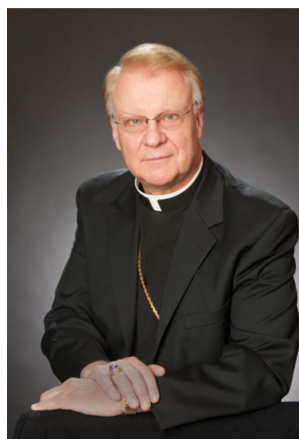




January 2023

St. Stan's News



1773-2023: Amazing, heyna?

The beloved Christian hymn "Amazing Grace" was written by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton

to accompany a sermon he preached on New Year's Day in 1773. Without question, over the past 250 years, it's become an immensely popular hymn, especially in the United States, where we use it not only for religious occasions but for secular purposes as well. The text for the hymn is drawn from and inspired by an Old Testament passage from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, in which King David responds to the prophet Nathan's comforting words that God intends to continue David's royal line beyond the present for all eternity. This passage reads:

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; [for] you have also spoken of your servant's house into the distant future. You regard me [undeservedly] as someone of high rank, O Lord God."

The hymn's background is autobiographical as Newton wrote the words for "Amazing Grace" from his own personal experience. In 1748 while Newton served as a sea captain of a ship in the Atlantic slave trade, a violent storm off the coast of Ireland struck his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked Newton's turn toward God, which he



called "the hour I first believed." Eventually leaving sailing behind, Newton then began studying Christian theology and was ordained in the Church of England in 1764. He served as a minister in Olney, England where he began writing hymns.

While "Amazing Grace" was published in *Olney Hymns* in 1779, it was rarely sung in England. It was, however, in the United States that the song became widely known during the early 1800's. Today "Amazing Grace" remains one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.

Take a moment now, to reflect on Newton's conversion, poetically rendered below:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

The grace of which Newton writes here is understood in Christian theology to be God's help, God's favor upon you, God's blessing in any way and in many ways in your life; and all of it

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unearned and undeserved, though freely given and divinely bestowed, including your salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

It's important for you to know that as a part of the infamous slave trade, Newton would have taken goods from England to West Africa to trade for African men, women and children, who were then shipped in barbaric conditions to the West Indies, where they were sold to plantation owners.

But God's call was strong, and eventually, after the events described above, he served as vicar in Olney where he wrote his famous hymn 250 years ago on New Year's Day. Filled with disgust for his former life as a slave trader, Newton went on to become a leading Abolitionist, giving firsthand evidence of the evil of that trade and helped to get it outlawed.

The hymn is perfect for the new year, as it looks back to the past and forward to the future, always trusting in God's loving kindness, which reaches out to you in love. That Amazing Grace, lived out in Jesus, still has the power to save any and all, even those such as a self-described 'wretch' as John Newton himself.

May that amazing love, indeed, the grace of God's loving kindness, be with you all, and surround your steps as you journey on into 2023.



YMS of R Hoagie AND PIZZA Sale

Branch 1 YMS of R will be holding a fundraising Hoagie and Pizza Sale on Saturday, January 14, 2023. We will be making 12" Italian or turkey hoagies, as well as take and bake plain and pepperoni square pizzas.

Pick up will be that day, in the lower hall of the Cathedral, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, JUST IN TIME FOR THE NFL WILD CARD GAMES!

The price for the hoagies will be \$10.00 each, which includes lettuce, tomato and onion, as well as condiments (oil/vinegar, mayo or spicy mustard), all prepackaged on the side. Pizzas will be 12-cut square and are \$17.00 for plain and \$20.00 for pepperoni.

The deadline for orders is Tuesday, January 10, 2023 using the signup sheet in the lower church hall or by calling Frank at (570) 587-3672. Please indicate the type and number of pizzas and/or hoagies desired (as well as the appropriate number and types of condiments for any hoagies). Thanks in advance for your support.



Financial Books for 2022 Are Closed

Financial records for the 2022 year are closed. Any donations given after January 1, 2023 will be recorded for the new year.

New pledge forms and donation statements for the 2023 year will soon be sent to all parishioners. They should arrive by the end of January.

If there are any questions about your new pledge forms or your 2022 donation statement, you may contact the church office by phone, 570-961-9231, or by email, office@saintstanislauspncc.org.

Thank you and may God bless you for your support of our Cathedral.



Illustration by Chris G.

