The Alumni & Friends will be kicking off Catholic School Week with our Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser. This event provides a break for those of us hunkered down for the winter and an opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy a variety of chilies from our volunteer chefs.

Since the 5 p.m. Mass is every Saturday, for those wishing to attend can join us afterwards and enjoy the Chili being served in the Social Center, on Baxter, right after the Mass. Doesn’t a variety of Chilies sound good? Especially when you might need to warm up on a cold, January, Saturday Night?

All are welcome to attend;
- The $5 admission supports the events costs,
- A panel of Judges will determine the "5th Golden Spoon Winner" and
- Again this year, the "People’s Choice Winner" will be determined by all the chili lovers attending.

Last year Pam Cabral won both awards with her ’Clean Sweep Chili’. So come to support your favorite Chef or your favorite Chili Recipe!

There will be sideboards and refreshments available. This event would not be as successful if it were not for the volunteer chefs who are most generous with their TIME, INGREDIENTS AND SKILL.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to participate--call Bob or Ingrid at 440-333-7827 for details. There will be no more than 20 entrants, so call early.

Tickets have been enclosed, as well as the return envelope, for your convenience. Save a stamp and give the envelope in the collection basket at Mass. Please make checks payable to St. Stanislaus.

As explained in the July newsletter...the prizes are 1st Prize $2000............ Ticket seller award $100 2nd Prize $500............ Ticket seller award $50 3rd Prize $350............ Ticket seller award $25

The drawing will be on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at our Dyngus Celebration after Easter. For more tickets or information contact 440-333-7827.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!
The parish rectory is a historic, stately building, built in 1913, and brought back beautifully after the tragedy and fire in December 2002. However:

**THE SLATE ROOF IS OLD AND IS IN NEED OF REPAIR.** The slate roof is basically solid—but has several areas of need:

- The copper flashing at roof peaks and valley need replacement—this is an expensive and labor intensive process.
- The roof overhangs with associated gutters and drains are in need of repair/replacement. (See the attic photos where the leakage occurs.)
- The individual cemented lentils (metal reinforcement bars at the top of each window) have deteriorated and are in need of replacement after serving for over 100 years.

The entire project to address all of the above would run into SIX FIGURES. So the alumni want to help get the ball rolling to start a RECTORY ROOF & LENTIL REPAIR FUND which Fr. Eric can build upon to help start addressing the most immediate needs. That fund is one goal of our raffle for this year, as well as to help to continue our alumni & friends development. It is our way to say thank you to St. Stanislaus Parish and Schools.

During this holiday season, we are challenged to work as hard spiritually as we do physically. During those long hours of holiday shopping, and decorating, and visiting, we are called to remember the long hours of riding on a donkey and looking for a place to fulfill God's promise to us. During the Santa visits, Christmas concerts, and door decorating contests, the staff at Saint Stanislaus School is reminded to bring Christ into the classroom with a fierce commitment. We can't lose Jesus! Yet, try telling that to child whose only wish for Christmas is "jammies that don't itch."

When we are approached with things we need for the school, especially at this time of year, my brain goes in one direction; my heart in another. We need Bibles for the classroom (but Amari's shoes are taped at the sole). We need music instruments to begin a band program (yet three mothers asked me for gas money the week before Thanksgiving). The paint is peeling in the stairwells (but no one in the fifth grade appears to have a winter coat). You see my dilemma? Run a school or take care of a child and their family?

These things are not mutually exclusive, I know that. As the largest ministry of Saint Stanislaus Parish, I have a responsibility to continue the tradition of principals before me in providing a Catholic education to the students who enter those doors every day. I do not have more challenges than my predecessors; merely different ones. I could not face these challenges without the support of many people, most of whom you see below.

The staff at Saint Stanislaus School is a committed, caring, and focused group of men and women. They give, and then give some more. They teach, and then teach harder still. They are creative and kind and spiritual, and they make me proud every single day. How blessed I am to have a crew that follows and leads equally, who cares about the little Christians in front of us as if they were their own, and continue to do so, year after year.

But what do you need, you ask again? Follow your heart. Listen to the stories we share. Talk to a teacher in a different school. Come visit and see what wondrous things we do, and perhaps the answer will be clear. All of you, alumni and friends of alumni, can all give us what we need first and foremost: prayer.

Blessings, Deborah Ann Martin, Principal

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Look for details about entertainment, food and activities in the church bulletin, parish website and the Facebook Alumni Page at “Alumni of Saint Stanislaus (St Stans) in Cleveland Ohio”.

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