

STAFF & ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

Mr. Bogdan (Don) Pieniak, Parish Administrator
 Mrs. Deborah Martin, St. Stanislaus School Principal
 Mr. Dan Kane Jr., Business Manager
 Mr. David Krakowski, Director of Liturgy and Music
 Mrs. Denise O'Reilly, St. Stanislaus School Secretary
 Mr. Fred Mendat, Maintenance & Social Center Manager

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Susan Halamek, Pastoral Council Chairperson
 Ms. Celeste Suchocki, Finance Council Chairperson
 Mrs. Sophie Wasielewski, Golden Agers President
 Mr. John Sklodowski, Dads Club President
 Mr. Rick Krakowski, C.Y.O. Coordinator
 Mr. Matt Zielenski, St. Vincent DePaul Society
 Ms. Jane Bobula, Good Shepherd Catechesis
 Mr. Rob Jagelewski, Parish Historical Committee
 Mrs. Nancy Mack, MANNA Coordinator
 Mrs. Grace Hryniewicz, Shrine Shoppe Manager
 Mrs. Sharon Kozak, Alumni and Development
 Mrs. Denise Siemborski, Fr. William Scholarship
 Mr. John Heyink, Building and Grounds Committee
 Ms. Marianna Romaniuk, *PORADA* Director
 Luis Ramirez, Lil Bros President

FRANCISCAN FRIARS

Fr. Michael Surufka, OFM, Pastor
 Fr. Leonard Stunek, OFM, Friary Guardian, Parochial Vicar
 Fr. Placyd Kon, OFM, Parochial Vicar
 Br. Justin Kwietniewski, OFM, Pastoral Ministry

DIRECTORY

Rectory & Parish Office 216-341-9091
 Parish Fax 341-2688
 St. Stanislaus Elementary School 883-3307
 Central Catholic High School 441-4700
 Pulaski Franciscan CDC 789-9545

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ststanislaus.org

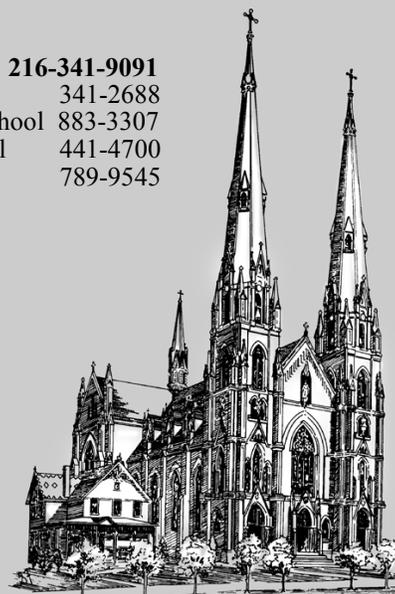
E-MAIL

ststans@ameritech.net

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 church dedicated in 1891.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Masses: 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM (no 7:00 on Sat.)
Sunday Vigil: Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday English Masses: 8:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Sunday Polish Mass: 10:00 AM
 Holy Day English: Refer to Schedule
 Holy Day Polish: 5:30 PM
 National Holidays: 9:00 AM

DEVOTIONS

Daily Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM (exc. Sunday)
Saint Anthony Novena Tuesdays after Mass
Rosary for Life Tuesdays and Fridays after Mass
Avilas prayer for vocations, second Monday of the month

OFFICE HOURS

The parish office is open from Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ordinarily on Sundays at 1:00 PM. Alternate times must be arranged with a parish priest. Pre-Baptism instructions are necessary in advance.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

GODPARENT AND SPONSOR CERTIFICATES

Those who wish to be sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must be registered and practicing members of the Catholic Church. If you attend St. Stanislaus but you are not registered, please contact the parish office so that you can be listed as a parishioner here.

FUNERALS

Arrangements are made through the funeral home.

INQUIRY CLASSES

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

CHURCH HOURS

Church is open daily 30 minutes before and after all Masses. For tours or private prayer please call the rectory.