Welcome New Members

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Mary Ann Boock and her son Bill Boock, his wife Darlene and their children Billy and Avah as new members of St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

Mary Ann and her son started out a few years back helping out at the flea market. Because they enjoyed working with the parishioners, they have decided to join us here at St. Stanislaus. They were officially accepted as members of St. Stanislaus at the November meeting.

Congratulations to Mary Ann, Bill and Darlene and their children Billy and Avah. We are looking forward to worshipping and working with you.



Can You Coffee??

Over the next few months we would love to see you help with running our 'after 9:30 am Holy Mass coffee hour'. Coffee hour is a great fellowship time that we all know and love. Like many things we are short-handed and want to keep this favorite event going. Would you like to sponsor and run a coffee hour? The Cathedral covers all costs and we can even give you a list of what gets done or you can do your own thing! We are placing a sign up sheet in the church auditorium where you, family, and friends can sign up to be the "Coffee Hour Sponsor of the Week". Any questions can be directed to the Parish Office.



Coffee Fellowship

The Fresh Grocer Cards Are Here

Gerrity's Fresh Grocer gift cards are here in the Parish Office for sale. You can get your \$25 gift card during the week by calling the parish office (570-9619231) and arranging to pick them up or you can stop in the parish office on Sunday.



2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 offering envelopes are ready and can be picked up after Mass on Sunday in the parish hall. You may also make arrangements to pick them up during the week by calling the Parish Office at 570-961-9231 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you see someone's envelopes who can not make it to church and you live close by, please consider dropping them off at the parishioner's home. It would be greatly appreciated.



One Hot Meal

One Hot Meal is continuing its take-out dinners and this December participants were treated to a ham dinner for Christmas.



Please consider helping out with packing meals and distribution. If you can be helpful contact

Carol Nasser at 570-840-5502 or come to the Youth Center on the first Saturday of the month.



The Holidays allow Outreach to express our heartfelt thanks for the friendships we cherish.

In this season of gratitude, our thoughts turn gratefully to you with warm appreciation. Your support inspires us and is the cornerstone of our mission to move families forward.

May you and your family have a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your support of our holiday giving program for families. Wishing you all a happy, healthy new year.
The Staff @ Outreach



Santa Is Back

Breakfast with Santa has returned after its 2-year hiatus. On Sunday, December 11th, the YMS of R along with the assistance of Troop 42 Boy Scouts, served a scrumptious breakfast buffet with everything from scrambled eggs and ham, pancakes and sausage, to home fries and much more.

After everyone was full, Santa arrived to the delight of the little ones. Everyone had a great time.

We would like to thank the fine helpers from Troop 42 who assisted at the breakfast; Cubs Scouts Truxton Deck, Danny King, Matthew King, and Luke Golembeski and Max Menichini for the Boy Scouts.

Santa went back to the North Pole, but he will return for breakfast again next year on December 10th, so keep that date in your calendar.





Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, Dec 17th at noon, St. Stanislaus parishioners and friends participated in Wreaths Across America with more than 2,700 participating locations across the country.



Don Blackledge welcomed everyone and opened the ceremony with a moment of silence to remember the fallen, prisoners of war, those missing in action and honor those who have served this great nation. Bishop Nowicki then offered his blessings and remarks.

Following Bishop, Maria

Hughes introduced Judge Thomas Munley of Lackawanna County and Host of Eyewitness News Veterans Views. Judge Munley was glad to be a part of our ceremony in honoring the veterans and hoped to be invited back every year for this important event.

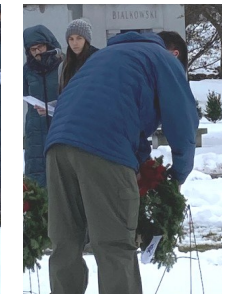
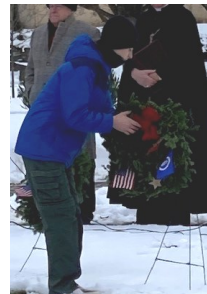
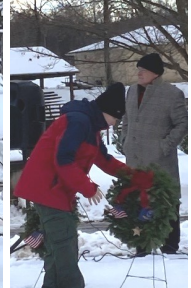
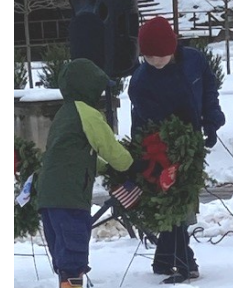


Our chairperson, Fred Aebli, then spoke and in his remarks quoted our 40th President Ronald Regan. "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on to them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Jack Partyka played *Amazing Grace* and ended with TAPS.

