my parents, who live over three hundred miles away, I often say that I am “going home.” Yet, when I am with them and say that I am ready to head back to Cleveland, I also use the phrase “going home” to refer to that trip as well.

I first began to experience this sense of multiple “homes” years ago, when I was still a formation student in the Order. I would refer both to Mom and Dad’s house and to the friary as “home.” When I mentioned this to a good friend who was a friar-mentor, Fr. Neal Kaminski, his wonderfully insightful and wise response was, “Where is home for a friar? Everywhere, and nowhere.”

Saint Francis of Assisi felt keenly this sense of restlessness, yet at the same time he also knew that wherever he was, the Lord was with him, so he was at home. Unlike the monks of his day, the boundaries of whose lives were defined by the monastery walls, the friars were to experience the entire world as their cloister. This is why Francis himself spent so much time as a wandering preacher, giving witness to the gospel by his words and example.

At Christmas, God “comes home” to be with those He loves: us.

Christmas was an especially wonder-filled time for Francis. He was enthralled with the mystery of the Incarnation, of God coming to with us as one like us. Fr. William Gulas, of blessed memory, also used to say that the Incarnation held such awe for him — imagine, God actually *wanting* to be in all this mess with us! Yet it is precisely this mystery of love that we celebrate during the Christmas season.

Perhaps one of the reasons why Christmas leads us to be with those we love is because that is what God himself did. God, too, wants to be with those he loves: us. In Jesus, that is exactly what God did. He “came home” to be with those He loves.

The Gospel of John describes this where it is written, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Saint Augustine said that God became one of us so that we could become like him. In the Middle Ages, there flourished a spirituality that held the purpose of love is so that the lover could become like the beloved. We see this in Christ: God loving us so much that God became like us, so that in our love for God we could become more like him. We often see a human equivalent to this in marriage, when, after a number of years, a husband and wife become more and more like each other.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, try to reach out to people you know who usually don’t go to church but who are still looking for some kind of sign that God is among us. Perhaps there is a family member, a co-worker, a friend or neighbor, who is just waiting for that special invitation from you to “come home” to God’s house. And if you yourself are someone who has been feeling a little “homeless” when it comes to your relationship with God, then please know that you are welcome in our spiritual “home” here at Saint Stanislaus. We miss you, we need you, and we look forward to having you part of our family. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Michael

SZCZĘŚCIE CZŁOWIEKA

Druga część Adwentu nazywana jest czasem radości. Dlaczego? Bo Pan blisko, bo kończy się oczekiwanie, bo tuż, tuż perspektywa spotkań z błogosławiącym Dziecięciem, perspektywa ciepłych spotkań rodzinnych i zwolnienia obrotów, choćby tylko na dzień, dwa czy kilka...



Ta perspektywa jest zapowiedzią szczęścia. Tego szczęścia, które rodzi się z tęsknoty i wiary, nadziei i radości. Szczęście to doskonałe dobro, a tym jest sam Bóg. Dlatego zbliżanie się do Niego, poczucie Jego bliskości pozwala zasmakować szczęścia. Wielu może powiedzieć: to stereotyp, “oklepane” stwierdzenia. Jeśli nawet, to czy ktoś ma lepsze rozwiązania. Zresztą, nikt nie jest na siłę przymuszany do przyjęcia tej drogi, każdy ma wolną wolę i otwartą drogę do poszukiwania własnego szczęścia. Niemniej ci, którzy próbowali już innych rozwiązań, mogą spróbować “przerobić” również tę wersję.

Kiedyś, niemiecki poeta, Goethe wyznał, że w ciągu 75 lat swego życia nie zaznał nawet czterech tygodni szczęścia. Dodał: “W tej gonitwie za pieniędzmi, przyjemnościami i radością, czułem się jak szczur, który połknął truciznę. Pędzi on z nory do nory, pożera wszystko, co napotyka do zjedzenia. Pije wszystko, co może dostać, a mimo wszystko trucizna pali go niby nieugaszony ogień”. Wiele podobnych wypowiedzi możemy usłyszeć także z innych ust. Nasuwa się więc prosty wniosek, iż ludzie nie umieją szukać szczęścia.

Jaka jest więc nasza chrześcijańska wersja na poszukiwanie szczęścia? Na pozór wydaje się dość prosta. Sprowadza się do stwierdzenia: uczmy się kochać Boga, świat i ludzi.

Realizacja jednak nie jest taka łatwa, jak mogłoby się to wydawać. Może więc przydać się kilka wskazówek.