MASS INTENTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, Grudnia 2008

Sat	5:00 PM	+Maria Mania
Sun	8:30 AM	+David Riffle
	10:00 AM	+Jerzy Kulacz
	11:30 AM	Sp. Int. Joseph and Ann Pluta

Mon	Dec 22	Late Advent Weekday
	7:00 AM	Sp. Int. Sr. Marietta
	8:30 AM	+Frank Kaminski
Tue	Dec 23	Late Advent Weekday (St. John Cantius)
	7:00 AM	+Walter Pitner
	8:30 AM	+Ted Leciejewski
Wed	Dec 24	Advent Weekday—Evening Christmas Vigil
	8:30 AM	+Helen Markiewicz
	5:00 PM	+Jan Jarmuziewicz
Thu	Dec 25	Nativity of the Lord
	Midnight	Sp. Int. Parishioners of St. Stanislaus
	8:30 AM	+Br. Fidelis Veselak OFM
	10:00 AM	+Celia Kopec
	11:30 AM	+Eddie J. Racut
Fri	Dec 26	St. Stephen, First Martyr
	8:30 AM	+Richard Modlinski
Sat	Dec 27	St. John, apostle
	8:30 AM	+Fr. Martin Szawerna OFM

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS AND MARY

December 28, Grudnia 2008

Sat	5:00 PM	+Monica Krakowski
Sun	8:30 AM	+Salomea Stecki
	10:00 AM	+Teresa Swierczek
	11:30 AM	+Jacqueline Russo
	1:00 PM	Baptism of Gwendolin Moira Wunderle and Tim Metting
	2:00 PM	Baptism of Gabriel Jacob Sherman

MUSIC – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Seasonal Responsorial

Wait for the Lord whose day is day is near! Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!

Pan blisko jest, oczekuj Go! Pan blisko jest, w nim serca moc!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sun 3:00 PM Godzinki.
6:00 PM Solemn Vespers
6:30 PM Church decorating for Christmas begins
Mon 9AM—9PM Church decorating
Tues 9AM—9PM Church decorating
Wed Office closes 12:00 noon.
Thu Christmas Day
Fri Office Closed

THANK YOU!

The Christmas collection is one of the most generous in the whole year. During these hard economic times, we are even more grateful for the continuing support of our parish and its mission. Please remember that we need a weekly collection of \$6,000 to meet our budget. So far this year, we are about \$14,000 behind budget. If you are able to contribute a bit more to help, please consider using the "Balance the Budget" envelope in your monthly packet.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" means...

When you wish someone "Merry Christmas" what does that mean? You've probably already said it to hundreds of people over your lifetime! You've written that same greeting in cards sent during this time of the year too to households and friends the world over. So, what did you mean to say? Did that greeting have anything to do with the essence of the event? Did it touch on the reality on the birth of Jesus some two thousand years ago?

When you say "Merry Christmas" are you acknowledging your belief that God loves you and the recipient of that greeting as well? Do you look at that person and see His face? Do you see Jesus in the other person's happiness as well as suffering, in their tears and their laughter? Do you at least wish you could see more of that in them? Do you secretly dream that someday the other person might allow Jesus into their life...again? Do you believe it can all happen?

When you say "Merry Christmas" do you think back to the many holidays over your life when you were able to share this holiday with those you loved and who loved you? Do you remember your grandparents making the *Wigilia* or your dad pouring shots of whiskey or your mother baking your favorite cookies? Do you remember your children dropping off presents or, perhaps, them introducing their latest boyfriend or girlfriend to the family? Do you remember your husband or wife or significant 'other' trying to surprise you with a gift they knew you would love? Do you remember your pets, dressed in some silly outfit or wearing a bell on their collar? Do remember wondering what they said at midnight while you were in church celebrating Midnight Mass? (For those of you unfamiliar with this legend, the Poles believe that animals speak at Midnight during the *Pasterka!*) Do these memories all fill in the meaning behind your "Merry Christmas?"

When you say "Merry Christmas" do you really wish the best for the person extending the same wish back to you? Do you wish God to enter their lives? Do you wish Him to soften their hearts? Do you wish Him to be accepted by them and love Him back? Do you wish them to allow that innocence back into their lives—the same innocence that can dream the impossible, banish evil, and accept God's love? Do you accept each person, flaws and all, and see in them a treasure?

When you say "Merry Christmas" it can mean many of those things and all of those things. But it all centers around the reality of life and God's historic intervention into creation when He chose Mary to feed His own Son with her body and blood in order for Jesus to feed us all His Body and Blood. He showed us how to share in His Body and Blood from the time of His conception until the time of His Ascension. His actions and demands and sufferings and commands throughout His life on earth each shouted "Merry Christmas" in its own way. The Mother we see before us holds up in Her arms the great present God meant for us. She looks to us and says "Merry Christmas" and to that we say "AMEN!" As we share that same greeting with each other throughout this holy season, may our words be as full with love as were Hers on that first Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all our friends and guests, dreamers and providers of our great parish! May God bless each of you always!