Wreaths were placed near the statue of Christ Benign, in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Army, Ma-

rine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines with the last wreath in honor of the 93,129 Servicemen from all branches whose last known status was either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.



All those who participated were asked to then take a wreath to be placed at the grave site of our veterans and were encouraged to say their names out loud and say a prayer for them; a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive. Wreaths were then placed all over the cemetery including the grave of Michael Sevensky who served in Merrill's Marauders in WW II.



We would like to thank Lockheed Martin

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for its generous gift of the 100 wreaths and those parishioners and organizations which also donated wreaths. Thank you also to all who participated and placed wreaths on the cold day to honor our veterans.

In participating with the Wreaths Across America, we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we **REMEMBER** the Fallen, **HONOR** those who serve and their families, and **TEACH** the next generation the value of freedom.

Here Come the Shepherds

As the shepherds rolled in on Sunday, December 18th, parishioners gathered in the church to bring out the Nativity statues, Christmas trees and anything else needed to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Many hands made for light work as the group worked together to set up the crèche and all the other decorations to adorn the Cathedral and the Chapel with the Christmas spirit. As you can see from the pictures, everyone had a good time as they worked for the church.



Thank you to all who helped and hope to see more helpers next year.



The Christmas Celebration

The Christmas Celebration began on Christmas Eve, with the Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. and then continued with Pasterka, Mass of the Shepherds at 10:30 p.m.

Pre-Liturgy began with various carols performed by Rebecca Elfman on the organ, Nadia Lipperini on violin and Josh Stankowski on viola, the St. Stanislaus Handbell Choir and the Cathedral Choral.



Procession to the Creche began with the traditional *Wśród Nocnej Ciszy, In Midnight Silence*, accompanied by



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Nadia and Josh, and continued with *Pójdźmy Wszyscy Do Stajenki*, and *Cicha Noc*. After the blessing of the manger mass began with *O, Come All Ye Faithful*.

During Mass, various other traditional Polish carols were sung along with a special carol sung by the Cathedral Choral. Thank you to Nadia and Josh for their enhancement of the Pas-terka.

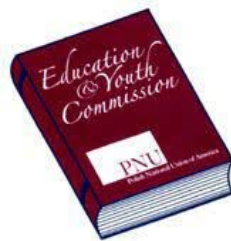
Mass for the Feast of the Nativity was celebrated at the Cathedral and Our Savior Chapel on Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas to everyone and may the Blessings of this Christmas season be with you and your families in the coming New Year. *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!*



Raffle Winners

The Education and Youth Commission would graciously like to extend our gratitude to everyone who generously supported the Raffle Fundraiser promoting our Stipend Program through the PNU.



Congratulations to our winners!

First Prize (\$250.00 – Marlene Hill, Scranton, PA

Second Prize (\$100.00) – Edward Goralczyk,
Elizabeth, PA

Third Prize (\$50.00) – Johanna Pardoe,
N. Versailles, PA

Monetary donations are always graciously accepted towards these endeavors, as we continue our mission to provide funding and enable our youth members the benefit of receiving this

stipend towards their future educational goals.

Donations can be sent directly to: Education and Youth Commission, 1006 Pittston Ave, Scranton, Pa 18505. Attention: Mary Ann Stankowski

Thank you and God Bless You and Your Families during this Holiday Season!

Mary Ann Stankowski, Education & Youth Commission, Chairman



Helping Students in Our Schools

For the second year our parish participated in the "Snowball Raffle" through Lisa McConlogue, principal of Neil Armstrong and John Adams Schools in the Scranton School District. As a way to make some students' holidays more joyful in Lisa's schools, gift bags with a child's name, grade, age and interests attached, were filled by our parishioners. This year we helped 30 students which was more than last year. Hopefully next year we can help even more.

Lisa would like to thank all those who generously participated in this program. She can not thank you enough!!!



Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some of the upcoming events, so mark your calendars to keep them in mind.

Jan. 1st – Circumcision of Our Lord
Holy Mass at 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 6th – Epiphany
10:00 am – Holy Mass

Jan. 7th – One Hot Meal Take out only
Noon till 1:00 pm

Jan. 8th – Feast of the Humble Shepherds

Jan. 14th – Pick up for Pizza & Hoagie Sale 10:00 a.m.
to Noon in the lower hall of the Cathedral

Jan. 18th through 25th – Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity

Jan. 29th – Music Scholarship Sunday

February 2nd – Presentation of our Lord
Candlemas Day Holy Mass 12 Noon

February 4th – One Hot Meal Take out only
Noon till 1:00 p.m.