Najpierw spróbujmy pozytywnie myśleć. Nasze myślenie jest podstawą stosunku do otaczającego nas świata i do naszych bliźnich. Od myśli zaczyna się dobor i zło. Należy zatem oddalać myśli złe, pesymistyczne, szkodliwe, a pielęgnować dobre, radosne, pozytywne - w stosunku do siebie, do ludzi, do życia, świata i Boga. W Ewangelii czytamy “gdzie jest skarb twój, tam będzie i serce twoje” (Mt 6,21). Innymi słowy - o czym człowiek myśli i jak myśli - takim jest. Tak więc próbować trzeba najpierw zmienić perspektywę patrzenia na siebie; zaakceptować siebie. Mamy braki, to fakt ale mamy też zdolności i zalety.

Spójrzmy też inaczej na bliźnich. Nie są oni może aniołami ale także nie są to wcielone złe duchy. Odbierajmy więc ich takimi jakimi oni są. I takich kochajmy. Ludzie szczęśliwi to ci, co kochają innych; dla nich się poświęcają, bez oglądania się na zapłatę, wdzięczność i pochwałę. Jeżeli nawet czasem może się wydawać, że są to ludzie naiwni, to i tak nie przekreśla to faktu radości i szczęścia.

Spójrzmy też na nasz stosunek do życia. Prawda, ono nie jest sielanką ale też nie jakąś tragedią. Jest szansą, przygodą, możliwością. Istotne również w życiu jest kontrolowane ryzyko. Nie chodzi o brawurę, ale gdy stawiamy sobie cele wielkie i godne, to jesteśmy gotowi do poświęceń. Odkryć swój życiowy cel - to kolejna ważna kwestia. Ludzie szczęśliwi nie żyją bowiem bezcelowo.

Na przełomie Adwentu i Bożego Narodzenia to garść refleksji, które rzucam pod choinkę, by przemyślałszy nieco, móc zasiąść do wigilijnej wieszczy, jak i przy świątecznym stole, jako człowiek szczęśliwy. Czego życzy

ks. Jerzy



**PEŁNYCH DOBRA, POKOJU,
RADOŚCI I MIŁOŚCI
ORAZ PRZEPEŁNIONYCH
RODZINNYM CIEPŁEM ŚWIĄT
BOŻEGO NARODZENIA
ORAZ WSZELKIEJ POMYŚLNOŚCI
NA CAŁY NADCHODZĄCY ROK 2004
PARAFIANOM I GOŚCIOM ŻYCZA
DUSZPASTERZE ŚW. STANISŁAWA**

*Merry Christmas to All Our
Friends and Parishioners!*

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES AND EVENTS

Sunday Devotions

Sundays of Advent,
Godzinki (Polish) 3:00PM
Solemn Vespers 6:00PM

Christmas Liturgies

Wednesday, Christmas Eve
Family Christmas Mass 5:00PM
Kolendy & Christmas Carols 11:30PM
Midnight Christmas Mass 12:00PM
Thursday, Christmas Day
English Christmas Masses 8:30 & 11:30AM
Polish Christmas Mass 10:00AM

Daily Masses

Friday-Wednesday, December 26-31
8:30AM

New Years Liturgy

Thursday, New Years Day 10:30 AM
Bi-lingual

Cultural Events

Sunday, January 4, 2004 7:30 PM
Pastoralka Staropolska—Opera Circle

PLEASE NOTE: There will be only one Mass on New Years Day. There will NOT be a vigil Mass on New Years Eve. Please plan accordingly.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Remember that if you intend to have your child baptized, both parents need to have attended a preparation session beforehand. You will discuss the meaning and importance of baptism in the life of the Christian community, as well as how the actual ritual is celebrated. Please call the church hosting the class in advance. The next scheduled dates in Slavic Village are:

January 4, 2004 :

1:00 PM—ur Lady of Lourdes 641-2829

February 1, 2004:

12:30 PM - St. John Nepomucene 641-

ST. STAN'S WEB SITE

The St. Stanislaus Web site "www.ststanislaus.org" has been very popular. We have had almost 11,000 visitors who made more than 29,000 web page visits. If you haven't yet—check it out!

PASTORALKA STAROPOLSKA

Opera Circle and Friends from the Choirs of St. Stanislaus and Immaculate Heart of Mary will present a delightful Christmas program on Sunday, January 4, 7:30PM at St. Stanislaus Church.

The shepherds try to tell their side of the story in Leon Schiller's nativity narrative, but they must contend with the lyrical outpourings of the Angels, Mary and good old St. Joseph as well as the bravura declamations of the Ox and Ass. Presented in Polish, this holiday event reflects the truest spirit of the season and will be appreciated by the entire family, Polish or not, as its universal message is so simply understood. This performance will make your Christmas complete. The concert is free, however, a free will offering will be gratefully accepted.