David Krakowski

SCHEDULE FOR MINISTERS

Holy Family of Jesus and Mary, December 28 Grudnia, 2008

Sat 5:00 PM Lector — Tom Krol
Euch. Min. — Mike Potter, Marge & Andy Flock, Connie Aliff

Sun 8:30 AM Lector — Susan Halamek
Euch. Min. — Marcia & Don Stech, Alice Klafczynski, Ray Tegowski

10:00 AM Lector — Asia Sychla
Euch. Min. — A. Jankowski, Marcie Sladewski, W. Sztalkoper, Ewelina Ejsmont

11:30 AM Lector — Richard Konisiewicz
Euch. Min. — Terry Kopenia, Frank Greczanik, Ron Grams, Stanley Koch

PARISH SUPPORT

Last Sunday's Collection

5:00 PM Vigil (84).....	\$1,174.00
8:30 AM (83).....	\$1,341.00
10:00 AM (80).....	\$998.00
11:30 AM (88).....	\$1,790.02
Mailed in (36).....	\$1,057.00
Total (371 envelopes)	\$6,436.99
Immaculate Conception (103)	\$888.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS SUPPORT!**



THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY (AND THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU)

At the RICA meeting last weekend, we spent the whole session examining the scriptures dealing with the Christmas story. Of course, two of the four gospels (Mark, the first gospel written, and John, the last) don't even mention the birth of Christ at all. And there

are all kinds of historical, theological, and ecclesial reasons why Matthew and Luke present different aspects of the same story.

But the question that was the most fun to discuss was this: If you could add something to the Christmas story, what would you tell about? What would bring out for you even more clearly the meaning of Christ's birth? Several years ago, when a group of women was asked this question, they agreed that they would like to hear about the midwives who must certainly have been attending to Mary as she gave birth. After all, they would not have left Mary all alone with just Joseph to help her out. And an image of a group of women helping Mary would add a nice touch to the manger scene! Recently I saw an ad for ordering an icon of Mary and the Midwives, so the word must have gotten out...

My personal favorite would be to include the story of the Little Drummer Boy. Why not? In the gospels, Jesus uses the metaphor of children as perfect models for accepting the coming of the reign of God. Wouldn't it make sense to have one show up in Bethlehem? We all know the story, the boy gives everything he has — which is nothing but a little rhythm on his drum — as a gift to Baby Jesus, and that is so lovely that even the animals joined in. Call me a mush, but I still get a little teary-eyed when a decent version of the Drummer Boy song is played.

So go ahead and use your imagination a bit. As long as your story doesn't conflict with the truths of faith, you can have some freedom in adding an element to the story that makes the birth of Christ more personally meaningful. What do you think the shepherds did when they went back to tell everyone what had happened? How well were they received? What did the Magi do when they got back home? Do you suppose they followed the life of the child to see what happened when he became an adult?

Why not even put yourself into the story. Imagine you were nearby. Would you go over to see what the commotion was about? Would you complain about the noise disrupting your sleep? Or would you rejoice with the shepherds and angels? Would you bring a friend over to share the good news, or would you be afraid of getting involved in someone else's mess?

This year, we enter the Christmas season with a bit of a cloud over our heads. The nation is still fighting two wars, and not doing well at either. The economy is a wreck, and people are losing their jobs and their homes. But we only lose our imaginations if we let them go. We believe that God is the Creator, and the place in ourselves where the creative God is working is precisely in our capacity to imagine, to dream, and to dare. Dream yourself a merry Christmas!

Fr. Michael

Prezenty dla Dzieciątka

Boże Narodzenie to czas, kiedy składamy sobie nawzajem prezenty i życzenia. Są one znakiem radości, że Boży Syna przyszedł na ziemię stając się jednym z nas. Zatem są również jakimś znakiem miłości bliźniego.

Jezus przyniósł nam zbawienie, radość i pokój. Jego imię oznacza "zbawienie" albo dokładniej mówiąc „Bóg zbawia”. Dając nam zbawienie, dał nam samego siebie, bo On jest naszym zbawieniem. On cały jest Bożym Darem dla nas. Jest to najwspanialszy dar, jaki dał nam Bóg. Wszystkie inne dary czerpią swoją wartość z Niego i mają na Niego wskazywać.

Jezus jest zatem Bożym darem dla nas, On dał i daje się nam cały, ale nawzajem, On chce coś dostać w darze od nas. Na ten temat przytoczę teraz opowiadanie, które pomimo, że jest wytworem wyobraźni autora, zawiera jednak głębokie prawdziwe przesłanie. Jakie? To już zostawię czytelnikowi...