February 16th—Anniversary of the Death of
Bishop Hodur 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass

February 22nd - Ash Wednesday
Holy Mass and distribution of ashes at
Noon and 7:00 p.m.

During Lent

Wednesdays – 7:00 pm – Stations of the
Cross with Benediction,
Upstairs in the Cathedral

Fridays – Noon – Stations of the Cross,
Lower chapel

March 4th - One Hot Meal Take out only
Noon till 1:00 p.m.

March 5th – Annual Parish Meeting after **9:00** a.m.
Mass

March 12th - 125th Anniversary of the
Polish National Catholic Church

March 18th – Lenten Retreat 11:00 a.m.
Providence of God Lithuanian Parish
North Scranton

March 1st - One Hot Meal Take out only
Noon till 1:00 p.m.

April 2nd – Palm Sunday Masses at **8:00 a.m.** and
10:00 a.m.

April 4th – Holy Tuesday
Chrism Mass—Time to be announced

April 6th – Holy Thursday
Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist
7:00 p.m.

April 7th – Good Friday
12 noon to 3:00p.m.
Holy Hour
Litany of the Passion
Mass of the Pre-Sanctified
Opening of the Tomb
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae

April 8th - Holy Saturday
Blessing of Easter Food in the Cathedral
9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
4:00 Vigil of the Risen One

April 9th – Easter Sunday
Resurrection Mass **8:00** a.m.
Holy Mass **10:30** a.m.



January Birthdays

Jan 1 – Paul Cimino
Jan 2 – Jo Ann Valvano
Jan. 4 – Julie Orzell
Mary Berezinsky
Jan 5 – Avah Boock
Jan. 6 – Marie Jarocho
Jan. 8 – Kevin P. McConlogue

Jan 9 – Jocelyn Herrera
Jan 10 – Salvatore Nole
Jan 11 – Paul Gorgol
Lydia McConlogue
Lucas Stankowski

Jan 13 – Christopher Stankowski
Jan 14 – Austin & Ethan Stankowski
Jan 15 – Kathleen Michalina
Jan 17 – Carol Olster
Jan. 23 – Jillian Aebli
Brielle Reed
Jan 25 – MaryAnn Boock

Jan 28 – Darlene Navarra
Jan 29 – PJ Cimino

January Anniversaries

Jan 3 – Carl &
Lu Ann Kaszuba
Jan 15 – John &
Deborah Urban
Jan 20 – Bruce and Shirley Melesky





***IN HONOR OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF
THE LORD AND TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD,
FLOWER OFFERING MADE BY:***

Prime Bishop & Carol Mikovsky

Rt. Rev. Bernard & Barbara Nowicki

Rev. Janusz & Kim Lucarz

**FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR IN THE SANCTUARY ARE
OFFERED IN BLESSED MEMORY OF:**

In memory of Bishop Casimir Grotnik by wife Krystina Grotnik

All deceased members of the Women's Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In memory of the early parishioners & Organizers of the P.N.C Church

In memory of Francis & Stella Golembeski & Anthony Mikovsky by Prime Bishop & Carol Mikovsky

In memory of Sophie, Anthony & Raymond Sleboda offered by Marie Rysz

John & Eileen Boczar, Grace & Joseph Matza by Kate Boczar Matza

In memory of Stella, Stanley Godek, Mary, Blanche & Frances Bestryki by Raymond & Debbie Godek

In memory of Gorgol & Androski Family offered by Marie Gorgol

In Memory of Jeanne & Franklin Kowalski, Anna & Michael Drapek, Stanley Drapek by Sandra, Jill & Lynn Kowalski

In Memory of Kowalski Family, Anna & Frank Janowski & Dorothy Matylewicz by Stankowski Family
Rev. Anthony M. Rysz (uncle) by Janet Kwiatkowski

In memory of Joseph & Josephine (Rysz) Kwiatkowski (parents), Joseph & Aniela (Szmyd) Rysz grand
parents), Henry & Tekla (Borek) Kwiatkowski (grandparents) Joseph H. M. Kwiatkowski
(brother), Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz (uncle) by Janet & (Kwiatkowski) Kevin Swanger