OPLATKI (CHRISTMAS WAFERS) In the spirit of the Christmas season, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, will make Christmas Wafers, (opłatki) available to parishioners. The packets contain 4 wafers. A minimum donation of \$2.00 to \$3.00 per package is appreciated. You may contact a Sister before or after Sunday Mass. Wafers will also be available at the rectory during ordinary business hours. The Sisters sincerely thank everyone and wish all a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and holiday season.



Looking for that unique, one-of-a-kind gift idea? Over the past year several parish fund-raising projects have produced attractive and unique

LAST CHANCE TO GET "St. Stan's specialty gifts" before Christmas.

This weekend we still have a gift table set up in the vestibule of the church where people may find these unique gift ideas. You will find Christmas cards, framed photos of the church, religious items, cookbooks, Slavic Village books, and other good things. The members of the Lil Bros Club will be there to help with your selections. Remember, all proceeds go to benefit the church and the Lil Bros. Happy shopping!

CUT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE AT HERITAGE FARMS. Heritage Farms in Peninsula, Ohio, have supplied St. Stanislaus Church with live Christmas Trees at a reduced price for the last few years. If you plan to purchase a live Christmas tree for your home, we encourage you to patronize Heritage Farms. Either cut your own or purchase one that has been freshly cut. Heritage Farms is located on 6050 Riverview Rd., just South of Route 303. Phone (330) 657-2384 and be sure to thank them for their donation to our church.

"PASTERKA"

Już od kilku lat w okresie przypadającym pomiędzy dniem Bożego Narodzenia a Nowym Rokiem w jednym z kościołów Metropolii Cleveland celebrowana jest w języku polskim uroczysta Msza św. o Bożym Narodzeniu - "Pasterka" - wraz z bogatą oprawą kołędową. W tym roku ta Msza św. będzie odprawiona w dniu 29 grudnia o godz. 7:30 wieczorem w kościele św. Antoniego z Padwy. Kościół ten znajduje się przy ul. 6750 State Rd w Parma. Mszę św. poprzedzi koncert kołęd, który rozpocznie się już o godz. 6:45.

"PASTORALKA"

Opera Circle Doroty i Jacka Sobieskich pragnie w tym roku ponownie odwołać się do pięknych polskich tradycji bożonarodzeniowych. Przygotowując sztukę "Pastorałka Staropolska" Leona Schillera, pragnie wzbudzić umiłowanie w najmłodszych, a odświeżyć w pamięci starszych, to co stanowi o bogactwie polskiej kultury chrześcijańskiej. Sztuka ta oparta na ludowych jasełkach i polskich kołędach, w ciepły, a równocześnie, czasami humorystyczny sposób, ukazuje historię Narodzenia Zbawiciela. Święta Rodzina, Aniołowie, Pasterze i zwierzęta przemawiające ludzkim głosem — to cała gama postaci z szopki betlejemskiej. Wszystko będzie można zobaczyć najpierw w naszej parafii św. Stanisława o godz. 7:30 wieczorem **w niedzielę 4 stycznia 2004 r**

VASJ PLACEMENT TESTS. Villa Angela- St. Joseph High School in Cleveland will be offering a Placement test on January 10, 2004 at 8 AM. The test will last three hours. There will be a \$10 fee. VASJ is located at 18491 Lake Shore Boulevard. Call the Lori Schulz, Admissions Director, at 216-481-8414, extension 252 for more information.

MARCH FOR LIFE. March for Life in Washington D.C. for Christ's forgotten precious ones. Our nation desperately needs your help. A 29 hour round trip for \$50 will leave on January 21, 2004 from St. John Bosco in Parma at 9 AM. Many food and rest stops will be made. For further information on busses in the area or other details contact Frank Kosmeri at 216-362-6091.

PLACE A BULLETIN AD. During the coming weeks Bruce Hicks, from this Bulletin's supplier, Liturgical Publications Inc., will be soliciting advertising support for the weekly Parish Bulletin. This is a great opportunity for any local businesses to get their messages in front of the many potential customers who attend church on a weekly basis. As always we appreciate the hospitality and the co-operation of our business partners who help sponsor our weekly Bulletin. "In Memory" and "Compliments of" spaces are now available. Please contact Bruce at 800-477-4574 extension 265 for information.

POLISH CHRISTMAS LITURGY. The Traditional Polish Christmas Liturgy, "Pasterka" will be celebrated on December 29 at St. Anthony of Padua Church on State Road in Parma. Singing of Polish Christmas Carols will begin at 6:45 PM. Mass will follow at 7:30 PM. For more information call Larry or Kay Gonet at 440-842-3535.



GOD BLESS AMERICA