„Kiedy już pasterze opuścili miejsce narodzenia Pana, i zrobiło się tam bardzo cicho w ubogiej grocie, Dzieciątko podniosło swoją główkę i popatrzyło w stronę drzwi. W tamtym miejscu stał młodzieniec, przestraszony i nieśmiały.

- *Podjedź bliżej - zachęciło Dzieciątko - dlaczego jesteś taki przestraszony?*

- *Ponieważ nic Ci nie przyniosłem - odpowiedział chłopiec.*

- *Ale ja chciałbym bardzo otrzymać prezent także od ciebie - powiedziało Dzieciątko. Po tych słowach młodzieniec stał się jeszcze bardziej niepewny.*

- *Ale ja nic nie mam. Gdybym coś miał, dałbym Ci to... Tu, zobacz - i młodzieniec zaczął szukać w kieszeniach dziurawych spodni - mam ostrze starego noża. Znalazłem ją, teraz należy do Ciebie.*

- *Nie - odpowiedziało Dzieciątko - zachowaj je dla siebie. Chciałbym mieć coś zupełnie innego. Właściwie są to trzy rzeczy.*

- *Chętnie - odpowiedział chłopiec - ale co?*

- *Podaruj mi ostatni namalowany przez ciebie obraz.*

Chłopiec zaczerwienił się i stał się jeszcze bardziej niepewny. Aby nawet Maryja i Józef nie mogli go słyszeć, podszedł bardzo blisko do Dzieciątka i wyszeptał do ucha:

- *Ale obraz był tak brzydki, że nikt nawet nie chciał popatrzyć.*

- *Właśnie dlatego - powiedziało Dzieciątko w złóbk - chcę mieć twój obraz. Możesz zawsze mi przynosić wszystko, co w twoim życiu jest nieudane i brzydkie, i co innym się nie podoba. Oprócz tego - kontynuowało Dzieciątko - chcę mieć twój talerz.*

- *Ale ja, jaa... go ... po... potłukłem - chłopiec się zająkał.*

- *Dlatego chcę go mieć. Chcę żebyś mi oddawał wszystko, co w twoim życiu jest połamane. Ja to uzdrowię i naprawię. I jako ostatnią rzecz chciałbym mieć twoją odpowiedź, którą dałeś rodzicom.*

Po usłyszeniu tych słów chłopiec posmutniał i wyszeptał: - *Odpowiedziałem, że straciłem ten talerz nieumyślnie, ale to było kłamstwo. Tak naprawdę rzuciłem go ze złości na podłogę.*

- *To właśnie chciałem wiedzieć, powiedział Jezus w złóbk, przynos mi wszystko, co w twoim życiu jest złe: twoje kłamstwo, tchórzostwo, wymówki i okrucieństwo. Chcę, abyś był wolny od nich. Ty ich nie potrzebujesz. Ja pragnę ciebie uczynić na nowo szczęśliwym, a twoje grzechy wybaczyć. Od dzisiaj możesz przychodzić do mnie codziennie”.*

O. Placyd





©Liturgical Publications Inc.

O, Holy Night

**PEŁNYCH DOBRA, POKOJU,
RADOŚCI I MIŁOŚCI
ORAZ PRZEPEŁNIONYCH
RODZINNYM CIEPŁEM ŚWIĄT
BOŻEGO NARODZENIA
ORAZ WSZELKIEJ POMYŚLNOŚCI
NA CAŁY NADCHODZĄCY ROK 2009
PARAFIANOM I GOŚCIOM ŻYCZĄ
DUSZPASTERZE ŚW. STANISŁAWA**

*Merry Christmas to All Our
Friends and Parishioners!*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2009

Every Mass is celebrated for the sake of the whole Church community, and each person attending brings his or her own prayerful intentions to Mass. The intention of the priest is listed publicly so that everyone else may also join in his intention as well. WE STILL HAVE MANY OPEN MASSES FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH, as well as the other months of the year. If you have a special intention or would like to remember a deceased relative or loved one, contact the rectory to reserve a date.

ST. STANISLAUS SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAY LITURGIES

Christmas Liturgies

Wednesday, Christmas Eve

Family Christmas Mass 5:00PM

Kolędy & Christmas Carols 11:30PM

Midnight Christmas Mass 12:00PM

Thursday, Christmas Day

English Christmas Masses 8:30 & 11:30 AM

Polish Christmas Mass 10:00 AM

Daily Masses

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 26-27 8:30AM

Mon- Wed Dec 29-31 8:30AM

The Year of our Lord 2009

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, falls on Thursday, January 1. Saint Stanislaus Parish will celebrate the day with one Mass in Polish and English at 10:30 AM. Fr. Mike will preside at a Mass at 5:00 PM on New Year's Eve at Saint Hyacinth. Please check the Mass schedules of neighboring churches for other Mass times.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN AREA CHURCHES

In addition to the weekend private confessions regularly scheduled at St. Stanislaus and neighboring parishes, Advent Communal Penance Services and special private confessions will be offered in the Slavic Village Area. Take advantage at this holy season to present yourself for the graces of the sacrament. May the peace of Christ fill your Advent and Christmas days.