In memory of Bob & V. Jule Aksomitus (godmother) & Theodore (godfather) and Olga Rysz by Janet &
(Kwiatkowski) & Kevin Swanger \

In memory of Rev. Leszek Lazarski by Mage

John & Mary Liberasky, Bernard & Celia Nowicki by Rt. Rev. Bernard & Barbra Nowicki

In memory Sylvia Kowalski, A. J. Kowalski, Augustine & Sophia Kowalski, Joseph & Maru Ostroski,
Robert & Florence Ostroski, Don & Sue Liles Joseph & Cindy Davitt, Donald & Kay Kokoskie
by Kowalski Family

In memory of Walter Loss by Francis Loss & Family

In memory of Stephen & Florence Matylewicz, John & Johanna Krystyniak, John & Margaret Matylewicz,
John Krystyniak Jr., Helen Matiskella, Edmund Krist, Gertrude Krystyniak, Stephanie & John
Guerin, Frank Krystyniak by Valvano & Kaszuba Families

In memory of parents, Edward & Stella Michalina, Grandparents, Michael & Rose Michalina, Ethel & Lois
Trgar & Frank Avvisato by Kathy Michalina

In memory of Thomas Schouten, Emil Siwak, Joseph Hartridge by Donna Schouten

In memory of John, Margaret, and Johnny Mulka, David Nicodem & Wendel Williams offered by
Diane Williams

Parents, Walter & Stella Sadauskas, brother, Edward by Florence & Walter Sadauskas

Parents, Leo & Jean Sarnowski, Stanley & Kathryn Franus by Dr. Robert & June Sarnowski

Leon & Charlotte Stankowski, Stella & Stanley Kowalski, Ann & Frank Jankowski, Dorothy Matylewicz,
by Children & Grandchildren

John, Dorothy, John Jr., Robert, Leon & Charlotte Stankowski & Martha Pron by the Stankowski Family.

Robert & Connie Stankowski Sr., Robert Stankowski Jr., Baby Stankowski, Joseph & Josephine Zell &
Telleys Family by Lori Davis, Barbara Stankowski & Families

In memory of husband Jack Tellep by wife Connie

In memory of Leonard and Genevieve Cegelka by Richard & Mary Eileen Segal

In memory of Joseph & Nellie (Cwynar) Zike offered by Harry & Christine Zike

In memory of Robert, Sharon Ann Matylewicz, Anna & Michael Drapek, Chester & Susan Matylewicz
offered by Germaine Matylewicz & Family

In memory of Frank & Lena Owcarz offered by daughter Frances

In memory of mother Ann Pron Kazmierczak & Father Alexander Pron offered by Don & Sally
Blackledge.

In memory of Carol Merkel by Husband James, Wendy & Paul Hendricks

Grandparents, John & Helen Borek, parents, Andrew & Tillie Borek, brothers, Joseph, Roman, sister
Eleanor Borek by Ed Borek

In memory of Malishefski, Fallon, & Gazda Families by Diane Fallon

In memory of Joseph & Josephine Loyek(parents) Bernard R. Kielar by Virginia (Loyek) Kielar

In memory of Bill & Violet Gruszecki by Wil & Kimberly Gruszecki

In memory of George & Mary Horvath by Nancy, Georgette, Jackie, & Grandchildren

In memory of Jerome Patrick, Jerome Sr. & Florence Patrick, and Raymond Makowski by the Makowski
& Patrick Families

Flower Offerings to Our Savior Chapel at Tripp Park
Are Given in Memory Of

All deceased members of Our Savior Chapel

Parents Bernard & Helen Bogdanski, Sister Bernice Bogdanski, Robert B & Joan D. Bogdanski by
Joan Bogdanski

Parents Robert B & Joan D. Bogdanski, Grandparents Bernard & Helen Bogdanski, Aunt Bernice
by Atty. Jennifer J. Bogdanski

Edward Halko, Edward & Emily Jones, Eileen & Karl Plot, Barbra Jones, Margaret & Harold Davis,
Tory Ribauda by Susan Halko

Mother Viola Hudock by Barbra Jordan

Steven & Amelia Liska, Ann Marie Liska, Anthony & Henrietta Kalteski & John Mychaylo Jr., by
Bernard & Barb Kalteski

Gertrude "Tessie" & Walter "Buddy" Rychleski by David Rychleski

Emery & Carmela Tompkins, Helen & Joseph Annacarto by Joseph & Kathy Annacarto