Holy Name Church: Dec. 22, and 23
Confessions 3:30 — 5:00PM

Immaculate Heart of Mary Dec 22 & 23, 8:30 AM—9:00AM (Polish and English).

St. John Nepomucene: Christmas Confessions Dec 22, 3-4:00PM and 7-8:00PM.

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Christmas Confessions: 22, & 23, 7-8PM

Our Lady Of Lourdes: Confessions Sun. prior to 12:30 Mass.

DECEMBER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Dec 22 — Christmas Break Begins

Jan 5 — School Resumes.

The Staff of St. Stanislaus School wishes a safe and joyous Christmas to all!

WELCOME! WITAMY!

To all our friends visiting our church during this Joyous Christmas Season. The Parishioners of St. Stanislaus pride themselves in our outreach and service to our diverse neighborhood peoples. If you can find it in your means, please be generous in your support of the many good works of our Parish. St. Stanislaus depends upon the regular support of its membership and the generosity of those who visit here. Please look upon your financial gift or sacrifice as a way of giving praise to God along with the many from earlier generations who have worshiped and prayed here for 135 years.

ST. STAN'S HISTORICAL FACT

by Rob Jagelewski

Christmas has always been a special time at St. Stanislaus Parish. The church has always been decorated in fine fashion and none as fine as during the present day. When masses were held in the chapel, the basement church was decorated as well with a crib of its own. Memories of Christmas past have been many school pageants, adult Christmas plays, gifts delivered to the entire school by the Parent Teacher Association, and skits by the cub scouts. Pictured here is a Christmas skit of caroling from a Cub Scout meeting during the 1960's. Leading the carolers on the far right is the very young Father



Thomas Nairn OFM, a priest-son of our Parish, currently stationed in St. Louis, Missouri. In the recent past, many parishioners still remember the Christmas singing of Father Alcuin Mikulanis OFM and his rendition of "Great Day In Bethlehem." The current statues used in our nativity scene are Fontanini statues. These are the exact same style of statues shown in the first *Home Alone* movie.

BÓG ZAPŁAĆ AND THANK YOU

The family of Genowefa Malaczewska would like to thank all for the love shown in prayer, support, encouragement and offering during our time of sorrow. May the Good Lord shower you with His blessings and give her eternal rest.

INFANTS AND TODDLERS OF SLAVIC VILLAGE — The baskets are in the back vestibule waiting for your kind donations. Please think of Our Lord and be generous! A drawing for "Lunch for Two" at Otto Moser's will take place on Dec. 21st and Jan. 18th. Just fill in an entry form when you place your gift items in the baskets. Thank You!

THE ST. VITUS CHRISTMAS CHOIR, consisting of nearly 60 soprano, alto, tenor, or bass singers, will perform its annual "*Concert of Sacred Songs*" on **Dec 28, 2008** at 1:00PM at St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. Songs will be sung in English, Italian, Latin, or Slovenian. The choir will be accompanied by string *I Violin, II Violin, Viola, and Cello* string instruments with an organist performing on the church's historic Holtkamp organ.

THANK YOU FOR THE MANNA

We appreciate all those who have purchased Manna Cards this past year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERY ONE!



OPIATKI

(CHRISTMAS WAFERS)

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, will make Christmas Wafers (oplatki) available to parishioners at the Shrine Shop or Rectory. The packets contain 4 wafers for a donation of \$2.00 or more per package.

Sklepik z art.
religijnymi
i kafejka

Godziny otwarcia:

Sobota 4:00 PM—6:00 PM

Niedziela 9:30 AM—1:30PM

Tel: 216-206-4947

Open before and
after Mass !

VISIT

ST. STANISLAUS
SHRINE SHOPPE

Open after Weekend Masses

CHRISTMAS GIFTS ON DISPLAY

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS.

Next Class will be on January 4, 2009
12:30 PM at St. John Nepomucene call
641-8444

Check Out youtube — Christmas Wafers: Good for the Soul!

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=dOa6Qdzz29M>